



Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd

Between the Leaves

e newsletter



MAY 2024



Hello Everyone,

Getting used to this disturbed weather pattern is not easy. Of necessity we are now on high alert for unusual and unseasonal weather events, whether prolonged and

unseasonal drought (most of southern WA) or frequent flooding storms (most of the east!).

Nevertheless, with autumn now in full swing, it is time to make sure we are ready for winter veggie delights with brassicas and root crops well under way.

In coastal areas it is still not too late for planting seeds of the above, but purchasing seedlings may be a quick way to ensure these varieties are ready in early to mid winter. Don't forget peas and broad beans!

We had lots of fun showing the Coffs Harbour TAFE students the basics on biodynamics. See below for more information.

Good growing,

Kaz and John

Image above: John Hodgkinson about to demonstrate vortex characteristics



TAFE students learn more about biodynamics

Recently, students of a Coffs harbour TAFE Production Horticulture

course spent a day with us at Nobles Lane, accompanied by their dedicated teacher, Sid Hazell. John presented an abridged workshop covering the full range of biodynamic principles, while leaving time to help retrieve our summer preparations, prepare the winter ones for burial, and make a compost heap biodynamically.

Image above: John Hodgkinson with Coffs Harbour TAFE students and teacher Sid Hazell

Image below: Adding various concentrates to a cow manure slurry for progressive application to the compost heaps as it is built.





Creating a relationship with plants

When introducing a novice gardener to organic fertilization, it's important to evoke a sense of connection to nature and the joy of nurturing plants.

You could say something like:

My garden/land is a vibrant, thriving ecosystem, where each plant is like a cherished friend.

By using organic fertilizers, you're not just feeding your plants; you're nourishing them with the purest essence of nature's goodness. It's like giving them a hug from the earth itself, fostering growth and vitality in the most wholesome way possible.

Embrace the journey of biodynamic gardening, where every leaf and every flower is a testament to your love and care for the environment.



Jacked jackfruit: Queensland farmer finds 'pretty impressive' 45kg giant

Peter Brighton was amazed when he found the giant jackfruit. He had been watching it grow on his farm in far north Queensland and when it came time to pick it from the tree, it was so heavy it needed two people to do the job.

"I was surprised when we cut it off and felt how heavy it was," he says. "I grabbed it and my wife cut it – couldn't do it by myself, it took two of us."

Weighing in at 45 kilograms, it is the heaviest jackfruit that Brighton has ever grown on his tropical biodynamic fruit farm, located in Feluga, south of Cairns.

The second heaviest was 38 kilograms.

[Read more....](#)



NEW PRODUCTS - WHILE STOCKS LAST

Biodynamically Composted Cow Manure

Composition: composted cow manure

3000L. Mix through existing topsoil for trees, vines, shrubs, flowers and vegetable garden beds. Safe to use on any plant, this compost is the perfect choice if you are looking to grow healthy produce at home. Installation: Spread and/or incorporate into your garden beds, pots or existing site topsoil. [Click here to learn more](#)

Comfrey & Nettle Liquid Manure

Nettle and comfrey liquid manures: two extremely important plant tonics and preventives for the garden, orchard, vineyard, market garden and farm. Their potency is bolstered by addition of the biodynamic compost preparations 502-507 and the use of "structured water". These products come in two sizes for small gardens and modest horticulture settings only. For larger situations it is best to make your own – refer to our Biodynamic Handbook for directions.

Comfrey Liquid Manure

Nettle Liquid Manure



Biodynamic Viticulture Programme

You have no doubt heard that many vigneronns are making the transition to organic/biodynamic production from conventional. It seems that consumer preference may be moving in favour of organic/biodynamic wines.

This change has lately been accelerating both overseas and in Australia, the result of not only economic and environmental factors and aspirations, but of consumer demand for better tasting and additive-free wines.

It has been clearly shown by numerous vignerons that organic and biodynamic vineyard practices benefit all aspects of the growing and production processes from the soil to the actual wine.

Somewhat concealed behind much organic wine marketing in this country is that many so-called organic wines are actually biodynamically grown.

This probably signifies that "biodynamic" is not as highly recognised or sought after as "organic" in the marketplace, despite being no more expensive.

The compromise is increasingly to label these wines "organic" or "organic/biodynamic" (a bet each way?) which tends to sell short the outstanding merits of biodynamics.

Biodynamics is essentially a refinement of organics. The frequency of biodynamic wines winning top prizes in competitions relates to the qualities endowed by the use of biodynamic preparations and practices.

Surely this suggests to vignerons that it would be worthwhile to either upgrade from organic to biodynamic or to switch directly from conventional practices?

Generally speaking, production costs for biodynamic wine are no higher than for conventional, if initially after conversion, grape yield may be lower for a season or two.

Changing over to biodynamics is neither highly complex nor expensive - in fact this form of growing incurs lower infrastructure costs than its alternatives.

Please read until the end to see the Programme, and helpful notes on using the Astro Calendar etc.

CLICK HERE TO READ

Please share with your networks.

We are here to help. Mon, Tues & Wed 9 am - 5 pm and Thurs & Fri 9 am - 12 noon.
Purchase on-line 24 hours and we ship Australia-wide.

WORKSHOP



Biodynamic conference Sydney

Good news is that there will be a public conference in Sydney on 11 & 12 May this year, with international speakers.

There will be a painting exhibition during May at Rudolf Steiner House by eight Sydney artists, professionals and students.

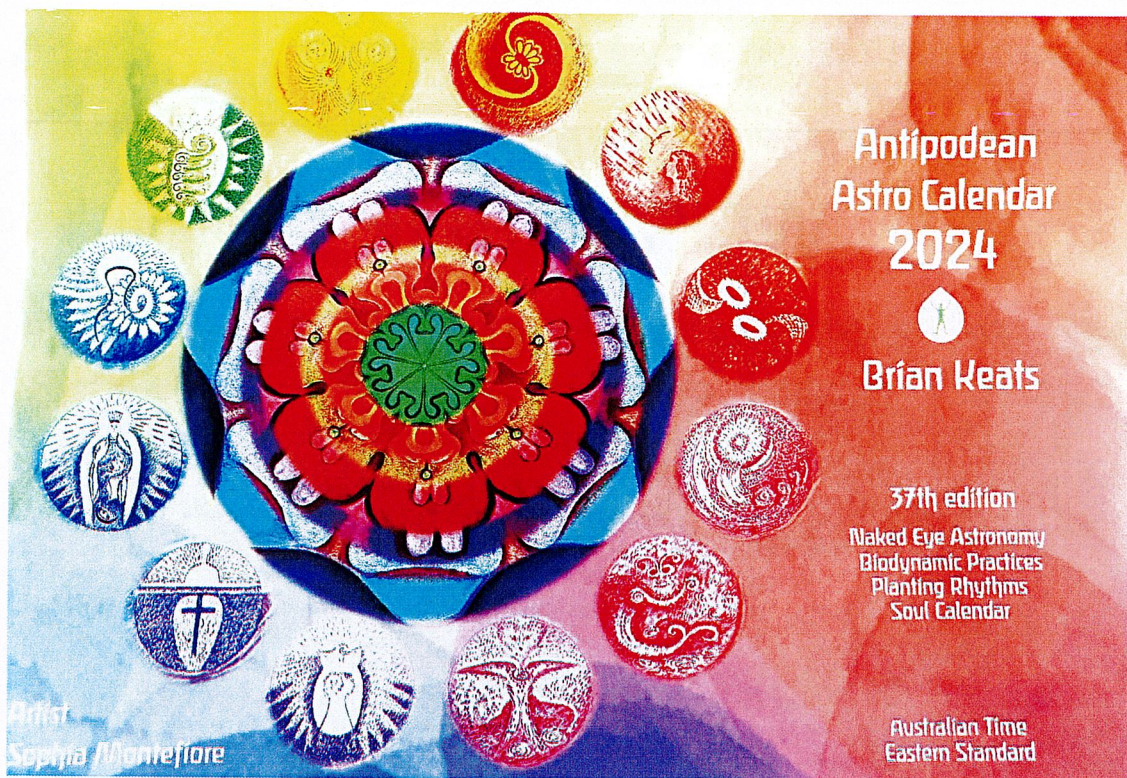
The exhibition will be open during the opening hours of **Rudolf Steiner Book Centre**.

For enquiries please contact biodynamicssydney@gmail.com.

To find out more and to view the program click on following link.

<http://www.biodynamicssydney.org/>

**The 2024 Antipodean Astro Calendar
is now \$27 including postage**



The 2024 Antipodean Astro Calendar is a resource worth having and now selling for half price at \$27.

This calendar is more than just a tool for tracking dates; it's a comprehensive guide for biodynamic planting, helping you align your garden activities with the natural rhythms of the cosmos.

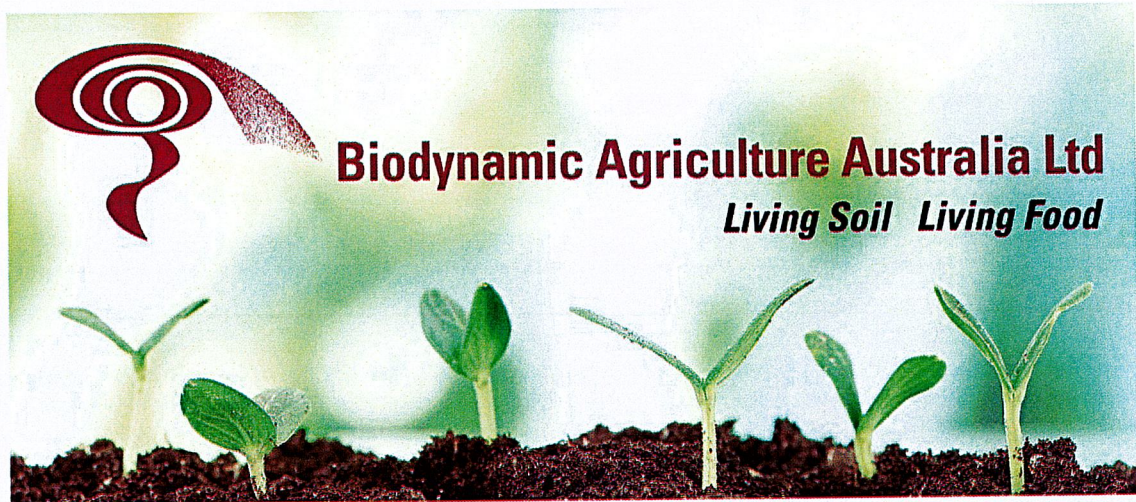
The Astro Calendar is now available for purchase online. Secure your copy today with a simple [click here](#) and embark on a harmonious gardening journey.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Join our membership program today and gain access to our wide array of products and preparations and get advise when needed.

Becoming a member not only ensures you access product perks but also provides you with our quarterly News Leaf journal. This journal is packed with invaluable insights about biodynamic processes, techniques, and more, helping you stay up-to-date on the latest in the field. Mark your calendars because our next edition of News Leaf is slated for release on 1 June 2024. So, why wait? Sign up for the membership and start reaping the benefits today!



Thanks for reading our newsletter

We're on a mission to encourage and inspire you further in biodynamics. Our online newsletter gives you a small window of many wonderful biodynamic articles and information we share in our *News Leaf* journal sent to members every season.

Become a member and receive:

- Benefits on products and workshops - more information below
- Quarterly *News Leaf* coloured journal full of stories, articles and information
- Biodynamic Handbook - everything you need to know
- Sample of Biodynamic Soil Activator with instructions
- Encouragement, motivation, guidance and support

Your membership assists us to create, share and promote everything biodynamic. It supports our not-for-profit organisation in making preparations and products, giving education, sharing information and spreading the good word. We are on this biodynamic journey together and shared experiences are invaluable. We would love to hear your stories to share with members.

Click here to view our products range

If you need any help our team are here for you Monday and Tuesday 9am-3pm
and Thursday 9am-12.30pm.

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Please help spread the good word by sharing our newsletter and
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