 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

***Greening the Hill Mk.2***

ABC Radio interview No.13 – 23 July 2019

**NATIONAL TREE DAY – Sunday 28 July**

**OUR LANDCARE PROJECTS**

**Intro**

Since 1996, every year Planet Ark, a national environmental foundation, has been coordinating National Tree Day across the Nation. National Tree Day was co-founded by **Olivia Newton-John** and Planet Ark. It has grown into Australia’s largest tree planting event. Landcare Broken Hill will be participating in this significant National event.

The tree planting is usually spread across a couple of days with Friday 26 July being Schools Tree Day and Sunday 28 July being for everyone. Landcare was not this year in a position to organise events for Schools Tree Day, but we will have events on both the Friday & Sunday. Next year, we will ensure we have specific school planting projects too.

Landcare Broken Hill’s participation is a part of our ***Greening the Hill Mk.2*** Initiative. Both our Landcare Broken Hill events this coming weekend will raise awareness of the importance of plants and trees in our harsh Outback environment.

**PROJECT 1 Scout Hall Landscaping Project** – Iodide Street

This Sunday, starting at 10.00am, Landcare Broken Hill will be partnering with the **3rd Broken Hill Sea Scouts** to landscape and revegetate the grounds of their Scout Hall in Iodide Street, together with their naturestrip along their street frontage.

The Sea Scouts are the last remaining scout group in Broken Hill, so we see this project as being particularly important as we will be demonstrating community support for their continuance, whilst improving the environment around the Scout Hall.

Currently the Scout Hall grounds are largely devoid of vegetation (except for 2 shrubs) and, due to extreme drought conditions, are in a poor and unsightly condition. Hardy native plant species, indigenous to the region, have been selected with the intention of improving visual aesthetics, providing shade, enhancing biodiversity (including attracting birds and insects) and storing carbon to abate the effects of climate change. As over 50 young scouts will be participating with the Landcare volunteers, this landscaping event is intended to provide an **inspirational environmental educational experience**, linking with the Scout's existing environmental sustainability programmes.

The grounds of the Scout Hall are in front of their Goldsworthy Hall. The Hall was named after Lt Commander L.V. Goldsworthy GM CM DSO RAN who opened the Hall on 22 April 1967.

Landcare Broken Hill has selected suitable hardy native plants and will be planting between 75 and 100 plants, depending how many will fit after careful design. Landcare has funded the purchase of all the plants and are donating them, along with the planting compost and fertiliser. We will be providing expert planting advice and a volunteer team to work with the scouts of all ages (and their families) to do the planting. Once the plants are in the ground, a watering dripper system will then be established and the Scouts are keen to be responsible for ongoing maintenance.

Planet Ark’s primary sponsor nationwide for National Tree Day has been Toyota Australia for 20 years. Landcare Broken Hill approached Broken Hill Toyota and they have agreed to be a local sponsor securing a National Tree Day Kit comprising hats, gloves, shirts and tree guards. Landcare Broken Hill has been pleased to secure Broken Hill Toyota’s support and looks forward to developing an on-going relationship, building on this year’s foundation.

Before our Landcare Broken Hill volunteer leave the Scout Hall grounds on Sunday, we’ll then be donating seed from local native plants and providing an on-site workshop to the scouts on how to grow native seedlings from seed. Hopefully in the future the scouts will have successfully grown their own seedlings for planting elsewhere on their site.

**PROJECT 2 Demonstration Naturestrips Reinstatement Project** – Beryl Street

Also as part of ***Greening the Hill Mk.2,***Landcare Broken Hill will commence the rejuvenation of the Demonstration Naturestrips at 200 Beryl Street, outside the Centre for Community. This was a ***Greening the Hill Mk.2*** project we announced at the outset, it being Project 11 in that list of 34 projects I’ve described in earlier ABC Radio programmes.

These Demonstration Naturestrips were established by the then-named Country Water, Broken Hill City Council and the NSW Environmental Trust about 15 years ago to display a range of alternative approaches to designing naturestrips. Each one was described with signage explaining the characteristics of the various plants, in particular focussing on their differing water usage. These Demonstration Naturestrips performed a key educational role, in providing the community with sound advice regarding the plants and their water usage.

These Naturestrips are now in a sadly degraded state, weed ridden, with many dead plants, a broken irrigation system, many bare patches and hugely deteriorated signage.

So under the leadership of Sharon Hocking, our project team leader, linking with National Tree Day, Landcare Broken Hill will be conducting a working-bee at the naturestrips this **Friday, 26 July, starting at 8.00am**. The work will involve de-littering, weeding, trimming and preparing the soil for later planting. The project will be a fun challenge for our volunteers this week, given the extent of couch grass, but with many hands to the task, the more the merrier, it will be quite possible to achieve good outcomes.

Those wishing to help will be welcomed with open arms. People should bring gloves, secateurs, spades, garden forks and other usual garden tools. Sharon Hocking can be contacted via her mobile on 0407 667798

**National Tree Day – Sunday 28 July**

[**https://treeday.planetark.org/**](https://treeday.planetark.org/)

**Next public meeting to provide an update on *GREENING THE HILL MK.2* and continue of consultation with the community**

**Centre for Community, 200 Beryl Street, 7.00pm Thursday 25 July**

***ALL WELCOME!***

Want to become a Landcare Broken Hill member?

**LandcareBrokenHill@gmail.com**

**FACEBOOK**

**www.facebook.com/LandcareBrokenHill/**