 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

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

ABC Radio interview No.18 – 27 August 2019

**BACKYARD BUSH NURSERIES PROJECT LAUNCH**

**Broken Hill Council’s media release yesterday**

Council and Landcare Broken Hill will join forces with the community to prepare 1500 new trees and shrubs for planting as part of Greening the Hill Mk2.

A Backyard Bush Nursery event will be held outside Council's Administrative Building (240 Blende Street) on Saturday August 31st to mark National Tree Day.

Council has funded the purchase of 100 propagation kits which have the capacity to grow approximately 15 plants each. These kits will be given out free to members of the community who wish to volunteer in the new Greening the Hill initiative.

Volunteers will be asked to raise the 15 provided seeds or cuttings in their yard, before returning them to Landcare for planting in regeneration areas, nature strips, community gardens, and other Greening the Hill Mk2 initiatives.

Mayor Darriea Turley AM said the event was a simple way for locals to make a notable contribution to greening our city.

"*It's a way for locals to have a real impact on the City's future and make a visible and tangible contribution to improving Broken Hill and the environment for generations to come*."

"*We know new plants can struggle in the harsh conditions of Broken Hill, and that's why we need volunteers' help to ensure we can all make a difference*.

"*By raising the seeds or cuttings at home until they're healthy, volunteers will give the plants a head-start and the best chance of survival once they are planted in our regeneration areas and community spaces*.”

Simon Molesworth AO, President of Landcare Broken Hill, said the group was looking forward to working closely with the community.

"*Landcare Broken Hill warmly welcomes the City partnering with us to ensure the shared vision inherent in Greening the Hill Mk2 is achieved*," he said.

"*With the Backyard Bush Nursery project being kicked off with the Council’s great support, enthusiastic community members will learn the skills to grow plants that will truly make a difference: improving our environment and fostering community spirit*".

Volunteers will be provided with instructions and containers for raising the plants, and Landcare will provide advice and assistance to all volunteers throughout the initiative.

Those wishing to get involved are invited to come along at 10am on August 31 and pick up a Backyard Bush Nursery Propagation Kit.

**WHAT:** Backyard Bush Nursery

**WHEN:** 10am, Saturday August 31

**WHERE:** Council Admin Building, 240 Blende St

**Why Backyard Bush Nurseries?**

One of the corner-stone projects within Landcare Broken Hill’s ***Greening the Hill Mk2*** Initiative has been the proposal to establish a major community-based native plant nursery, focussed on growing indigenous plants from this region. In a previous interview, I described my study of community nurseries elsewhere, in particular I described the City of Bayside’s community nursery in the Melbourne suburb of Sandringham. That nursery produces between 100,000 and 130,000 plants a year.

To establish such a nursery will only come at a substantial capital cost – it will take time to plan and establish. Once established, there will be a lead time of perhaps a year before propagated plants will be large enough and strong enough to plant on into our Broken Hill district’s reserves, parks and other community places. **We are still intent on setting up such a nursery at some stage, the sooner the better, but realistically it will be sometime off.**

So the answer: enlist the help of the community right now, to effectively create a dispersed nursery with, ideally, eventually hundreds of people growing plants in their own home gardens. The Backyard Bush Nurseries project will see 1000s of plants grown with the community’s help. The project has many, many, benefits: it will educate people, enabling them to acquire new propagating skills; it will generate real community spirit, through their involvement; it will create a broad sense of ownership, as people see their own home-grown plants planted out in the parks and reserves they love; and its will help achieve all the good environmental objectives that we’ve set out to achieve via the ***Greening the Hill Mk2*** Initiative. A true win-win for everyone.

**Landcare Broken Hill is really grateful that the City Council is joining with us as a partner to kick-start this wonderful community-wide project. It is the first of a number of cooperative projects that will be rolled out over the coming months in partnership with the Council, as the Council has resolved to join with Landcare Broken Hill to work together to achieve the shared vision inherent in *Greening the Hill Mk2*.**

**Next public meeting to provide an update on *GREENING THE HILL MK.2* and consult.**

**Centre for Community, 200 Beryl Street, THIS Thursday 29 August 7.00pm**

Email: **LandcareBrokenHill@gmail.com**

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