 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

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

ABC Radio interview No.26 – 22 October 2019

**LANDCARE BROKEN HILL CONTRIBUTING TO THE STATE LANDCARE CONFERENCE**

**Conference starts today**

The State Conference of Landcare NSW and Local Land Services starts in Broken Hill today. It is great honour for Broken Hill to be hosting this State Conference for the first time. The ABC’s own Andrew Schmidt is the MC of the conference.

**What is Landcare Broken Hill contributing?**

1. Landcare Broken Hill will be maintaining a ***Greening the Hill Mk2*** display booth at the Civic Centre throughout the conference. Members of Landcare Broken Hill will be in hand to talk about our 39 projects with the 350+ delegates attending the conference. Our booth will be decorated with posters, banners and photographs. We’ll be ready to give information about our local flora and to describe the City’s reserves and parks.
2. At our Conference display booth we will have hundreds of native plants in tube stock for sale. These will be hardy native plants from the Broken Hill district and region – so we’ll be showcasing the plants of our region. Part of the reason for our plant sales is to offer a carbon offset opportunity to conference delegates who have travelled far to reach Broken Hill. Conference delegates are being offered a choice:
	1. They can buy the plants and take them away to plant, as a memento of their visit. With delegates planting their purchased plant, wherever they plant it, it will help the environment and, as the plant grows, it will provide them with a connection to Broken Hill. Hopefully with such a connection established, some of these visitors will make a return visit, thereby helping our tourism economy.
	2. Conference delegates will, alternatively, be offered the option of making a donation to Landcare Broken Hill so that we can purchase further plants later on (when it is a better & cooler time to plant – say Autumn) to be planted in our own reserves and parks. Hopefully the Conference delegates will be encouraged by the plants they see on display and the description we’ll give of our 39 ***Greening the Hill Mk2*** projects, to accept our invitation to make a contribution.

Irrespective of which option the Conference delegates choose, it will assist Landcare Broken Hill to raise much needed funds to help pay for its projects.

1. Then on Wednesday afternoon there are a range of interesting field trips arranged. A very popular field trip, **which was booked out quickly**, is a botanical identification ‘paddock walk’ being conducted by my wife Lindy on our Clevedale sheep station. Lindy will be explaining to Conference delegates, the challenges of land managers in our Arid Zone when its suffering from extreme drought. Part of this field trip will involve the examination of five experimental revegetation plots that have been set up, each displaying different approaches adopted by SureGrow advisory services to stabilising the soil and keeping moisture in the ground, even if the ambient conditions is extremely difficult, when one is trying to replant the land. As part of this project, 300 plants and trees were planted. It will be fascinating to determine which approach is best for effective revegetation in our region.
2. Then on Thursday morning, on behalf of Landcare Broken Hill, I will be presenting an address to the Conference, giving a complete overview of our ***Greening the Hill Mk2*** Initiative. In the context of many Landcare groups across the State really suffering due to the climate conditions, we in Broken Hill are hoping that we can change the behaviour of our community so that it truly embraces sustainable environmental practices. Following the model we’re hoping to set up with all our projects, I’m hoping to demonstrate that there is no shortage of steps available for Landcare groups to really be effective within their communities.
3. Other field trips will be showcasing the district, including visits to the Living Desert and Sculptures, the Riddiford Arboretum and the Broken Hill Solar Farm. Throughout the Conference many of the City’s other attractions will be on show at key venues.

**The next public meeting of Landcare Broken Hill will be its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**at the Centre for Community, 200 Beryl Street, Thursday 31 October 7.00pm**

**when we will present the 6 month Report on *GREENING THE HILL MK2***

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