 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

***Greening the Hill Mk2***

ABC Radio interview No.38 – 13 February 2020

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

##### **Today I’m going to talk about Youth Engagement – encouraging young people to become engaged in Landcare’s activities.**

##### **Landcare Broken Hill is so serious about engaging with the youth of our City that when we approved our new Constitution late last year, we provided that our Executive Committee would have 2 seats permanently reserved for young nominees of the Broken Hill Young Leaders Group. We really want the input of young people. (Jett Collins has been coming to all our meetings and has his own vegetable bed in the community garden).**

**Greta Thunberg has shown the world how phenomenally influential a young inspirational leader can be. The world-wide Friday school strikes have had a huge influence, ensuring that young people’s voices are heard. That is the era within which we live. Young people are impatient for decision-makers to better safeguard our fragile world.**

##### First, some information on the national program of Landcare Australia.

Yesterday we posted on our Facebook site an article about Junior Landcare and linked to a new website:

<https://juniorlandcare.org.au/about/?fbclid=IwAR2JZKFVRRKd5wZYDsU5jrZgKdvYeBNTmod8mlgCjEvkqrf8paGdEVKAvww>

**Junior Landcare provides children the opportunity to play an active role in ensuring the future of their environment is safeguarded.**

Launched in May 1998, Junior Landcare recognises the vital role young Australians play in caring for the land, their environment and other natural resources. Junior Landcare connects young Australians with Landcare, one of the country’s largest volunteer movements. There are thousands of people and countless communities working together towards sustainable land use and undertaking on-ground action to protect, enhance or restore an area on behalf of the community.

Junior Landcare encourages continuous participation from childhood to adulthood so that the children of today, become the Landcarers of the future. Junior Landcare helps young Australians to develop skills, share knowledge, create experiences and foster connections with place and community.

The Media Centre on the website highlights dozens of inspiring stories from schools and groups of kids across Australia. There are no shortage of ideas.

The Junior Landcare website has an **online Learning Centre** which states that:

“We have made it easy and FUN for you to get the children in your life involved in environmental sustainability activities at school, at home or in your community.

* 30-minute activities aligned to the school curriculum
* Step-by-step instructions with background information
* Useful links and resources for further information
* Did you know? section with useful tips
* An interactive facility to allow kids to share their own experiences with the online within the Junior Landcare community.

Looking at the 30-minute learning activities described on the website, there is an exciting range available that are very similar to Landcare Broken Hill’s own topics I’ve been talking about over the last 9 months. The activities are currently grouped into 4 categories: food production, biodiversity, indigenous perspectives and waste management.

* Planning a Junior Landcare friendly event
* Soil – more than just dirt
* Every drop counts, being water wise!
* Sow a seed, grow a feed
* Creating a food garden: vision
* Creating a food garden: site assessment and mapping
* Water for wildlife (Biodiversity)
* Getting the buzz on bees and other beneficial insects
* Whats happening in the habitat?

The website also has information about **Junior Landcare Grants**. Although I noted that there is not a current round of grants – so stay tuned for future announcements – the fantastically impressive statistic is that **over 2019**, **no less than 1,400** Junior Landcare projects across Australia were funded.

Broken Hill’s own **Sacred Heart Parish Primary School** received a grant to establish a vegetable garden. Last time I heard this garden was thriving but needed some shelter from the scorching summer sun. So Landcare Broken Hill volunteers gave some strategic advice and hands-on assistance to help protect the kid’s veggies.

Listeners will have heard me talk about the really great and very large school gardens in Alma Public School in South Broken Hill. If you ever wanted inspiration for involving schools, Alma is the model!

Landcare Broken Hill is determined to engage with the kids in this community. Our **Green Schools program** will, **with a bit of luck and funding assistance**, roll out in 2020. The severity of the drought in this region has caused us to ‘pace ourselves’ – knowing that until the really hot months pass and until we get some moisture in the ground, the schools will be sorely challenged. But we are determined to proceed when we can.

**Western Mentoring Young Landcare Enthusiasts Program**

For the older youth in our Western NSW Region, Landcare NSW in partnership with Local Land Services has recently launched Western MYLE – **Western Mentoring Young Landcare Enthusiasts Program**

This program aims to support the development and retention of young Landcare members (18 to 30 year olds) through mentor relationships. For the Western MYLE up to **six young Landcare members**, who are new Landcare and considered to be upcoming leaders within their group, will be paired with existing successful Landcare representatives within the Western region. The program will run across 12 months with an initial workshop to be held in either White Cliffs or Cobar in mid-June.

**Mentees** *Explores, Applies, Progresses*These six 18 to 30 years old, who are to be new to Landcare, should be seeking to achieve one or more of the following:

* increase their skills and knowledge that will benefit Landcare
* move into a leadership, board or executive role within Landcare
* start or have started a business associated with or supporting Landcare
* lead a project or program for their Landcare group
* further develop a bold idea that is yet to be tested in the Landcare landscape

**Mentee benefits**

* Increased skills and knowledge
* Broadened network with the Landcare, Agricultural and Natural Resource Management fields
* Deeper understanding of the culture, vision and values of Landcare in the Western region
* Development of self-confidence
* Access to a mentor who will offer a sounding board and opportunity to challenge thinking
* Empowerment

Nominations can be submitted up until **24 Feb 2020**, with EOI forms due by **3 March 2020**.

Further information is available in the attached information pack or by contacting Sophie Richards, Landcare Program Officer, via sophie.richards@lls.nsw.gov.au or 0436 407 398

**The next public meeting of Landcare Broken Hill will be on Thursday 27 February**

**At the CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY, 200 Beryl St, Broken Hill**

**FACEBOOK:** [**www.facebook.com/LandcareBrokenHill/**](http://www.facebook.com/LandcareBrokenHill/)

**WEBPAGE:** [**www.LandcareBrokenHill.com**](http://www.LandcareBrokenHill.com)

**SoundCloud:** [**https://soundcloud.com/user-296305727**](https://soundcloud.com/user-296305727) **- where ABC interviews live on!**

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