 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

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

ABC Radio interview No.15 – 6 August 2019

**GREENING PROJECTS – FORWARD PLANNING**

**Intro**

When Landcare Broken Hill was founded its original primary focus was the Regeneration Belt, ‘the Regen’, around the perimeter of the city. So when the original Landcare was propagating plants, it was primarily doing so to improve deteriorated parts of the Regen and associated reserves. Members learnt useful propagating skills and increased their knowledge about local plants.

In the years that passed, when resources were available, say from grants, other projects were tackled, such as obtaining worm farms for some regional schools – for instance, one went to Tibooburra. Then about 3 years ago research funds were received to investigate a local gum tree – Eucalyptus gillii – to ascertain why their seeds were not germinating in the wild, in its natural state. Was it a climate change phenomenon?

Then in late April this year, a new Landcare Broken Hill committee launched ***Greening the Hill Mk.2***, a holistic, all-of-community, initiative involving a multiplicity of environmental projects embracing land management, vegetation management, water management, waste management and projects to guide behavioural change (such as our proposed litter reduction project). We have since experienced exponential growth in membership. Also organisations and groups across the City have accepted our encouragement to become partners to ensure that our many projects happen.

**Partnering – the key to success**

It was our experience with National Tree Day – partnering with the 3rd Broken Hill Sea Scouts to revegetate and landscape the grounds of their scout hall – that has caused us to think that there are probably many clubs and societies in town, such as sporting clubs, that might, one day, be interested in partnering with Landcare in a project to ‘green their space’.

Putting aside our skill and knowledge sharing projects where we’ve been encouraging the community to think about ‘greening their own patch’ – their own backyards, Landcare has been primarily considering projects for the public parks and reserves, together with public spaces like streets, with their street trees and naturestrips. But our experience with the Scouts made us think about other such places around town – essentially those places which are the responsibility of a group or organisation. These are not strictly public spaces, but nevertheless they are **run by groups in the community for the community**, so clearly they too should have the opportunity to be greened and Landcare should, **one day**, be able to help them, providing guidance and planting know-how.

My key message today is that as a community we should identify these places now and ensure that they are placed on a list for future action. ‘When’ and ‘how’ will depend upon available funding and the urgency of any particular project. It may be that grant funds might need to be sought, or funds raised say with a real fund-raiser activity organised for the project. We need to identify these potential greening projects, so that we can plan for the future. It might be a year or two, or even more, before an identified project is ready to commence, but with forward planning we can ensure that we’ll be well prepared. We can assess what’s needed: do a site inspection, do some forward planning and determine the likely cost.

With the 3rd Broken Hill Sea Scouts having benefited from this year’s National Tree Day project, people in the community might like the grounds of their particular group, club or organisation, considered for 2020 or 2021. If Landcare Broken Hill knows what might lie ahead, then we can prepare a priority list of what’s needed for such potential future projects.

The beauty of this approach is that Landcare is joined by a partner organisation for each identified project, like the Scouts did, providing enthusiasm and people-power ensuring the project was a ‘goer’. Landcare provided its expert knowledge and skills. It assessed the landscaping needs, identified the most suitable plants, planned the planting layout, etc. (In this instance we also donated the plants, but in future that may not always be possible). With external people-power from the partnering organisation, so much more can be achieved – projects become feasible – thereby strengthening Landcare’s capacity.

**So let’s start thinking Broken Hill: which clubs or groups might be in need of having their grounds greened with the help of Landcare Broken Hill?**

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

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

***ALL WELCOME!***

Want to become a Landcare Broken Hill member? Email: **LandcareBrokenHill@gmail.com**

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