 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

***Greening the Hill Mk2***

ABC Radio interview No.35 – 22 January 2020

**LANDCARE BROKEN HILL PRIORITIES FOR 2020**

**It is now just 9 months since Landcare Broken Hill was rejuvenated.**

**With Greening the Hill Mk2, we launched 39 concurrent community projects.**

**In 2019, we massively increased our membership and we formed partnerships across the City to ensure we had the capacity to achieve our vision.**

**We are now all witnessing appalling summer conditions which daily reinforce the need to do more to protect our environment. So much has been lost across Australia.**

**Now for 2020 – our priorities.**

**Community Native Plant Propagation Nursery**

Our biggest ticket project for this year will be the setting up of our professional scale community native plant propagation nursery. This project is the feeder for all our projects that involve revegetation – it will underpin all our projects involving planting including street trees, the Regen, public parks, community places.

Location is proposed to be at the proposed North Broken Hill Landcare Hub at Jubilee Oval

Depends upon us securing a NSW Government Grant under the Stronger Country Communities Fund. This means the NSW Minister for Regional Development and Deputy Premier John Barilaro will need to give his approval.

**Strengthening the Community Gardens**

We will be expanding our community gardens at the Centre for the Community by increasing the number of planting beds. We will soon be inviting community members to register their interest in securing a planting bed for themselves, their family & friends, or their club. So we’ll be throwing the garden gates open for more people to get involved.

With the North Broken Hill Landcare Hub, providing we secure our grant, we’ll be launching our second community garden – this one for the benefit of North Broken Hill.

We also hope to roll of the concept to other parts of Broken Hill – preferably a community garden for each district of the City – but this will depend securing the new locations and the funding for each site.

We also need to secure a guarantee of a water supply on an affordable basis. Last year we were encouraged by Essential Water communications, but they now need to confirm the level of their support – they need to come to the party.

**Public Park projects**

Restoration of the Conservation Gardens, on the corner of Bromide Street and Beryl Street, adjoining Lions Park opposite the Visitor Information Centre, is our priority public park project. This project is also the subject of a grant application.

This little park is at such a high profile location that it is a must for early works. It also has great potential to achieve the objectives for which it was originally created.

**Green Schools Projects**

Rolling out the Landcare Green Schools projects will pick up a pace this year. We hope to have as many of the City’s schools come on board so that as many kids as possible can become involved. Starting with the concept, for every child a tree, for every school a garden, we hope to see the fantastic example of the Alma Public School in South, followed by each of the other schools.

We are already underway with Sacred Heart Parish Primary School in Lane Street. Inspections have been carried and planning is underway.

The Green Schools Projects involve: (1) involving all the school kids in a greening project either within their school grounds (like landscaping) or at another location, like one of the parks or sports grounds in the City; (2) the creation of a kitchen garden in each school so the kids learn about growing food; and (3) most importantly, creating a sense of ownership or involvement with each primary school kid – for every child a tree.

**Street Tree Project**

It is becoming more and more critical to get more trees into our trees. We need to lower the ambient temperature of our City by increasing shade. We need to improve the appearance of so many of our streets. We need to increase the engagement with the broader Broken Hill community. More people caring about their streets, via the planting of trees is very important.

More and more people have approached Landcare wanting something more to be done with street trees in the City. Landcare will be putting a real effort into this project in 2020.

**The Regen**

The Regen will always be part of Landcare’s focus every year.

This year, in partnership with the Broken Hill Lead Environment Programme and the City Council, we will be embarking upon a project to restore and replant one particular area within the Regen that is in real need of attention. Funding is being provided and the planning is underway. We’ll take more about this project in the future.

Another Regen project we will be partnering with the Council will be a scientific research project called “**Selecting for Carbon in the Rangelands**”.

This project will be led by a research entity called Select Carbon in collaboration with the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The aim of the research will be to scope rangeland soil carbon potential and enhance the resilience and recovery of groundcover vegetation.

We’ll talk more about this project in the future.

**Other Projects**

Apart from the priority projects above, there will be many other projects being pursued over the course of the year, which we will talk about in the future.

**The next public meeting of Landcare Broken Hill will be in February - TBA**

**In the meantime everyone can keep in contact via:**

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

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