 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

***Greening the Hill Mk2***

ABC Radio interview No.45 – 1st April 2020

**Exploring with pictures**

Those who follow Landcare Broken Hill’s Facebook site will have noticed that over the last fortnight we launched a new feature: daily photographs of native plants indigenous to this region. Our members and supporters can’t get out and about anymore as we all wait out the passing of the pandemic. So with our photos, we are encouraging people to go on a virtual tour of our district - exploring with their eyes and their minds.

Why minds? Because our photos are not just about aesthetics or a botanical or scientific record. We’re offering a learning experience too. If you're keen to learn the names of plants that are found around the Broken Hill district Landcare Broken Hill is inviting listeners to follow us on <http://www.facebook.com/LandcareBrokenHill/> .

Every day we are putting up a photo or two of different vegetation that grows in our region to help you identify it.

Over time we will add these to our website to create a database of the local flora. This will become an archive – a valuable resource for all those interested.

**Abundant interest in nature – up close and friendly**

Over the last few days ABC Broken Hill’s Facebook site has invited people to post up **photographs of local butterflies**. Why? Because if you haven’t noticed already , over the last few days there have been tens of thousands of butterflies flittering around the district.

Nature can be quite fascinating if you take the time to observe it – and now that we are all practising responsible social isolation as much as possible, we’ve actually got more time to observe things around us. Yesterday I counted at least 8 different varieties of butterflies, an extraordinary variation. I’m not a good enough photographer to capture a good unblurry image, but it was great to see so many local people taking great photos on putting them up on the ABC’s site.

**What we are doing here in Broken Hill is happening all around the world – brightening the lives of those confined to their homes.**

Organisations are posting up beautiful images of places that are special to them and their members.

In recent times I’ve noticed the **Europa Nostra** has posted up beautiful images of gardens, trees and flowers across Europe, heralding the approach of the Northern Hemisphere Spring. Europa Nostra is the umbrella organisations of all cultural heritage organisations in Europe, comprising about 250 organisations, all of which are the custodians of beautiful places. So while people across Europe are in lockdown, organisations like Europa Nostra are giving people a virtual visual tour de force. They actually went one step further, the photographs play sequentially in a stream, they are set the music of Vivaldi’s Spring.

Across the English Channel in the UK is the largest National Trust in the world – the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This National Trust is the largest landowner in the UK. All their parks, gardens and great heritage houses are now closed due to COVID-19. I notice that their social media platforms are bursting forth with photographs of beautiful scenes, albeit deserted of humankind.

**Let’s all be observant on our own patch and take note of what is happening around us.**

I don’t think anyone will be disappointed once one starts to closely observe all the changes that are happening around us. All too often we’re too busy in our normal lives to closely observe the natural changes around us. But now many of us will have more time.

Landcare Broken Hill is inviting people to chronicle what they see around them in nature – take some good photos and notes – and let us know via our gmail address as we’d like put interesting natural history stories and observations up on our sites.

A really good example of something of interest locally over the last few weeks has been the frequency of **echidna sightings**. What we’re seeing on our station with echidna activity is fascinating.

I’ll describe what we have seen.

**All public meetings cancelled for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19.**

**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!**

**Email:** **LandcareBrokenHill@gmail.com**

**POST: PO BOX 536, BROKEN HILL, NSW, 2880**