 **Landcare Broken Hill Inc**

***Greening the Hill Mk2***

ABC Radio interview No.54 – 2nd June 2020

**Local Projects Update – preparing to be ‘shovel ready’**

With the COVID-19 social distancing requirements gradually lifting, Landcare Broken Hill is gearing up to be shovel-ready with many of its projects. We are going to need more people to come forward and volunteer to be part of our project teams.

Fortunately, it looks as though many of the restrictions will be lifting early enough to leave Landcare with enough planting months left in the year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we’ve effectively missed the opportunity of the Autumn planting season, which is usually the best time to plant in this region. One key issue in this region is the scorching summer sun which burns and dries everything out. So we can never contemplate planting out during the months of November to March.

Today I’m going to run through some projects.

1. Redesign and replanting of the Conservation Gardens on the corner of Bromide and Beryl Streets – with the assistance of a grant from Landcare Australia & SureGro Tree Max

2. Restoration through replanting of the University Dams area within the Regen, behind Robinson College, near the corner of Queen Street and Jamieson Street – with the assistance of a grant from Planet Ark and from the EPA’s Broken Hill Environmental Lead Program. This is our nominated National Tree Day Project on Sunday 30 August.

3. Landscaping and replanting of Telford Avenue, being the extension of Racecourse Road, in partnership with the Broken Hill Racecourse Trust

4. Ongoing expansion of the **Community Gardens within the Centre for Community** in Beryl Street. We now have an increased number of garden beds. Some of the beds are made out of recycled liquid pods which have been made into wicking garden beds. The number of these pods are increasing and are available for Landcare members to become their own beds for their own growing projects.

**5. Reinstatement and replanting of the naturestrip** in front of the Centre for Community in Beryl Street. The project team are just chomping at the bit wanting to get going on this project. A lot of good work was done 2019, primarily directed to weed removal – couch grass.

6. We’ll soon be announcing our rebooting of the **Green Schools Projects**. Our Green Schools initiative has been started enthusiastically at Sacred Heart RC Primary School with much good work underway. We’ve recently received news of a grant coming our way to help re-start our Green Schools Initiative and support related youth programmes. Although we are in discussions with some schools, we are calling for school communities to come forward to express an interest in their school being included in the next roll out of Green School projects.

7. **Street Tree Planting campaign and the Community Tree Care Initiative**. Although we need a lot more rain before we can start widespread street tree planting, nevertheless if a street community believes they have the capacity to look after trees and plants placed in their street, then Landcare BH wants to hear from you. We have seedlings ready to go into the ground in streets, but it is essential we wait until we have more rain. If that doesn’t come, then street community groups need to work out whether they have enough owners willing to do their bit with tree watering and maintenance.

8. And we are still intent on setting up the North Broken Hill Landcare Hub with its proposed commercial-scale native plant propagation nursery. Failing to get a Stronger Country Communities Grant will not stop us. We have commenced discussions with certain non-government parties, to see if there might be funds available. Early days, but there is promise of light at the end of the tunnel.

9. Meanwhile our social media is being busily utilised to keep people interested and involved. Daily postings of native flora is one example. But we all look forward to recommencing our monthly public meetings – not yet possible, but we are hopeful.

**Landcare Broken Hill’s public meetings have been cancelled for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19.**

**All Landcare Broken Hill’s on-the-ground projects have been deferred until further notice, although ‘backroom’ planning and preparation continues.**

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