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A project progressing eco-restoration and environmental education by helping acquire this strategic property in South-West Western Australia

Progress Report 5 July 2021

Acknowledgements

In 2020 Green Skills received support from the Denmark based Koorabup Trust and Gondwana Link to undertake a project assessing the potential for conservation property acquisition in the Forests to Stirling section of Gondwana Link. In addition the following private donors have made valuable contributions to the Tootanellup project: Annie Nutter, Nikki Green, Bill Castleden, Bill Hollingworth, Jacqui Hamblin, Michele Payne, Karen Doyle, Theda Mandsholt, Mark Madlener, Jill Rule, Elsa Luhn, Greg Davis, Tim Leary, Nicole Hodgson, Michael Hoy and Helen Lyons, P Masters, G. Lynda, Bill and Jane Thompson, Lou Scampoli, Sonia and Lawrence Emery, Francis Smit and other donors who wish to remain anonymous. Their support, along with other individual contributions and the assistance of the Green Skills Board, the Koorabup Trust, Carbon Positive Australia, and Gondwana Link has made possible the Tootanellup conservation project. This support is gratefully acknowledged.





Property purchase for eco-restoration

Green Skills Inc. (an incorporated not for profit community association with charitable status) has advanced the funds to purchase an important conservation property and is now seeking support to cover the cost of this purchase and assist with its restoration.

The property, Lot 2249 Rocky Gully Road, is between Rocky Gully and Frankland River, in the Upper Kent catchment in Western Australia's Great Southern region. The 49.5 ha (122 acres) property has about 18ha of remnant bush and 31.5ha of cleared land.

The property is a strategic link between the Tootanellup Nature Reserve, and a WA Department of Water (DWER) reserve which encompasses Boggy Lake, which in turn is part of a group of 3 freshwater wetlands of very high conservation value.



Eco-restoration on the property is being undertaken to strengthen the linkage between these reserves. In 20211 25 hectares of cleared land (including a wetland) will be carefully restored according to current best gold standard eco restoration practices.

There are then bushland eco-linkages all the way down to the Mt Roe National Park and up to Poorrarecup Lagoon, a Shire of Cranbrook reserve.

Find out more about this initiative in this short film:



https://youtu.be/orDE4DPGE5g

A part of the Gondwana Link

Green Skills has been an active part of the Gondwana Link program (<u>http://www.gondwanalink.org/</u>) for over 12 years helping to link priority biodiversity areas on public and private land across a thousand km arc between the West Coast and the Great Western Woodlands.



Green Skills has been particularly active in running Gondwana Link programs in the Forest to Stirlings section between Rocky Gully and the Cranbrook/Kendenup areas.

Public Involvement

Green Skills Inc is utilising donations to cover the cost of the property, and to assist with the cost of eco-restoration and development as a site for environmental education and community engagement.

Green Skills Inc is an incorporated associated with PBI status (and tax-deductible gift recipient status) and will coordinate the ongoing project, on behalf of all the contributors.

Why is this property important?

1. It joins up a missing section of the Gondwana Link

A 2006 study of the south coast identified major corridors that could be created from existing remnant vegetation in the landscape. Tootanellup sits right on top of one of those lines, linking up remnant vegetation to Mt Roe National Park to the south of Muir Highway.



Revegetation of this block would fill a gap between two reserves on a critical Gondwana Link pathway in the Forest to Stirlings section. <u>http://www.gondwanalink.org/whatshapwhere/forest_stirlings.aspx</u>

2. Opportunity to enhance nearby reserves

There is opportunity for Green Skills to be involved in improved management of adjoining Boggy Lake property, which is free hold land held by the WA Government for water catchment protection, as well as other bushland reserves and remnant vegetation on farmland in the area. Permission has already been granted to Green Skills to undertake bird and other environmental surveys, and seed collecting on the adjoining Boggy Lake property.



In particular, Green Skills is partnering with BirdLife Western Australia and the Denmark Bird Group to undertake regular surveys at Boggy Lake to ascertain the presence of Australasian Bitterns.

Find out more about the potential for Australasian Bittern at Boggy Lake:



https://youtu.be/ihzr2GwHX04

3. Opportunity to create a facility for ecological education and citizen science

Green Skills Denmark has prepared a plan for the development of the Tootanellup property that provides a clear framework for how the property will be restored and managed.



Green Skills Denmark has prepared a conceptual diagrammatic eco development draft plan for the Tootanellup property that provides a clear framework for how the property will be restored and managed - see page 2 map image.

The property had a neighbour's sheep keeping the pasture grazed and of low fire risk, up until March 2021. This arrangement has now concluded as site preparation for revegetation is now underway. Firebreaks are in place and a local neighbouring farmer, David Taylor has agreed to maintain them once a year. Rates for the property are \$1000 per annum. The current boundary

fencing is likely to be adequate in the long term as there is no stock grazing on the neighbour's property with bush bordering the northern and western sides of the property. The other two boundaries are with public land reserves.

Zonings and Use

It is intended that a 0.4-hectare area (4000 m²) area be developed as a nature study eco camping facility with the following features: Shelter and tables, bush camp kitchen, compost toilet, display and interpretative panels, tent sites, car and bus parking, rainwater tank, outdoor campfire and seating and related infrastructure. It is intended that this nature study eco facility will service a range of organisations (both environmental and cultural) who are participating in such activities as wetland monitoring, bird watching, Noongar cultural surveys, fauna surveys, and other citizen science activities. BirdLife WA has been consulted and expressed interest in this, including linking to undertaking ongoing Australasian Bittern surveys on the adjoining DWER's (formerly Water and Rivers Commission's) Boggy Lake and Tootanellup Lagoon property next door. Green Skills has been delivering citizen science and other fauna monitoring surveys and eco-camps on the Green Skills Balijup Fauna Sanctuary since 2016. Development of the eco-camping facility will be funded through grants or donations.

A 4-hectare (200 x 200m - 40000m²) area will be retained as a future major educational development or a homestead residential area. Until such time as it is developed this currently pastured site would be kept slashed on an annual basis

Two bush fire planning consultants, David Deeley and Alan Hordacre, is providing pro bono input into producing a bush fire and emergency plan for the property to assist with town planning applications for any eco educational and camping developments on the property.

The 16.8 ha of current bushland (Yate, Wandoo, Jarrah, Marri, Paperbark and Banksia woodland) would be managed to retain and enhance its biodiversity value. This would entail monitoring for weeds, installation of bird and mammal nesting boxes, and development of a walking trail through the woodland. Monitoring and wildlife nesting boxes would be grant funded, in association with current ongoing management activities undertaken at the Balijup Fauna Sanctuary near Tenterden.

The remaining 25 or so hectares of the property will eco-restored through a formal contract signed with Carbon Positive Australia, to be revegetated with direct seeding of local provenance collected seed as part of a carbon offset funded high standard eco-restoration project. Green Skills has now signed a formal agreement with Carbon Positive for Albany based consultant Dr Geoff Woodall, to coordinate an eco-restoration project involving direct seeding of 25 hectares of biodiverse plantings in July 2021. All restored areas would be formally conservation covenanted for their long-term protection.

This conceptual development plan also allows for the property to be the basis for a wide range of potential other eco education activities that will link to Green Skills core objectives and goals.

Reports of Activities

Tootanellup Eco-project: Installing marsupial nesting boxes and undertaking site preparation for revegetation

Eco-restoration projects are now well underway at the Tootanellup conservation property near Rocky Gully. On the 13th May 2021, the Mt Barker & Nowanup Noongar Rangers team helped Green Skills install 11 nesting boxes in the bushland of Tootanellup. 6 were placed in trees for Brush-Tailed Phascogale use, and 5 were placed near ground level for Mardo (Yellow-footed Antechinus).



This Eco-project is a great example of ongoing successful South Coast collaborative eco-works in the region! Green Skills senior project manager, Basil Schur is leading the Tootanellup eco-restoration project, and volunteer Tom Sheard assists Basil with the safety induction and training for the work. Greening Australia coordinates the the DWER Green Jobs Program, and Gondwana Link and Impact Services provide funding/co-ordination support for the Rangers team. The nest boxes were made by the Denmark Men's Shed with grant funding secured by Green Skills from WA State NRM grant program and the Denmark Community Foundation.

There are multiple benefits to having Rangers teams involved in eco restoration activities at or near the Tootanellup conservation property.

In addition, Green Skills has worked with local Denmark contractor Carl Dusenberg to do site preparation over the pastured portion of Tootanellup in preparation for 25 hectares of direct seeding to be supervised by Dr Geoff Woodall, consultant to Carbon Positive Australia. In mid-July, Geoff will seed 25 hectares at Tootanellup with 79 species of local flora, sourced as locally as possible. The Rangers teams, over the past 6 months, have also collected local provenance seeds from the property and surrounding reserves for use in the revegetation of the property.



Dr Geoff Woodall and Basil Schur (Green Skills) on Tootanellup in late 2020, discussing the ecorestoration planned for July 2021.

Bush Fire Management Plan

Dr David Deeley of Bush Fire Works and Fire consultant Al Hordacre have prepared a Bush Fire Management Plan for the Tootanellup property. This will guide how the project is developed as well as pave the way for town planning application to the Shire of Plantagenet for the proposed eco camp facility at Tootanellup. The pro-bono contribution of David Deeley and Al Hordacre to the is conservation project is great appreciated and acknowledged.

A copy of the Bushfire management plan is in the Appendix to this report.

Eco- Camp Facility at Tootanellup – Planning and Design Underway

Green Skills has also begun preparing plans for the proposed eco-camp facility at Tootanellup. The initial layout was designed and mapped by Basil Schur and Maren Heckel, with valuable input from Dr David Deeley. Green Skills then commissioned Sally Malone; an Albany based landscape designer. to assist with some initial concept designs for the proposed gazebo, camp kitchen and compost toilet/shed at the chosen camp site area. Once finalized Green Skills plans to seek funding to implement this eco campground. Photos, plan and designs are set out in the Appendix below.



Views of or adjacent to the proposed eco camp facility at Tootanellup



Tootanellup Eco- Camp Ground – Conceptual landscape plan

Looking to the Future

Protection for Water and River Commission properties of the Upper Kent Catchment

One positive spin off project from the Tootanellup conservation relates to the development of a campaign to secure the long-term future of about 24 properties acquired by the 1990s by the then Water and River Commission for the purposes of protecting the water resources of the Upper Kent Catchment. Although the Kent Catchment is no longer designated a potable catchment, and there is a risk that these properties would be sold by the WA State Government.

When Green Skills acquitted Lot 2249 at Tootanellup, we noted that it was adjoining a The Denmark Environment Centre, together with Green Skills and Gondwana Link Ltd, are implementing a campaign for these properties to be transferred from under the control of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to the Department of Conservation, Biodiversity and Attractions for consideration of addition of all or some of these properties to the conservation estate.

This campaign is going very well with the DBCA and DWER indicating willingness for this process to commence.



Map: Location of Properties purchased by the then Water & River Commission.

Bushland Eco Assessments of Adjoining Farms

Because it now owns Tootanellup Green Skills saw the need to plan for biodiversity conservation on adjoining landholdings. It undertook detailed survey of remnant vegetation on private property, including Morillo farm, in the Tootanellup district This report is downloadable at https://greenskills.org.au/download/snapshot-bushland-survey-morillo-farm-tootanellup-area/

Caring for Boggy Lake/Tootanellup Lagoon Reserve

In November 2020, Green Skills signed a formal agreement with Dept of Water and Environmental Regulation for Green Skills to undertake environmental surveys, seed collecting and feral animal control on the 250 hectare Boggy Lake property next to Tootanellup

Green Skills (working with BirdLife WA) is assisting a nearby landholder Jenni York, with a revegetation project to establish 4000 native trees and shrubs on her property, which is about 5 km east of Tootanellup.

Green Skills has commenced communications with a number of landowners currently own properties identified as highest priority in Forest to Stirlings zone. This includes formulating a fencing agreement with Peter and Sharon Beech who have recently acquired several former Blue Plantation properties south of Poorrarecup Lagoon (and within 8km of Tootanellup) where they are prepared to undertake 6km of fencing to protect more than 280 hectares of high quality remnant vegetation on their newly acquired South Kybellup farm.

Photographs from visits to the property (August and October 2020)



Aerial view of property (Lot 2249)



On the property with Melaleuca trees in paddock



Entrance to property Lot 2249 Rocky Gully Road



South east corner of the property





Wandoo and Yate trees in the remnant vegetation on the property

Wandoo and Yate trees in the remnant vegetation on the property



Wandoo and Yate trees in the remnant vegetation on the property



A large Eucalyptus rudis



Eucalyptus decipiens and Balga (xanthorrhoea preissii)



Cleared wetland



Wetland on the property



Wetland on the property



Small Marri forest remnant on north east side. Cleared area a possible site for camping.



Dam at the north of the property



North-east corner gate



South-west corner of property



Aerial view of Boggy Lake in the adjacent Department of Water (DWER) property



Boggy Lake in the adjacent adjacent Department of Water (DWER) property



Boggy Lake



Boggy Lake



Boggy Lake in the adjacent Department of Water (DWER) property



Old wandoo in Boggy Lake area



Spider orchid in Boggy Lake



Tootanellup Nature Reserve



Tootanellup Nature Reserve



Banksia littoralis in swamp in Tootanellup Nature Reserve

Appendix 1 Conceptual Structures for the Proposed Eco Camp Ground at Tootanellup



Description

- Capacity: 16 20 people
- ~ Size: 6m x 8m roof area (smaller available)
- ~ Shade area: 48sqm plus suggested vine pergola area in front. ~ Rainwater catchment: 40 litres p/hr if 1ml rain p/hr.
- ~ Structure: frame and posts can be steel, aluminium or timber to suit. ~ Cost: Landmark* K307 Peninsular estimate: \$15,630 (steel posts)
- ~ Freight and supply to site estimate: \$7,000
- ~ Installation site work (earthworks and grading, sitting/retaining wall, concrete floor, assembly) estimate: \$17,100

- Advantages of this structure's shape: ~ Simple design can be purchased pre-made and ready to assemble, or built from scratch by local builders.
- ~ The style is modular and could be made smaller or larger.
- ~ The roof shape is easily oriented for solar power and rainwater collection. ~ Can be built from a wide variety of materials to suit the site and budgets.
- ~ Screens, panels and pergolas can be added for wind and sun shelter, and to create an attractive style and character
- The style can be readily applied to other structures so that a cohesive character can be built up over time.

(All estimates are excluding GST)





Description

- ~ Capacity: large trestle seats 10+ people, bars seat 6 = 16 people seated inside - along with exterior overflow under front veranda.
- ~ Size: 8m x 11m (roof area)
- ~ Rainwater catchment: 80 litres p/hr if 1ml rain p/hr. With 200mm rain per annum 16,000L may be collected.
- Structure: frame and posts can be steel, aluminium or timber to suit.
- ~ Cost: Landmark* K8103 Small Club modified to suit# estimate: \$66,920
- ~ Freight and supply to site estimate: \$8,000
- ~ Installation site work (earthworks and grading, gravity plumbing, concrete floor) estimate: \$35,000
- Rainwater tanks two at 2m dia x 1.8m high = 7,000L estimate: \$ 2,400 ea.
- ~ Interior fit-out and furniture TBA.

(All estimates are excluding GST)



- ~ Decisions on solar panels, batteries, portable gas connections, pumps, night lighting and fly screens will need to be made.
- Advice on fire extinguishers and BALs related details will need to be sought, along with gravity plumbing practicalities.
- ~ A large gazebo could be an option if enclosure is not needed.

Materials





Treated pine structural timber, stained.

Eco-lumber battens (Recycled * Landmark: HDPE plastic - Altiform or similar)

www.landmarkpro.com.au



	Full list for Tootanellup 25 he		
	revegetation Project July		
	2021 v 20 June 2021		
	Genus	species	
1	Acacia	extensa	
2	Acacia	pulchella	
3	Acacia	nervosa	
4	Acacia	saligna max 15g	
5	Acacia	stenoptera	
6	Acacia	browniana	
7	Acacia	myrtifolia var angustifolia	
8	Acacia	cyclops	
9	Acacia	drummondii elegans	
10	Agonis	theiformis	
11	Agrostocrinum	scabrum	
12	Allocasuarina	humilis	
13	Anigozanthus	manglesii	
14	Astartea	laricifolia	
15	Banksia	grandis	
16	Banksia	littoralis	
17	Banksia	formosa	
18	Bossiaea	ornata	
19	Bossiaea	linophylla	
20	Callistemon	phoeniceus	
21	Callistachys	lanceolata	
22	Callitris	pyrimidalis	
23	Chaemescilla	corymbosa	
24	Choretrum	glomeratum	
25	Corymbia	calophylla	
26	Daviesia	cordata	
27	Daviesia	flexuosa	
28	Eucalyptus	decipiens	
29	Eucalyptus	marginata	
30	Eucalyptus	occidentalis	
31	Eucalyptus	rudis	
32	Eucalyptus	wandoo	
33	Gastrolobium	praemorsum	
34	Gastrolobium	sericeum	
35	Gompholobium	capitatum	
36	Gompholobium	marginatum	
37	Gompholobium	preissii	
38	Hakea	corymbosa	

39	Hakea	lissocarpha
40	Hakea	prostrata
41	Hakea	trifurcata
42	Hakea	undulata
43	Hakea	varia
44	Hemiandra	pungens
45	Ноvea	elliptica and chorizimifolia
46	Hybanthus	florabundus
47	Hypocalymma	angustifolium
48	Kennedia	coccinea
49	Kennedia	prostrata
50	Kunzea	recurva
51	Kunzea	glabrescens
52	Lagenophora	huegelii
53	Lambertia	inermis
54	Leptospermum	oligandrum
55	Leucopogon	australis
56	Leucopogon	obovatus
57	Macrozamia	riedlei
58	Melaleuca	cuticularis
59	Melaleuca	lateritia
60	Melaleuca	rhaphiophylla
61	Melaleuca	densa
62	Melaleuca	spathulata
63	Melaleuca	thymoides
64	Melaleuca	violacea
65	Melaleuca	pauciflora
66	Microlaena	stipoides
67	Patersonia	occidentalis
68	Patersonia	xantha
69	Persoonia	longifolia
70	Sollya	heterophylla
71	Sphaerolobium	vimineum
72	Stylidium	affine
73	Taxandria	parviceps
74	Tetrarrhena	laevis
75	Thysanotus	multiflorus/patersonii
76	Tricoryne	elatior
77	Viminaria	juncea
78	Xanthorrhoea	gracilis
79	Xanthorrhoea	preissii

Species list prepared by Dr Geoff Woodall (BSc Hort, PhD)

Native plant agronomist:providing commercial revegetation technical services Email: <u>geoff.woodall@bigpond.com</u>

Appendix 3 Bush Fire Management Plan for Lot 2240 Rocky Gully Road, Tootanellup

BushFire Works



BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2249 Rocky Gully Rd Tootanellup

CLIENT:	Basil Schur, Greenskills WA
DATE:	17/05/2021
SHIRE/CITY:	Shire of Plantagenet
FIRE CONSULTANT:	Al Hordacre, David Deeley
CLIENT CONTACT #	Basil Schur
BFW FILE #:	20201004
VERSION #:	1.0

BushFire Works ABN 945 23123 843 PO Box 1249, Bibra Lake DC, WA 6965 <u>enquire@bushfireworks.com.au</u> <u>www.bushfireworks.com.au</u>

Bushfire management plan/Statement addressing the Bushfire Protection Criteria coversheet

Site address: 2249 Rocky Gully R	d, Rocky Gully, Tootanellup			
Site visit: Yes 📃 No 🖌				
Date of site visit (if applicable): D	ау	Month		Year
Report author or reviewer: AI Ho	rdacre, David Deeley			
WA BPAD accreditation level (ple	ase circle):			
Not accredited Level 1 B	AL assessor 🖌 🛛 Level 2 prac	ctitioner 🖌	Level 3 practitione	er 🗌
f accredited please provide the	following.			
BPAD accreditation number: ³⁷	Accreditation expiry	: Month Sept		Year 2021
Bushfire management plan versio	n number: V_1			
Bushfire management plan date:	Day 17th	Month May		Year 2021
Client/business name: Greenskill	;			
				Yes N
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Section 5: Assessment against the Bushfire Protection Criteria

Subsection 5.1: Compliance

Bushfire protection criteria		Method of compliance	Proposed bushfire management strategies	
		Acceptable solutions		
Element Location	1:	A1.1 Development location This meets the intent of Element A1.1	Summarise strategies proposed to meet compliance with this solution and when they will be addressed	
Element 2: Sitir and design	ng	A2.1 Asset Protection Zone This meets the intent of Element A2.1.		
Element Vehicular access	3:	A3.1 Two access routes. This meets the intent of Element A3.1		
		A3.2 Public road. This meets the intent of Element A3.2		
		A3.3 Cul-de-sac (including a dead-end-road) N/A		
		A3.4 Battle-axe N/A	There is no Battle-axe lots.	
		A3.5 Private driveway longer than 50 metres. This meets the intent of Element A3.5.		
		A3.6 Emergency access way N/A	Existing private road provides adequate emergency access.	
		A3.7 Fire service access routes (perimeter roads) N/A	Existing private road provides adequate fire service access.	
		A3.8 Firebreak width. Existing 3m perimeter firebreaks will be maintained in perpetuity. This meets the intent of Element A3.8.	Existing firebreaks >2m width surround the property consistent with SAMR firebreak notices.	
	4:	A4.1 Reticulated areas N/A		
Water		A4.2 Non-reticulated areas N/A		
		A4.3 Individual lots within non-reticulated areas. A dedicated water tank of 12kl capacity will provide water for fire service supplies. This meets the intent of Element A4.3	A fill point with required Storz fittings and ample turn-around (≥17.5m) is available. Tanks will be kept full in perpetuity.	

Appendix 4 Future Planning for Tootanellup

In advancing the funds for the acquisition of the property (which was acquired by Green Skills on the 15 October 2020), the Green Skills Board of Management has agreed to the following plans in the event of a future possible sale of the property.

Should Green Skills' Board of Management choose to sell the Tootanellup property (Lot 2249) at some stage in the future, then Green Skills will first ensure that:

- 1. The planned sections of the property have been successfully revegetated and restored; and
- 2. A secure conservation covenant protecting this revegetation has been lodged on the title.

Green Skills would also aim, in the first instance, to sell the property to an investor sympathetic to the original intentions of Green Skills for the property, before more widely advertising the sale.

Overall priorities in the instance of the Tootanellup property being sold:

- 1. For Green Skills to recoup the costs it has expended on acquiring the property appropriately indexed to the CPI (Consumer Price Index). These costs are the property purchase price, the costs of settlement, and the amount spent on rates and firebreaks while under Green Skills ownership.
- 2. Importantly, the equivalent funds to those fundraised for the property would be placed into a Green Skills' project account for the specific purposes of progressing another landscape conservation eco restoration project (i.e. contributing to another conservation property acquisition or eco-restoration/revegetation works on an existing conservation property in Gondwana Link).
- 3. For any remaining funds to be retained by Green Skills for use as the Board wishes in accordance with Green Skills' constitutional objectives and strategic goals.

The Board of Green Skills were prepared to effectively advance the funds so that this strategic property could be secured for conservation while it was on the market. Green Skills Inc. is a registered not for profit charitable association who have over 30 years involvement in landcare. The Green Skills Board has agreed that a very high standard of eco-restoration will be undertaken at Tootanellup, and its conservation values will be secured by protective covenants on the title.

In addition, there will be a strong environmental education focus for the property into the future. If the Board did choose to sell the property at some time in the future, then this would only be after such covenants were in place. Once the initial advance has been recouped, all donated funds would go towards further restoration projects.

Effectively if the property were sold, the funds received would establish a 'revolving fund' to secure further conservation benefits. These arrangements are intended to provide a safeguard and additional benefit for donors for this project.



Tax Deductible Gift Recipient Fund Tootanellup Project Property Purchase & Eco-Restoration

First Name	Surname	
Postal Address		
Email		
Phone		

\$

Donation

If you wish to remain anonymous in terms of public acknowledgement of your donation, please confirm this request by providing your signature in the box below:

Payment Details: Cash or Cheque In person at Green Skills Denmark Rear 33, Strickland St., Denmark By mail to PO Box 577 Denmark WA 6333

Direct Transfer

If using this method please email <u>denmarkmanager@greenskills.org.au</u> to advise that you have made a payment. *Account:* Green Skills Inc *BSB:* **086-595** *Account No:* **855210310** Please Include Payment Description: *Tootanellup*

Please return completed form to:

Attn: Green Skills PO Box 577 Denmark WA 6333 Ph: 08 9848 3310 Email: denmarkmanager@greenskills.org.au

For further information please contact: Basil Schur on 0429481019 or bschur@greenskills.org.au

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