



# Haining Farm Community Update

December 2023

## **Parks Victoria and Zoos Victoria are working together to prepare Haining Farm for translocations of critically endangered Lowland Leadbeater’s Possums**

We look forward to Haining Farm providing a safe haven for one of Victoria’s Faunal Emblems in 2025. Establishing a breeding population of this small, shy possum at Haining Farm is currently the highest priority recovery action to conserve this genetically unique lowland species.

### **Upgrades to conservation area fence**

Recent translocations of Lowland Leadbeater’s Possums have shown that the species is extremely vulnerable to predation by cats and foxes. Therefore planning is underway to upgrade the deer exclusion fence to also keep cats and foxes out of the conservaton area ahead of releases. The fence upgrade is anticipated to occur in late 2024.



### **Wildlife monitoring camera poles**

To monitor cats and foxes within the conservation area at Haining Farm, camera posts will be installed at designated locations along the walking tracks.

These posts will house camera traps to monitor wildlife. The motion-sensor cameras are angled downwards to capture images of wildlife walking along the tracks. They do not record sound and any images of peoples’ feet will be discarded. The key data relates to the detection of cats and foxes, which will inform the upcoming project to eradicate these predators from the conservation area.

Installation of the camera posts is planned to occur during March 2024. Please respect these cameras and help us support wildlife in the reserve.



## School visits to Haining Farm

During 2023, year 9 students from the Don Valley Campus of School for Student Leadership have completed their Community Service lesson at Haining Farm. They have assisted with painting bamboo stake markers and placing them next to native plants in a revegetation plot, and hand weeding around the plants to give them a better chance of surviving and thriving. The students have also undertaken direct seeding in the wetland cells and established monitoring plots to see how well the seeds germinate.

We look forward to welcoming more students from the 'Don Valley Campus of School for Student Leadership' back on site in 2024 to continue the good work.



## Wildlife surveys

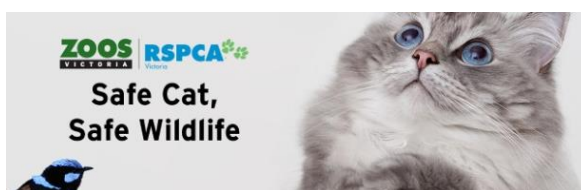
Prior to the introduction of Lowland Leadbeater's Possums to Haining Farm, Zoos Victoria are conducting surveys to document the small arboreal (tree dwelling) and terrestrial (land based) mammals currently present in the conservation area. Some surveys have also commenced to examine invertebrate diversity and abundance in the revegetation; these provide an important source of food for birds and mammals, including Leadbeater's possums. The team looks forward to sharing some of these results with you over coming months.

## "Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife"

Whatever stage of life your cat is at, with the proper care and attention they can thrive when kept safe at home. This also helps the local wildlife around your home flourish.

Love your cat? Join Zoos Victoria's "Safe Cat, Safe Wildlife" campaign. This includes free expert advice, cat hacks, exclusive discounts and the latest information to give your cat the best life.

Learn more and join the Safe Cat community at [safecat.org.au](https://safecat.org.au).



## Wildlife spotting in Haining Farm

Have you spotted some interesting wildlife at Haining Farm? You can share your wildlife observations or explore others' sightings via iNaturalist.

More information and app download at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

## Questions?

If you have questions about upcoming works in the reserve, or would like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, you can contact Ranger Team Leader Matt Tresidder ([matt.tresidder@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:matt.tresidder@parks.vic.gov.au)) or Ranger Melissa Tuliranta ([melissa.tuliranta@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:melissa.tuliranta@parks.vic.gov.au)).

For more information about Haining Farm visit <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/haining-farm>