

Haining Farm Community Update

June 2019

Following a minor delay to on-ground works with the discovery of additional asbestos containing material, we are back on track with the transformation at Haining Farm.

Winter has set in and the design and construction of the wetlands cells are proving effective at holding water. The vegetation continues to thrive and the birdlife and other wildlife keeps increasing.

All project information remains available on the Engage Victoria Haining Farm webpage at: www.engage.vic.gov.au/haining-farm.

End of an era

July will mark the end of a long era for dairy farming at Haining Farm. The remaining cows will leave the farm early in the month. This will allow the removal of further fencing and planting of the woodland buffer in spring.

Parks Victoria would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the sharefarmer and his family for their years of work at the site, and for their assistance in the current transformation.



The last of the dairy stock

Retaining the farming history

Previous community engagement on the plan for Haining Farm clearly demonstrated that the community wants to ensure that the history of the site does not get lost. For this reason, the final plan retains some of the farming aspects, to ensure that future generations understand the important role it has played.

The farming history will continue to be recognised with retention of the old milking platform and some other equipment, as well as including farming activities in interpretive signage throughout the site.



The milking platform is to be retained on site

Asbestos removal

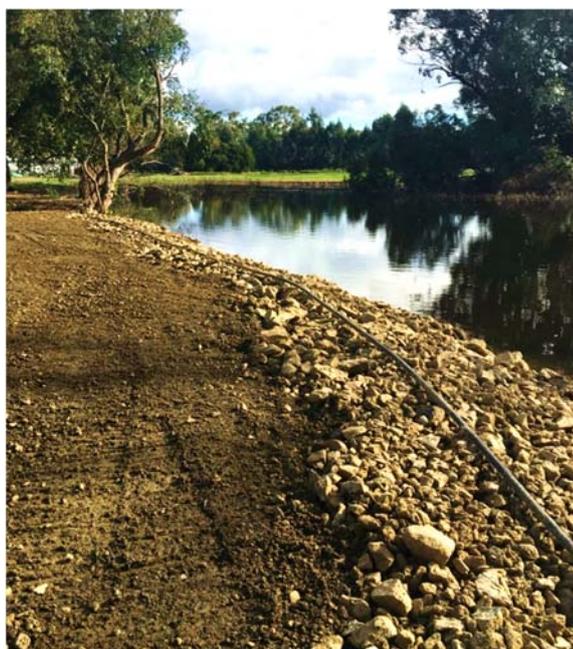
The removal of further Asbestos Containing Material has been undertaken by licensed asbestos removalists. Throughout the removal, air monitoring stations were set up to measure whether any asbestos fibres were found in the air. None of the monitoring stations recorded any traces.

Parks Victoria has engaged an environmental hygienist to continue to inspect the site as required, and to provide advice about future management.

There is some further removal of asbestos containing material required and Parks Victoria will provide additional information about this to adjoining residents prior to any works.

Bushfire mitigation measures

Works to create the hardstand water point at the main farm dam has been completed. This will give large fire fighting vehicles quick access to a reliable water source.



New hardstand area with reinforced edging

Revegetation success

The planting of the ephemeral (seasonal) wetlands in the central-southern area of the property is now complete, and has produced amazing results.

This element of the project involved minor earth works to utilise the natural topography on site for positive habitat outcomes. The creation and restoration of wetlands will be of vital importance to ongoing ecosystem health.



Southern ephemeral wetland; wet and dry periods throughout the year

Cameras have confirmed that the wombats are using the new gates near the Yarra River, but they are also determined to dig their way under the deer fence in other areas!



Wombat heading out of the reveget area before dawn

What next

Greening Australia will continue to run events for the community at Haining Farm over the coming year. The public Frog Watch event was postponed in April due to poor monitoring conditions; the next event will now occur in October.

For more information visit Greening Australia's website at:
www.greeningaustralia.org.au/projects/haining-farm.

Over the remains of winter, the following will be underway:

- Revegetation of the northern paddocks and infilling of the wetland cells.
- Pest animal control.
- Slashing of weeds and grasses.

For further information please call 13 1963 or email info@parks.vic.gov.au.