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Welcome to the ESAI Autumn Newsletter

As Summer turns to Autumn the first three years of funding from MPI for Project Tinaku draws to a close and the team at ESAI have been reflecting on all the work that has been achieved over that time.

We have significantly grown our network of members and stakeholders, while over 40 riparian planting projects on member farms planted over 40,000 natives along 11km of rivers and streams with more planned before winter sets in.

The project has also facilitated extensive water quality monitoring along four lowland streams, (see below for water quality results) as well as the testing of members' bore water.

Tinaku staff have organised events and workshops that have been attended by close to 450 people and they continue to develop strong ties with other catchment groups, local schools, NGOs, regional councils, agricultural groups and professionals throughout the area.

The project has also increased the awareness around the successes and challenges of farming in and around Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere.

We are truly grateful to all our members who have been involved along the way and we hope that with the announcement of further financial support from MPI (see below article) our membership will continue to grow and we will continue to support our farming community.



Upcoming Social Event

Growing Your Farming Destiny with Sarah Perriam-Lampp

You may have seen this exciting event with Sarah Perriam-Lampp advertised, which will also celebrate all the great work that ESAI and its members have achieved in the last three years.

Sarah will be hosting the event which will be recorded for the return of the 'Sarah's Country' podcast.

We've assembled a great panel of guests who are excited to tell us about their farming stories and give us some insights into the changing focus of farming in NZ and globally.

The event includes live country/blues music from a young local musician as well as dinner and a cash bar.

Tickets are selling fast at just \$10 pp, so why not grab some friends or family and come along?

For more information on the event and speakers or to get tickets follow the link <https://events.humanitix.com/growing-your-farming-destiny>

**Complete Our Follow up Survey and Be in to Win a \$250
Hunting & Fishing Voucher!!**

and host of other insights, which have proved invaluable.

Now that we are nearing the end of the first three years of our Tinaku funding we would like to do a short follow-up survey to track how we have been doing and to see where improvements can be made going forward.

Data collected from this survey will once again be anonymous and will be useful in assessing issues on the horizon such as the new Fresh Water Farm Plans and water consents.

The survey can be done online and will only take a few minutes of your time. Every person completing the survey will go in the draw to win a \$250 Hunting & Fishing voucher.

Click on this link to complete the survey and be in to win!!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESANewsletter>



One of the sites due to be planted this Autumn.

Last Round of Tinaku Restoration Projects Set to Start

Plans and details have been finalised for the last round of the Tinaku Project's restoration programme, with planting set to take place in the next few weeks. These autumn restoration projects will see a further 11,000 native plants put in the ground across 20 planting sites.

The planting sites are primarily along lowland drains and spring-fed streams, with a couple of wetland areas also scheduled to be fenced out and planted.

mahinga kai values across our area.

Although the current funding is drawing to a close Tinaku staff are in the process of seeking further funding so that planting and restoration can continue.

By being proactive in protecting and restoring our waterways and native biodiversity, we also aim to protect our members' social licence to farm.

ESAI Continues Support of Gateway Students

ESAI have committed to sponsoring another seven Gateways Students at Ellesmere College through the Tinaku Project funding.

Now in our third year of this partnership with Ellesmere College, the ESAI Committee see the value of supporting the Gateways Programme, which is keeping local students engaged at school, and equipping them with the skills and experience necessary for entering agricultural careers.

On the 15th of May, ESAI will also sponsor a bioblitz day at Southbridge Primary School.

This event will be run by Te Ara Kākāriki and aims to engage students with their local environment, and get them excited to discover and protect our natural plants and wildlife.



Consultants Deliver Water Quality Report

One of the key focuses for the Tinaku Project has been around collecting water quality data.

This was carried out by ecological firm Pattle Delamore Partners who undertook various sampling measures at 10 sites across four streams in the local area.

They have recently compiled an extensive report on their findings.

To find out what the key takeaways were click the link to our website here:

<https://esai.co.nz/consultants-deliver-water-quality-report/>

New Funding Facilitates New Project

ESAI is excited to announce that it has received further funding from MPI for Integrated Farm Planning (IFP).

This new project will be a little different to the previous project and will be focused on getting farmers up to speed on IFPs.

These new plans will cover a whole range of modules from animal welfare, health & safety, mahinga kai, team management and the environment and are aimed at getting farmers ahead of the game.

Tinaku staff have been talking with other groups who have previously received funding for IFP projects and they are encouraged to hear that all the farmers

undertake the IFP process and then share their feedback to help guide and inform the project work plan.

This pilot group of farmers will be given the unique opportunity to receive specialised help and coaching worth thousands of dollars and develop their IFP. If you are interested in being part of the pilot group or for more information get in touch with Jo.

Jo.tinaku@esai.co.nz 0210304783



Participants in the Open Farm event at Streamside Organics got to plant natives along the Irwell river.

More Tinaku Events Coming Soon!

The Tinaku Extension project started in July 2021 with a strong focus on providing opportunities for ESAI members and others to gain and share knowledge.

A total of 18 events, workshops and drop-in sessions have been organised in that time and close to 450 people have attended.

Recent successful events included a drop-in session with ECan where farmers could come along and find out more about the new winter grazing rules.

Extension project coordinator Jo Fearn also attended an Open Farm event held at Streamside Organics to talk to over 100 people about the benefits of riparian planting on farms.

There are two more events planned before the end of June.

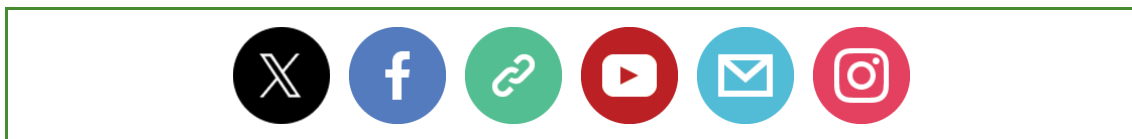
We've got the exciting evening event with Sarah Perriam-Lampp on the 28th

April which was mentioned above and then on the 31st May ESAI are joining up with Te Taumutu Runanga to arrange a half day workshop to increase the

More details about this event will be available soon on our [website](#) and [facebook](#) page.



Our Flagship Project



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