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**Upcoming Integrated Farm Planning Workshop
People & HR
Tuesday 30th Jan 8am-1:30pm
At Lakeside Soldiers Memorial Hall
For more details see below**

2023, It's a wrap!

Well, what a year it has been, not only for ESAI but for all farmers and growers in NZ.

Change is the word that seems to sum up 2023. Change in farming and environmental related regulations, change both in NZ and worldwide in farming systems and how farming is adapting to a fluctuating climate and global consumer demands, change in attitudes and opinions, a change of Chairperson for ESAI and of course, a change in government, which has the potential to bring about changes to the NZ agricultural sector in the coming years.

Many of these changes were discussed at the 'Everything to Gain' event in Southland in December 2022 which Jo Fearn (Project Coordinator), Alison Inwood and Hillary Cross (ESAI Committee members) attended. This event gave a real insight into the direction the agricultural sector is moving and the changes that are likely to be needed both at home and overseas. Those who attended the event shared their experience and take-home messages from the event with the members and the Committee which led to vigorous discussions at the monthly Committee meeting. It was a significant way to start the new year; a year where funding for the Tinaku Project was drawing to a close and there was a degree of uncertainty around what that meant for ESAI and the project going forward.



Farmers discuss winter grazing rules with ECan staff at the drop-in day.

Winter grazing was a prevalent topic in 2023, with new rules coming into place for the upcoming winter season. Feedback from a winter grazing workshop facilitated by the Tinaku Project team in Oct 2022 showed that there was still a degree of confusion around the new regulations and farmers needed more clarity on what their options were.

ESAI teamed up with Environment Canterbury to provide a drop-in day held in March at the Lakeside Hall which gave farmers an opportunity to go along and speak with ECan staff and ask their questions. The day was a real success with over 20 people attending to get the help and advice they needed.



Jo Fearn & Sarah Perriam-Lampp at the Growing your Farming Destiny Event in April

Another significant event in the ESAI 2023 calendar was the 'Growing your Farming Destiny' evening event in April hosted by Sarah Perriam-Lampp. Sarah invited along a panel of special guests to discuss and celebrate all the inspiring and innovative farmers doing amazing things here in Aotearoa and encouraging

ESAI announced in April that further funding had been granted from MPI for a new project called 'Enhancing Ellesmere' which would focus on Integrated Farm Planning (IFP), providing a framework of modules that bring together all aspects of a farm business and helps farmers to adapt, respond and progress through change.

The Tinaku Project teamed up with the Whakaora te Waikēkēwai Project in May to hold a free Mahinga Kai workshop at Te Pā o Moki Taumutu Marae. The event attracted more than 40 locals many of which had never had the opportunity to visit the marae previously. The workshop proved highly successful, serving as a chance to build on the connection between ESAI, the community, and the local iwi.



Committee and members get together at the strategic planning meeting in June.

The ESAI Committee had spent a number of months throughout 2023 working with Chris Coughlan from Rural Coach on developing a strategy for the future of the Society.

In June, ESAI members were invited along to help in the process. 30 members and Committee members were involved in the day-long workshop which led to some significant plans and action steps put into place to help shape ESAI as a group going forward.

attended the gala event which was hosted by Hilary Barry. Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc was delighted to be awarded overall winner in the Environment & Sustainability category. Tim Chamberlain gave a poignant acceptance speech made even more touching when a few days later, during the AGM, he announced his stepping down as ESAI Chair after 4 years in the position.

During the meeting he talked about the changes that were occurring in his life that had led to the decision and a desire to spend more time on his boat in the Sounds.

He nominated Nigel Greenwood to take his place and those present voted in agreement. Nigel now sits as head of the Committee with Vice Chairman Stuart McPherson.

Also joining the Committee was Grant Everest with returning officers Val McMillan and Jo Jermyn Benny.



Staff and Committee members at the Selwyn Awards held in August

After months of planning and preparation the Enhancing Ellesmere Project finally got underway in October with an introductory workshop and then a week later the first module of the IFP which covered business and financial planning, goals, risk assessment and the farm team. More than 20 farmers were present for the first workshop.

The key focus of the new project over the next 2.5 years will be building

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People, Health & Safety, Communication and Leadership. For more info see below.

So, as you can see, 2023 has certainly been a year of change and also great achievements.

The ESAI Committee and team wish to thank all its members and followers for their on-going support and hope you all have a wonderful festive season.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to connecting with you in 2024.



People and HR Workshop

Tues 30th Jan 7:45am-1:30pm
At Lakeside Soldiers Memorial Hall

Are you wanting to:

- Understand and enhance the communication and culture in your workplace?
- Gain ideas to support effective and efficient workplaces?
- Be confident you are meeting your legal obligations?
- Improve your Health and Safety processes?
- Receive templates that will help with your HR management?
- Work towards FAP Plus accreditation?



If you answered yes to any of these or if you work with family, contractors and employees then this workshop will be a great opportunity for you to find out more and develop a plan!

Consultants from BakerAg along with Lynda Balfour- Rural Health & Safety Consultant and Sarah Watson - People Expert, will be bringing you this informative and interactive morning workshop.

This workshop is provided **FREE OF CHARGE** and is available for all to attend, members and non members welcome.

The morning workshop will include food and refreshments.

Places are limited and registration is essential.

Please register online at our humanitix page :

<https://events.humanitix.com/ifp-workshop-h-and-s-and-people>

OR get in touch with Jo at 0210 304 783 or email jo.tinaku@esai.co.nz



Link to humanitix page for registration: <https://events.humanitix.com/ifp-workshop-h-and-s-and-people>

Achievements over the 3 years of the Tinaku project

- 22 workshops, events and drop-in sessions held with 600 participants
- 192 feedback forms gathered from activities
- 262 subscribers to the newsletter and email marketing

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- 240 water samples taken from 10 surface water sites with 6,240 parameters sampled and analysed by Pattle Delamore Partners.
- 2 permanent ground water testing probes installed.
- 60 restoration projects on members farms along 14km of waterway with a total of 50,000 plants.
- 179 rats, 131 hedgehogs and 150 possums caught using ESAI traps

Wishing all our Members and Supporters a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year



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