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Welcome to the ESAI January Newsletter

Welcome to the January Newsletter from Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc (ESAI).

We hope the new year has started well for you and like everyone you and your business will be trying to manage the daily Covid related changes.

ESAI and our Project Tinaku team have been trying to carry on with our planning and our activities the best we can, and we were pleased to see a sell-out crowd at the Lakeside Memorial Hall turn up to hear about mental health issues.

In the current uncertain environment, looking after your own well-being has never been more important.

We also had a good turn out for our first aid courses and are in full swing planning for our next planting projects and other events.

I wish you all a healthy and successful 2022, but please don't hesitate to contact ESAI for support, to provide feedback, ideas, questions or if you want ESAI support for restoration/biodiversity work on your property.

You can contact us at admin@esai.co.nz

Tim Chamberlain
ESAI Chairperson



Scott Robertson addresses the crowd at Lakeside Soldiers Memorial Hall near Leeston.

Crusaders coach tackles well-being with Ellesmere farmers

Make sure you have someone to talk to when life gets tough.

That was the key message from Crusaders coach Scott Robertson and a variety of rural mental health advocates at a packed gathering of the Ellesmere farming community on Wednesday.

Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc (ESAI), with support from the Ministry for Primary Industries, invited its members and community to listen to four incredible speakers sharing their experiences around leadership, stress, anxiety and depression and the strategies to cope with the pressures life creates in rural communities.

A capacity crowd of nearly 100 farmers, their families and their neighbours were captivated by Robertson sharing some of the secrets of the culture that created the Crusaders dynasty, including their methods to handle setbacks and stress, which according to Robertson apply to both the rugby field as well as the farm.

Robertson explained how he built his coaching career on doing the hard yards, learning from others who have gone before him and building a support group he can lean back on.

“You always need to have a plan or a person to call when things get difficult,” Robertson told the audience at the Lakeside Soldiers Memorial Hall near Leeston.

[To read the full story please click here.](#)



Organic farmers Dominique Schacherer and Logan Kerr .

ESAI supercharges planting project on organic farm

Organic farmers Dominique Schacherer and Logan Kerr have started to create their dream of regenerating part(s) of the Irwell River thanks to a chance meeting with Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc (ESAI) Chairman Tim Chamberlain.

“When we moved here over a year ago, we had a dream of regenerating the river, but starting the project by ourselves felt really overwhelming,” says Dominique.

“So we were really excited when we heard from Tim about [Project Tinaku](#) which supports farmers to regenerate the riverbanks and it all happened really quickly.”

[For the full story on our website please click here.](#)



Organic farmers Dominique Schacherer and Logan Kerr talk about their Tinaku project on their organic farm.

Update on Selwyn Proposed District Plan

ESAI will present evidence at hearings on the Proposed Plan during the first half of this year.

Carey Barnett has been working alongside Federated Farmers and Horticulture NZ as well as supporting other industry groups in the aim to support, amend or suggest alternative provisions to those proposed in the notified plan.

The big topics of biodiversity, the general rural zone and sites of significance to Māori are the main topics to be addressed in coming months.

Topics already addressed in 2021 have included introductory chapters, transport, natural hazards and earthworks.

We are pleased to report that several of our suggested changes have been supported by the Section 42A Reporting Officer in conjunction with the suggested amendments made through our consultation work with the Council prior to the plan's formal notification.



Landowner Dave Tilson visits the Te Awapunapuna springs with Gary Boyd from DOC and several ESAI contractors to assess the site and make a plan for weed control and planting.

Big plans for Project Tinaku in 2022

Conditions over the past couple of months have been ideal for our restoration planting projects and we have seen great plant growth at most of our project sites.

The downside to the regular rain and warm temperatures over the spring and summer has been that weeds around the plants have also been thriving. However, our teams of contractors are getting under way with another round of maintenance over January to combat the tall grass and release the native plants.

With the year setting off at a cracking pace, we are currently in the process of planning and confirming our planting sites for 2022. Planting will be set to begin in April or May, depending on weather conditions.

In March, Project Coordinator Johanna Blakely will carry out plant survival counts on the existing project sites that were planted in 2021. This is to assess the success of each project and determine if we need to do any replacement planting over the coming autumn.

ESAI Member Surveys

evaluate the work we are doing and so help us plan for future activities, workshops and planting projects.

The information you provide through the survey is extremely important for ESAI to understand the needs of our members and to demonstrate our impact on the environment and the local community.

The survey takes around 1 hour and includes farm mapping, water testing and completing a questionnaire.

In the coming weeks and months you will be contacted by Jo Fearn or Elisabeth Reid who both work for ESAI Tinaku Project and they will arrange a time and day to come to your farm to carry out the survey.

We would really appreciate your co-operation in gathering this vital information.

A large number of farmers and staff attended the first-aid courses provided through Project Tinaku.

ESAI provides essential skills to Ellesmere community

A large number of Ellesmere farmers and their staff have been taught how to respond to a variety of health emergencies thanks to two first aid courses hosted by the Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc (ESAI) at the Lakeside Soldiers Memorial Hall earlier this month.

Both courses were offered free of charge to ESAI members, their staff and family.

The First Aid instruction, delivered by Rob Eggers of SFA Training, covered common medical emergencies including heart attack, stroke and choking, as well as traumas such as burns, fractures and bleeding.

[For full story please click here.](#)

Canterbury Land and Water Plan update

ESAI submitted on Plan Change 7 to this plan regarding the insertion of new provisions for horticultural activities, springs/waipuna being addressed as part of a Farm Environment Plan and the flexibility of farmers being able to choose which activity type they fall under when dealing with Nutrient Management provisions.

We are pleased to report that several of the suggested changes by ESAI have

generic rules that are not always relevant to our varied farming activities.

DairyNZ, B+LNZ and Federated Farmers are running roadshows throughout February on the options developed by the He Waka Eke Noa partnership as alternatives to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). For your nearest location and for more information: [Agriculture emissions pricing options – February Roadshow | Beef + Lamb New Zealand \(beeflambnz.com\)](#).



Who are ESAi



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