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Welcome to the ESAI Winter Newsletter

The first three years of the Tinaku Project finished with a flurry recently as planting projects were completed, final workshops and events were held and reports were written and submitted to MPI reflecting on the milestones achieved. ESAI board members have also been taking some time to reflect on the work that has been completed so far and what the future may hold for the group going forward.

Looking back through the last three years it's amazing just how much has been accomplished in such a short amount of time. Probably the biggest achievement has been the growth in the group itself; new members have joined, new connections have been made, more people have signed up to the newsletter and engaged with the social media page and website, relationships have been enhanced and there has been a significant increase in awareness of the group and the great work happening on farms throughout the Ellesmere region. This has all been made possible through the funding from MPI, the dedicated Tinaku Project team, the dedicated Committee members and the wonderful support of our farmers.

Finally, ESAI has also been nominated for the Sensational Selwyn Awards 2023 in the Environment and Sustainability Category-We would love you to vote for us in the People's Choice section!!

https://www.selwynawards.co.nz/environment-sustainability-1?fbclid=IwAR15otrBitAiR7fZduUgZk74oncZq21ebQczkQT0XJDnJJ6zIUbMnYS_co

Restoration planting summary

With another 11,300 natives planted around the Ellesmere district over the past two months, the final season of Tinaku Project planting has now wrapped up. Over the life of the Project, we have planted 50,000 natives on farms at 60

2.25 ha of wetlands. As part of these projects, our members have fenced 11.7 km of waterways, and shifted a further 3.6 km of fencing to increase riparian buffers.

Thank you to all our ESAI members who have made these restoration projects possible by volunteering to have native plantings along their creeks and wetlands, and working with us to make these projects a reality.

We hope that our combined restoration efforts create a legacy along our lowland waterways that we can all be proud of.



Te Waihora wetland restoration site



Tom Hilston of TerraCare Contracting

Branching out

One of the main objectives of the Tinaku Project was to provide employment for locals. Tom Hilston has been with the project from the start. Previously he had been a vehicle dismantler but in July 2021 Tom was taken on to assist with the Tinaku restoration project work.

Tom has worked alongside the Department of Conservation, restoration contractors and Te Ara Kākāriki gaining a huge amount of experience and skills over the two years.

Tom has been a valuable member of the team and has earned an excellent reputation amongst those he has worked with. He is hard working, reliable and conscientious.

Now that the MPI funding for Tinaku restoration work has ended Tom has set up his own business TerraCare Contracting.

Tom is able to carry out all aspects of restoration and weed removal work on farms including planting, plant maintenance, targeted weed control, exotic tree removal, pest control and a number of other services.

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Tom Hilston

TerraCare Contracting



Supporting Predator Free 2050

022 069 6758

- *Planting
- *Native wetlands & riparian restoration.
- *Plant maintenance, hand weeding & guard removal.
- *Cut & pasting, drill & fill & knapsack spraying.
- *Targeted weed control; gorse, broom, blackberry, willow & wilding pine etc.
- *Exotic tree and plant removal.
- *Target pest control.
- *Access to hedge/shelter belt cutting services.



TerraCare Contracting is committed to a pest free NZ by 2050 and encourages selective plantings and weed control management.



Growing Your Farming Destiny with Sarah Perriam-Lampp

80 people attended an evening event at the Lakeside Hall back in May, organised by the Tinaku Project and hosted by Sarah Perriam-Lampp, the panel discussion was recorded as the re-launch to the Sarah's Country podcast which you can listen to here <https://www.sarahscountry.com/podcast>

Sarah and the varied panel of guests engaged in passionate conversations amongst themselves and with the audience covering topics such as how to better tell our farming stories, changes in consumer trends and values and how NZ can stay ahead of the game in Agriculture.

Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc AGM

Tuesday 8th August 2023.

Lakeside Soldiers Memorial Hall from 7pm to include
refreshments and light supper.

All welcome



Enjoying good Kai at the Mahinga Kai workshop

Great Turn Out for Mahinga Kai Workshop

On the 31st May the Tinaku team partnered with the Whakaora Te Waikēkēwai Project and ECan to put on a workshop at Te pā o Moki Taumutu.

project team started the day with some history of Taumutu and an update on their project goals and achievements so far. Participants then listened to an informative and entertaining presentation from Channell Thoms (ECan) who talked about her research into Kēkēwai (Freshwater crayfish) and Kākāhi (Fresh water mussels) in the Canterbury region and also the concept of mahinga kai and what it means to Maori.

The workshop also involved some group work where participants were asked to think about what mahinga kai they had at their own property and what steps they could take to enhance mahinga kai and biodiversity.

The workshop finished with delicious kai shared by all and then for those who stayed on, an opportunity to walk around Te Repo Orariki (the wetland below the Hone Wetere Church).



Planning for ESAI's Future

Now that the first three years of funding for the Tinaku Project has come to an end the Committee felt it was important to get together with ESAI members to look to the future and create a vision for the group going forward.

ESAI engaged the services of Chris Coughlan from Rural Coach to guide them

it wants to achieve in the years to come.

On the 8th of June, about 30 ESAI members and other invited stakeholders attended a four hour strategic planning workshop which Chris facilitated. Those attending were split into groups and asked to discuss a vision statement and come up with goals and possible actions. The groups also discussed risks and barriers to achieving the goals. Members identified that the greatest risks faced by ESAI are succession of the groups leadership and securing sufficient funding to maintain momentum over time.

The report prepared by Rural Coach on the findings of the workshop will be presented by Chris at the upcoming ESAI AGM on Tuesday 8th August at Lakeside Hall. The Committee urge it's members to come along to find out more.

The Committee are also keen to hear from any members who would be interested in joining the them and getting more involved with the group. If you would like more information on what this involves get in touch with them via contact@esai.co.nz

New Funding, New Direction

A new contract has been signed with MPI that guarantees three more years of funding to allow work on the project to continue, albeit in a slightly different direction.

The new funding has been granted under the Integrated Farm Planning Accelerator Fund.

The new project aims to assist farmers to develop and implement Integrated Farm Plans (IFPs); helping them to meet new regulatory requirements and enhancing farming practices across the Ellesmere Catchment area.

The new project will be delivered through a series of workshops and events which will aim to help farmers to develop their own farm plans module by module through a holistic approach.

IFP's incorporate all aspects of the farming business from wellbeing and staff management to Freshwater Farm Plans and health & safety and can be a significant benefit to the farmer in identifying areas of the business that need attention.

Jo Fearn, David Hewson & Diana Moroney will be staying on to work on the

end of July.



PDP staff talk with local landowners about the Jollies Brook Project

Update - Jollies Brook to the Rakaia Fish Passage Restoration Project

ESAI is delighted that CPW has agreed to provide funding so we can take the next steps towards restoring fish passage from the Rakaia estuary to Jollies Brook.

Pattle Delamore Partners and PZB Consulting will carry out hydrology and engineering investigations to come up with a new channel design which enables fish passage, enhances biodiversity and takes account of local sea level changes, flooding and climate risks.

The report will provide indicative construction costs and identify likely consenting requirements.

Tinaku Project Stats to date

- 22 workshops, events and drop-in sessions held with 600 participants
- 192 feedback forms gathered from activities

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water samples tested for nitrates from bores on farms.

- 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.
- 128 rats, 82 hedgehogs, 57 possums caught using ESAI traps



Our Flagship Project



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