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Welcome to the ESAI June Newsletter

Welcome to the June newsletter for the members and friends of Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc (ESAI). The past few months have been extremely hectic and productive for our staff and our committee, so there is lots to share. Continue to check out our website www.esai.co.nz to get the full stories, videos and to check out upcoming events. And of course don't feel shy to get in touch to let us know how we can help you or if you have any feedback on how we can improve the way we support our members.



Planting along the Irwell River.

Restoration Projects continue around Ellesmere

Once again, planting is under way at Tinaku restoration project sites. Over the month of May, Nova Sylva contractors planted six sites along ESAI member's lowland waterways.

Wai-ora's planting crews are currently getting underway with planting of another six riparian and wetland restoration sites.

Our Tinaku employee, Tom Hilston, is taking responsibility for planting another

health, they also work to increase native biodiversity in the local area. Some of the individual sites are small in scale, but it is the collective impact of native riparian planting and good management practices across multiple farms that will make a difference to Ellesmere's waterways in the longer term. Plans are taking shape for a couple more planting projects this spring. Once the busy June/July period is over, Johanna will be contacting ESAI members who have already expressed interest in having planting done along their waterways to arrange a time for site visits. We are now into the final year of funding for restoration projects so if you are interested in being considered for a project get in touch now with Johanna or David.

Email: johanna.tinaku@esai.co.nz Phone: 022 657 6773

Email: david.tinaku@esai.co.nz Phone: 021 241 3549

Tinaku delivers series of workshops

Project Tinaku event coordinator Jo Fearn has been busy over the last few months planning and running a host of events and workshops aimed at providing skills, knowledge and education to ESAI members and the wider community.

One of these workshops in late April offered financial advice and succession planning. It was co-presented by Don Chamberlain who is the corporate Agribusiness Manager for Westpac, Mike Lay an accountant from Lay & Associates and George Forbes a solicitor from Rhodes & Co. The workshop was attended by 18 ESAI members and feedback from the morning session was very positive with all the attendees reporting that they felt much better informed on the subject matters than they had been previously. ESAI would like to say a big thank you to Don, Mike and George for giving up their time to run this valuable workshop on this complex subject.

More on other workshops and events below in this newsletter.



Rural ladies enjoying the Fill up your glass event .

Ladies event big success

The 'Fill Up Your Glass', ladies only event, held at Lakeside Soldiers Hall was a sell out success, with nearly 70 local women attending.

The night included tasting wines from Greystone and Tongue in Groove wines.

All the ladies enjoyed the fantastic platters which were supplied by The Suburban Eatery in Leeston and their Social Platter catering company.

Guest speakers included Sarah Perriam a leading voice in NZ Agriculture who spoke passionately and sincerely about the role of rural women in the community.

Angela Clifford CEO of EATNZ spoke about the importance of local food

The success of the night wouldn't have been possible without help from all the Tinaku ladies who put a huge amount of effort into making sure the night ran well and to Elisabeth Reid's mum and sister for their amazing floral table centres!!



Video clip from the open day introducing Whakaroa Te Waikēkēwai project initiative between Te Taumutu Rūnanga and Environment Canterbury

Joint catchment group information day

The Whakaroa Te Waikēkēwai project recently hosted a successful information day for the Ellesmere community to showcase and connect five inspirational restoration projects which all share the vision of improving the environment in the Ellesmere area.

The groups gathered at Lakeside Soldiers Memorial Hall to showcase and present on each of their projects to a group of interested parties gathered. Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture were invited to join in along with Pest Free Banks Peninsula, the Department of Conservation Weed Strike Force and Te Taumutu and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Muriwai o Whata Management Plan for Coopers Lagoon.

David Hewson, Tinaku Project Manager commented "the community day was a great opportunity for each of the five Groups to share details about their activities and highlight how their Projects can assist local landowners –



Draft concept plan by Brittany Smith of the Irwell River Mouth Project

Irwell River Mouth Project

Brittany Smith who joined the Tinaku team in March is a Spatial Design Graduate specialising in environmental and ecological design. Brittany has been working on a draft concept plan investigating the possibility of enhancing the Irwell River Mouth to allow better public access which incorporates walkways, seating & recreation areas, information boards, boardwalks and spaces for interactive learning and historical information of the site.

Brittany presented her plan to the ESAI Governance Group in the May meeting of the ESAI governors and it was well received, the next steps will involve further engagement with adjacent landowners, Te Taumatū Rūnanga and Department of Conservation and exploring funding opportunities and more detailed designs for structures.



Liz Reid helps students test water samples for nitrate levels.

Students get hands-on with their learning

Three van loads of Year 10 Ellesmere College students recently visited Tim Chamberlain's Harts Creek Farm to learn about soil health, the role of riparian planting, and to test several samples of Birdlings Brook and Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere water for nitrate.

After a brief introduction to the farm from Tim, Reagan from Soil Matters spoke about the importance of soil health for plant growth and nutritional food quality. While talking, he gave the students spades to dig soil samples with and had them report on the worms and other living creatures they found in the soil.

Johanna Blakely from the Tinaku Project spoke about riparian planting, demonstrating the need for correct plant spacing and the implications that this has on a project's cost.

To round up the day, Liz Reid also from the Tinaku Project talked about nitrate in the lowland waterways and had the students test water samples from the area.

The field trip was run as part of an MPI Secondary Schools Employer Programme project linking local businesses with their schools, to broaden Year 9 and 10 student's perspective of Primary Industry careers, and to link science/maths learning with real world uses. Harts Creek Farm has partnered with Ellesmere College in this programme, with assistance from ESAI's Project Tinaku staff.



Nigel Greenwood on a high at the Safety at Heights course

ESAI members take to the skies

Six ESAI members and six Gateway Students attended the Safety at Heights Course in early June at Altonbrook farm near Southbridge. Participants learnt about assessing the risks of working at heights, hazard management, workplace procedures and using a safety harness.

Thanks to farm manager Stu McCaulay farm owners Lyell & Val McMillan for allowing the course to take place at Altonbrook.

Survey Results Proving Beneficial

Over 80 ESAI members have now been surveyed, the data that has been gathered is already proving highly valuable, assisting the team when planning workshops, events and work streams as well as providing evidence and statistics when applying for funding and grants.

The survey is also helping to identify members who require assistance in environmental farm planning and those who would like restoration projects carried out on their properties as well as updating contact details.

We are so grateful to all those who have agreed to be surveyed. Anonymised data and key information from the survey will be presented at the

AGM on Monday 8th August at Lakeside Hall.

Students complete chainsaw course

The second day of the chainsaw course took place in May at Harts Creek Farm with Bill Haley of Land Based Training.

All attendees completed the work required to gain unit standard 29297 to operate and maintain a chainsaw in a land-based context.

This qualification is very useful, especially for the Gateway Students who attended and can now use these skills when applying for roles in the rural sector.

Many thanks to Tim Chamberlain and Adam Garriock for the use of their workshop and venue.

Later in May, ESAI also offered a second Growsafe and Certified Handler course for the safe handling and use of agrichemicals, an essential requirement for many farmers operating in the area.

Water Quality monitoring update

The Tinaku Project team have now received the report on data from the first year of monthly water quality monitoring conducted by Pattle Delamore Partners on Harts Creek, Boggy Creek and Jollies Brook.

PDP have been testing for various elements including nitrates, sedimentation, macro-invertebrate and macrophytes at 10 sites.

This data, along with two permanent ground-water monitoring stations that have now been installed in the area, will help the project track changes in water quality over time and help to highlight any problems or issues.

Upcoming ESAI AGM

Get Monday the 8th of August in your diaries now for the Ellesmere Sustainable Agriculture Inc

Members and others in the community are invited.

It will be a fun evening and will include presentations and reporting from all the work carried out by the Tinaku Project in the last 12 months, results gathered from the survey and other information on what the group have been up too including changes to the constitution and council submissions.

Enjoy good tucker and a natter!

Good turnout for First Aid training

There was another chance for ESAI members and other locals to gain Basic Workplace First Aid training at Lakeside Hall.

Again, this course attracted a good turnout with 20 people signing up for the full day's course. It is great to know that there are now at least 60 people in the local community with this training.

More workshops and events will be planned through the winter so keep an eye out for our email notices and on the ESAI Facebook page and website.



NZ Flow Group^{LTD}

Turnkey Smart Water Metering Telemetry Hardware and Software

#Please note that ESAI does not endorse any particular product or company.

New Water Telemetry Provider Offers Local Farmers an Alternative

NZ Flow Group is a family-run business who specialise in flow meters for irrigation, municipal water, waste water, and industrial water applications.

They have the resources to meet the needs of your water systems no matter

may have already met NZ Flow staff as they carry out flow meter work on farms in the area but now they are able to provide a data and monitoring service too.

Their turnkey water metering telemetry hardware and software can provide your organisation with valuable data and business intelligence that will help you to monitor your water consumption, improve your water management, and reduce your water costs.

They can provide a comprehensive range of water meters for large scale commercial, industrial, farming and irrigation applications or you can supply your own. They utilise industrial edge gateway devices, each capable of collecting data from these meters and communicating it back to you no matter their location, thanks to both cellular and satellite connectivity. They also offer a complete software as a service package for managing and monitoring your meters and water takes.

Services & Pricing— SINGLE INPUT DEVICE

- Asset management of all consented wells/SWAPS with QR code—easy scan for future service work!
 - Access to a personalized Customer Portal for full service history, verification certs, planned future service (ready in September 2022)
 - Full ECAN correspondence/management on your behalf
 - Data Hosting and monitoring with alarms for over usage
 - ECAN Data sent every 24h. Logging every 15mins.
 - Optional, monitored pump run signal and alarming.
- Additional charge for electrician to wire into pump starter/VSD outside of fees and upfront installation costs.

\$750+GST for hardware, antenna, battery and cables (excluding satellite option, extra cost applies)

\$480+GST per year for services and Data hosting

10% discount on all future service work (telemetry, Flow meter or Mech)

For more information contact Phil email: Phil@nzflow.co.nz

Phone: 027 473 4414



Who are ESAi



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