



*Working together | achieving results*

## Newsletter | December 2017

Welcome to the first edition of EvalStars Newsletter. In this edition we are pleased to bring readers EvalStars key learnings and highlights from the year. We hope you find these thought provoking and useful.

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### 2017 for EvalStars at a glance



What an exciting year it has been for EvalStars. Our team has been busy working on multiple projects in New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific and Papua New Guinea.

We attended and presented three papers at the Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) 2017 Conference in Canberra, Australia; debuted our newly developed seminar which provides an overview of integrated design, technology and social media for real-time impact planning and data analytics; continued delivering our joint workshops on building evaluative self-assessment in the tertiary sector with Ako Aotearoa; and attended other interesting events in Wellington. We have also been refining our product and service offering, with exciting things to come.

# Highlights for this year



At the start of September, we attended the AES Conference in Canberra over a great three days. We spoke to many colleagues and met lots of interesting new people.

EvalStars presented the following presentations at the 2017 AES Conference in Canberra:

- Kate Averill - [Integrated evaluation capital creation in a low capital environment: The design and use of an IT platform for evaluative management in the land of the unexpected \(PNG\).](#)
- Kate Averill - [He Kāinga Kōrerorero participatory evaluation.](#)
- Dr Kara Scally-Irvine - [Who owns the data? Considerations of governance, ethics, and use of data for evaluators in 2017.](#)

The plenary speakers were all a highlight – very provocative – leaving us with lots of food for thought. Kara, one of our Technical Leads, was fortunate to attend Sandra Mathison's post-conference workshop. The workshop was on involving children and youth in evaluation. It was a great session and interesting to consider creating opportunities for child and youth-led evaluations. This was an exciting idea we have never considered before, but only a step further from participatory evaluation. Thanks for such a stimulating workshop Sandra!

## ANZEA events

We also attended an incredibly stimulating workshop by Andy Rowe, leaving us with a lot to think about. The approach has some really novel elements and we'd encourage you to look into this more – Andy's website is a good start <http://www.arceconomics.com/>. The approach is not proprietary and offers a very unique alternative approach. It was great to see someone putting such emphasis on measuring impact, and really highlighting how critical it is to have all different interests to obtain credibility and validity. Thanks again for hosting Andy's workshop ANZEA (Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association).

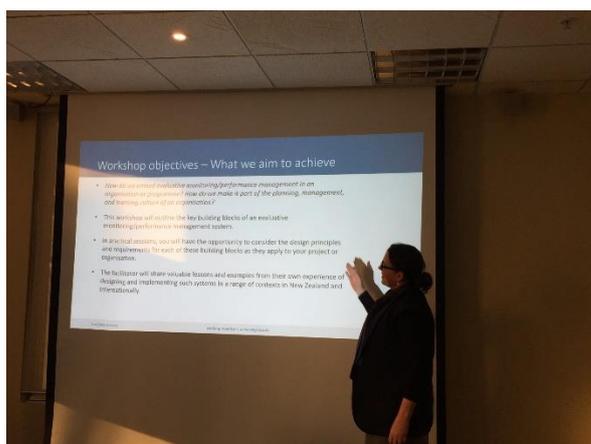
## CPA events

We attended CPA Australia's first event in Wellington on 'How to Energise Change Leadership in the Not for Profit sector'. It was interesting to reflect on the presentations, by Dean Minchington (ServiceIQ) and Alison Molloy (Site Safe New Zealand Inc), from our experience working with Not for Profit (NFP) organisations. One point we found really interesting to reflect on is the (positive) pressure for NFPs to operate in a far more business-like manner, but managing stakeholders' perceptions associated with this. It can be a bit of a catch-22 sometimes! Thanks Brent Kennerley (Grant Thornton) for hosting.



We had a great time facilitating our joint Ako Aotearoa workshop on evaluative self-assessment. It's always stimulating and rewarding working with those 'at the coal face' in the tertiary education sector, translating this important concept into practical solutions. Thanks to all the attendees for your energy and contributions!

### The launch of our technology and social media focused seminar



Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in 'EvalStars Why use technology and social media to enhance integrated design, impact planning and data analytics?' seminars this year.

After the first two seminars, we have reflected on the benefits of being proactive on engaging with stakeholders using evaluative questions through a secure cloud platform. This provides structure for customer-focused discussions and is an agile form of qualitative research. Being proactive in how you engage with customers, rather than reactive, is important for learning and adaptive management. In our experience, the more proactive you are in engaging systematically and regularly with stakeholders using interactive technology, this will provide more learning as you go. Social media can be used to enhance engagement rather than being a destination for strongly held views.

We see this proactive approach as part of embedding customer-focused interactions enabling impact planning, measurement and reporting. Linking between and asking five evaluative questions at regular intervals is a proactive way of engaging with different customer groups and stakeholders. Promoting discussions through social media enhances collaboration and sharing.

Our February and March 2018 seminars still have places available if you would like to register. Please follow the link below for instructions on how to register.

[Register here](#)

## Looking ahead to next year

We have another couple of exciting seminars in the pipeline which we will introduce next year. We are looking forward to sharing them with you in 2018.

## The change in Government



With the first 100 days of the new Labour led government wrapping up, it will be interesting to see how 2018 plays out with promised changes in focus, policy and the way our economy is managed. What we are most interested in is what this will mean for the measurement and management of outcomes across government agencies.

With major change comes the necessity to measure and monitoring the impact of the change. How else will we know if the change is resulting in better outcomes for New Zealanders, communities, business and our economy?

We have found that the delivering of Better Public Services ten result areas has been a great tool in our work supporting agencies' projects, programmes, and policies to align with the government strategic direction. We're looking forward to seeing how the new government builds and expands on this useful framework to deliver results for New Zealand - and the globe! We think there is an exciting opportunity to more explicitly build the Sustainable Development Goals into New Zealand's 'strategic agenda', as we work as part of the global community to 'transform our world'.

# Happy holidays

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season from the team at EvalStars.

