

MEDIA RELEASE



SOIL SCIENCE
AUSTRALIA

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Sydney student team tops national soil judging competition

Students from the University of Sydney once again took out first prize at the [Australian Soil Judging Competition](#) held at the National Soils Conference, hosted by [Soil Science Australia](#) in Canberra last week.

“Soil judging tests the participant’s knowledge and skills in describing, classifying and evaluating different soils,” said Soil Science Australia President, Associate Professor Luke Mosley CPSS.

“It sounds pretty straightforward, but actually it is far from it,” he said. “A team of highly-experienced industry judges also undertake an assessment of the same ‘pits’, located on different properties, and then the competitor responses are evaluated against their results.”

Teams consist of up to four students (both undergraduate and postgraduate students are permitted) and a coach/supervisor. The 2018 competition attracted a strong field of female entrants in what has traditionally been considered a more male-dominated industry.

“There is an obvious educational component to soil judging however it also reinforces key attributes such as leadership, critical thinking, team work and communication skills as well as the discipline knowledge.”

With a reputation for a fierce but friendly competitive spirit, the Australian Soil Judging Competition has helped to launch the successful careers of many leading scientists.

“Most professional soil scientists have participated in soil judging at some point,” said Associate Professor Mosley. “It is a great way to lift the theory of our science out of the lecture hall and into a very practical environment.”

Australian Soil Judging Competition Awards

Overall winner - Perpetual Trophy

University of Sydney

Team Prizes

1st University of Sydney

2nd University of New England

3rd University of Adelaide

Individual Prizes

1st Ivanah Oliver, University of New England

2nd Solongo Munkhbileg, University of Sydney

3rd Ha Thi Do, Southern Cross University

Social Media Prize

James O'Sullivan

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