

MEDIA RELEASE



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New soil science Fellows exemplify industry & research excellence

An environmental scientist specialising in waste management and an inspiring researcher/teacher have been conferred as Fellows by [Soil Science Australia](#) at the [National Soils Conference](#) held in Canberra last week.

Dr Melissa Salt CPSS (SA) and Professor Caixian Tang (VIC) were awarded the peak body's highest honour in recognition of their unique and longstanding contribution to the development of the soil science profession.

"Dr Salt and Professor Tang are at the pinnacle of the careers and yet their generosity and commitment to supporting our industry remains as strong as ever," said Soil Science Australia President, Associate Professor Luke Mosley CPSS.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have such outstanding leaders among our association. Dr Salt and Professor Tang set a very high standard and inspire our members, especially those still studying or early in their careers, to see the opportunities that soil science can offer.

"In a broader context, their vast knowledge and expertise make a significant difference in creating a more sustainable environment through consultancy, research and education at all levels," he said.

Dr Salt said she was particularly proud to be the first private sector consultant to be appointed as a Soil Science Australia Fellow: "This is an amazing and unexpected honour. I have been a Soil Science Australia member and Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS) for decades and I know in my role as a consultant, it has provided my clients with the assurance that I am ethical and capable.

"The work that I undertake professionally is critical in maintaining the environment. Since graduating, I have been involved in projects that reduce the impact of development on the environment and increase reuse and recycling.

"As a soil scientist in the private sector, I help the community by improving the soil to sustain plants and encourage native birds and animals and by keeping the soil out of the creeks and streams

Soil Science Australia 2018 Award Winners

Soil Science Australia Fellowships

Dr Melissa Salt CPSS (SA)
Professor Caixian Tang (VIC)

Annual Awards

JA Prescott Medal: Dr David McKenzie (NSW)
CG Stephens PhD Award: Dr Aaditi Dang (QLD)
JK Taylor Gold Medal: Dr Peter Kopittke (QLD)
LJH Teakle Award: Dr Cameron Grant CPSS (SA)
Publication Medal: Mario Fajardo (NSW)

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About the SSA Fellowship Award Winners

Soil Science Australia 2018 Fellow: Dr Melissa Salt CPSS (SA)

Dr Salt provides waste management and environmental solutions to private and public clients throughout Australia, as the Principal Environmental Scientist at Tonkin Consulting.

Dr Salt has significant experience in environmental management in both the agricultural and construction industries in the areas of waste management, site assessment, environmental management and auditing.

She is an accomplished communicator and facilitator and has worked tirelessly to demonstrate the importance of ensuring accredited soil scientists are included on contaminated lands projects across the country.

Dr Salt served four years on the Certified Professional Soil Scientist Accreditation Board and continues to assist in driving the accreditation processes.

Dr Salt is a great ambassador for Soil Science Australia, and its accreditation arm, CPSS. She is also a strong advocate for women as professional leaders in soil science and environmental management.

Soil Science Australia 2018 Fellow: Professor Caixian Tang (VIC)

Professor Tang, from La Trobe University's Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences, has made an outstanding contribution in the areas of soil management and soil-plant-microbe interactions, publishing over 200 journals.

With more than 50 honours and 22 PhD graduates, Professor Tang has helped to build the future capability and capacity of the soil science profession in Australia, and internationally.

Professor Tang also received the 2004 Dean's Award and the 2007 Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence at La Trobe University.

Professor Tang has served Soil Science Australia as a committee member between 1998 to 2006 with the Western Australia and Victorian Branches.