



DUTY STATEMENT– Science communicator

Position Details	
Organisation	Soils For Life
Location	Canberra Region
Title	Science Communications Officer
FTE	30hrs / week (negotiable)
Salary	Negotiable based on experience
Reporting to	Engagement and Communications Manager
Reports	None

Soils For Life is a national, registered charity, whose mission is to support Australian farmers in regenerating soils and landscapes: to build natural and social capital and transform food systems.

Soils For Life is located in Canberra, but Soils for Life projects are conducted Australia-wide. Soils For Life is governed by a Board and led by the Chief Executive Officer.

Soil is one of the earth's most important natural resources and is essential for healthy plant growth, food production and ecosystem services such as clean, plentiful water and air. Our soils help regulate the earth's climate and they store more carbon than all the world's forests combined, making soil regeneration a key plank in efforts to combat climate change and increasing extremes of weather. Yet Australian soils are degraded and are continuing to degrade through erosion and loss of soil function. This threatens not just farm productivity and profitability, but also our nation's food security, access to water and ecological health. Our solution is to support a growing movement of farmers and rural leaders dedicated to farming in ways that improve soil and bring life back to the land.

What we do

- We ensure the opportunities and challenges of regenerative agriculture are widely shared and understood
- We support farmers to bring their soils back to life
- We help farmers, scientists and decision makers find common ground to regenerate soils and landscapes

We do this by:

- Sharing information to inform and enable soil and landscape regeneration
- Working with farmers to drive the research they need to improve their soils and landscapes and to understand the economic, social and environmental benefits this presents
- Building farmer networks and creating peer support and learning opportunities to share the benefits and practices of improved soil health
- Brokering collaboration between farmers, scientists and decision makers to find common ground to increase regeneration of soils and landscapes



Position Description

We are seeking a Science Communications Officer to deliver a range of communications activities in order to build, engage, inform, inspire and motivate our audiences to begin and continue their journey to regenerate Australia's soils and landscapes. The successful candidate will be passionate about making a positive impact in the world. They will be a great team player, an exceptional communicator, and highly proactive, independent, reliable, efficient and organised.

The Science Communications Officer will be an integral member of the Soils for Life team, reporting to the Engagement and Communications Manager but working closely with the Programs Manager and the Management Team and all staff. While mostly focused on communications activities, they will assist with a range of other project activities as needed.

Specific Tasks

1. Draft, edit, design and produce a range of communications collateral and visual communications material (eg factsheets, web pages and other digital content, articles, blog posts, social posts, GIS maps etc), and support other team members to develop or contribute to communications collateral
2. Support project delivery (in particular the Case Study Program), including undertaking field-based activities, assisting in collecting information for communications.
3. Liaise with other team members to ensure that the case study outputs complement and inform Soils For Life Community Activation Strategy, Soil Stewardship Connect online platform (in development) and External Communication programs.
4. Support the Engagement and Communications Manager in the development, updating and measurement and evaluation of project and organisational Engagement and Communications Strategy.
5. Support the development and maintenance of the Soils for Life website
6. Support the delivery of the Soils for Life newsletter, including the development of content, and production and dissemination
7. Support Soils for Life's social media activities to ensure an active and up-to-date presence across all key social media channels that supports Soils for Life's strategy, including working collaboratively with the Soils for Life team to draft social media posts, creating posts, monitoring and moderating social media channels and managing membership (with support from other team members as required) and monitoring and interacting with other relevant social media channels from other organisations and individuals
8. Support the scoping, design and delivery of events as required

Selection criteria

1. Tertiary qualifications and a minimum of five years' experience in a science communication or other relevant discipline, preferably within an agroecology, sustainable agriculture, rural development, natural resource management, human ecology, human geography, or similar area
2. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills, ability to translate science into accessible language, and ability to prepare documents for various audiences and purposes.



3. Proficiency with video editing, graphic design and website content management systems preferably with experience in using Adobe Creative Suite especially InDesign.
4. Strong interpersonal, communication and collaborative skills and the ability to support other staff.
5. Ability to work autonomously, employ initiative to find solutions, prioritise and exercise discretion.
6. Ability to work under pressure to meet deadlines.
7. Experience and proficiency in working with a range of stakeholders including farmers, community groups, industry and government.
8. Proven ability to contribute to an inclusive, safe and healthy workplace and organisational culture.

Employment period

The position is full-time/part-time negotiable and fixed term.

To apply

Please provide a cover letter, resume and responses to each selection criteria.

Further information

Eli Court, eli.court@soilsforlife.org.au