



Faith Coleman

Ecologist / naturalist of salt lakes, salinas and coastal lagoons

Co-Founder, Coorong Environmental Trust

Owner, EcoProTem

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ResearchGate Profile: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Faith-Coleman>

Candidate statement

I am an environmental scientist, working mainly in the private sector, based in South Australia. I am currently a member-at-large on the ISSLR Board and would like to continue in this role, potentially stepping up to fill one of the named roles in the following term.

I was (quite literally) born with my feet firmly planted in saline muds. I spent my childhood exploring tidal deltas and saline wetlands in some of the most remote regions of Australia. My work is highly diverse, ranging from legislation development, policy, management and outreach to the client-focussed research activities that underpin this work. I have deep understandings of estuarine and lagoonal ecological and biophysical processes, developing integrated approaches to estuarine and salt lake management, adaptive management of landscapes, climate change adaptation and sustainable natural resource use. Over the last five years, I have enjoyed returning to a more purely research focus and am hoping to continue with more in-depth natural history research in the years to come.

I have been a part of the ISSLR community for the best part of three decades, with many of my mentors being prominent members of the society. I attended my first ISSLR conference in 1994 in Beijing, followed by the 2008 Conference in Saltlake City, the 2021 virtual conference in Spain and the 2024 conference in Turkey. In between, I have often appeared in the ISSLR agendas as a secondary or co-author with Peri Coleman.

I believe my links to charities, community, government and private sector organisations are of value to the ISSLR Board in promoting the use of and gaining funding for future research, as well as helping attract early to mid-career scientists to the society.

Education and experience

I have a Post Graduate Diploma in GIS and Remote Sensing and have just completed a mid-career PhD on the Coorong South Lagoon, which is currently winding its way through the final university administrative processes.

I was the youngest person to be accepted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Australia and I am a Fellow of the South Australian Governor's Leadership Foundation. In 2018, I was co-recipient of the South Australian Unsung Hero of Science Award. I regularly present as a guest lecturer at South Australian or Victorian Universities and Colleges.

I have worked as a consultant, advising political, government, NGO, Traditional Owner, community and private sector clients for twenty-eight years. One of my most significant achievements over the last three years was co-creating and shepherding the Coorong Environmental Trust Act through both houses of the South Australian Government. This Act support the work of the Coorong Environmental Trust, which aims to advance the knowledge management and science around this saline wetland of international importance.

Representative Papers

As a predominately private sector researcher, most of my work is not in the public domain, however the following papers and report provide a representation of the types of work I have been doing. For the period 2001-2012 I was publishing under the name Faith Cook.

Coleman, F. S. (1999). Note on *Zoobotryon verticillatum* (Bryozoa) in a solar saltfield. *International Journal of Salt Lake Research*, 8(1), 71-74. (21 citations)

Coleman, P., & **Coleman, F.** (2000). *Local recovery plan for the yellowish sedge-skipper and thatching grass*. Adelaide: Delta Environmental Consulting. (14 citations)

Cook, F. S., & Coleman, P. S. (2007). Benthic diatoms in the salinas of the Dry Creek saltfields, South Australia. *Hydrobiologia* 576(1), 61-68. (7 citations)

Coleman, P. S., & **Cook, F. S.** (2009). Habitat preferences of the Australian endangered samphire *Tecticornia flabelliformis*. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 133(2), 300-306. (6 citations)

Coleman, P., **Coleman, F.**, & Fotheringham, D. (2017). Thornbills, samphires & saltmarsh tipping points. *Report prepared for Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges. Delta Environmental Consulting, Adelaide*. (6 citations)