



R&Dworks

April 2018



Chris Lafferty
R&D Manager

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Chris Lafferty', overlaid on a dark green background.

Dear << Test First Name >>,
Welcome to the first edition of R&D Works for 2018.
It has been an extremely positive start to the year, with two projects coming to fruition. Forest growers could potentially slash tree breeding cycles as a result of research in which new DNA markers successfully predicted the commercial attributes of adult trees by testing a single seedling leaf. Meanwhile, the decorative timber business should benefit from FWPA-sponsored research showing that wood in the workplace boosts worker wellbeing. I hope you enjoy reading about these and other R&D developments.

Wood a key plank in business case for bringing nature into the office

There's good news for sellers of decorative timbers with new world-first research funded by FWPA proving wood in the workplace is strongly associated with increased worker satisfaction and wellbeing.

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Tree breeding: Australian DNA research breakthrough to deliver strong ROI

A new genetic DNA-testing system can predict key commercial attributes of an adult eucalyptus tree, and provide a strong return on investment to forest growers.

[Read more](#)



Using wood to generate human body parts

Wood fibres could be used to regenerate human tissue, suggests current research out of Europe.

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New age identified thanks to world's 'loneliest tree'

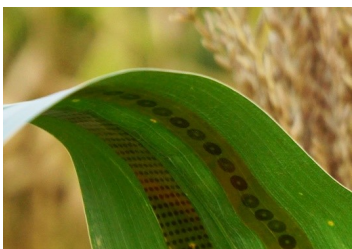
Scientists have declared we're living in a new geological age called the Anthropocene – based on evidence in the heartwood of "the loneliest tree in the world".

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Fungi enzyme could prompt further use of wood as biofuel

Wood could soon realise its full potential as a sustainable alternative fuel source to oil and coal, thanks to a discovery involving a group of enzymes found in fungi.

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Graphene 'tattoo' could make drought-resistant plants a reality

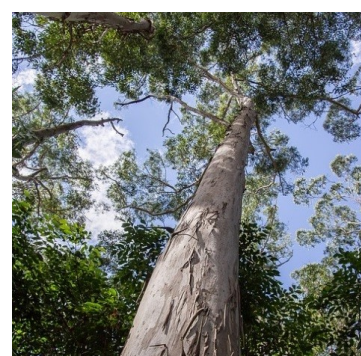
A new type of sensor measures the water intake of plants, with the potential to support the breeding of drought-resistant crops.

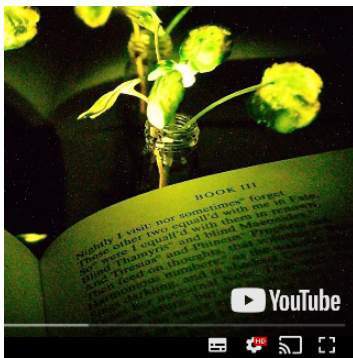
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Gene-silencing technology to increase tree resilience

Patented CSIRO gene-silencing technology called RNA interference (RNAi) will now be applied to forestry with a view to developing more-resilient plant varieties.

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Glowing trees could one day replace electric lighting

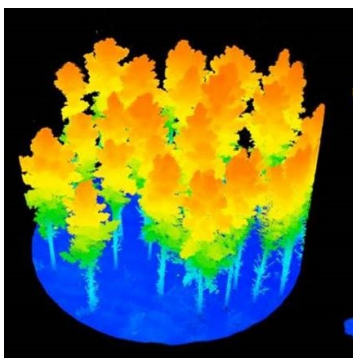
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is looking into using the same chemical reaction that gives fireflies their glow to illuminate plant leaves.

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Lignin and softwood tannins a renewable replacement for phenol

“Everything made from fossil-based materials today, can be made from a tree tomorrow...” – thanks to new research, wood by-products can replace a toxic compound called phenol used in chemical manufacture.

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Carabost 2018 Forest Remote Sensing Data Acquisition Campaign

Researchers involved in a current FWPA funded remote sensing project have published a video during a recent data acquisition campaign at the Carabost State Forest *P. radiata* plantation in southern NSW. Teams from NSW DPI, University of Tasmania and Interpine participated in the trial. They will be working collaboratively with researchers from SCION and University of Sydney to assess and compare the data captured from a range of sensors and aerial and ground based platforms for extracting detailed information related to stand and tree level attributes.

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