



MEDIA RELEASE

26 May 2009

From firefighter fitness to aircraft safety-top young scientists reveal their results

Are our volunteer firefighters fit enough? This is one of the questions to be addressed at the Pathfinders: the Innovators Conference in Canberra this week (May 26-28).

Eight early career scientists have been selected to present their research results at the conference, organised by the Cooperative Research Centres Association.

Matt Phillips, of the Bushfire CRC, will report on a study that establishes for the first time the safe physical work standards that should be applied for Australia's 220,000 volunteer firefighters.

Information: David Bruce, Bushfire CRC, Ph: 0414 223 281

Caleb White, of the CRC for Advanced Composite Structures, will reveal new technology to help ensure the structural safety of the next generation of more fuel efficient, less environmentally harmful civil airliners.

Information: Caleb White Ph 0414 902 196

Nikki Mouat, of the Future Farm Industries CRC, will report on a link between land clearing history and the onset of catchment-scale dryland salinity in the WA wheatbelt.

Information: Nikki Mouat Ph 0407 476 221

Chris Cowled, of the Australian Biosecurity CRC, will report on the identification of two new animal viruses and the development of tests to detect them.

Information Chris Cowled Ph 0403 566502

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William Rickard, of the CRC for Sustainable Resource Processing, will tell how the 13.5 million tonnes of fly ash produced each year by Australasia's coal fired power stations could become a valuable source material for fireproof concretes—and deliver a significant environmental dividend.

Information: William Rickard 0428 269 455

Melissa Fraser, of the Future Farm Industries CRC, will report on the solution of a mystery surrounding an SA farmers' group's poor pasture performance.

Information: Melissa Fraser Ph: 0407 773 369

Bhakti Devi, of the CRC for Irrigation Futures, will reveal a way to deliver bigger water savings than the current policy of restrictions in place in capital cities, while preserving the quality of our backyards and green spaces.

Information: Bhakti Devi Ph 0434 219 985

Third generation dentist **Nathan Cochrane**, of the CRC for Oral Health Science, will outline a way to make decayed tooth enamel re-grow, reversing tooth decay and avoiding the need for fillings.

Information: Dr Nathan Cochrane Ph 0401 678 143

See the media releases at <http://www.crca.asn.au/media/annual-conference> or contact CRCA Media Ph 0419 250 815; Email crcamedia@gmail.com