



# FOREST MOLECULAR GENETICS PROGRAMME

Melissa Reynolds

## Biosketch



Ms Melissa Reynolds (MSc) has managed the DNA Marker Technology Platform of the Forest Molecular Genetics Programme (FMG) at the University of Pretoria since 2012. In this capacity, she oversees a team of technicians who provide a DNA marker research service to the South African Forestry Industry. She works closely with breeders from South African forestry companies to implement DNA marker technologies and molecular breeding strategies, and to understand their impact within breeding programmes. Ms Reynolds provides mentorship to postgraduate students within FMG's Population Genomics Team and coordinates the Eucalypt and Tropical Pine Genome Diversity Atlas Project. This project, funded by the Forestry Sector Innovation Fund, seeks to characterise the genetic diversity in the native range for pine and eucalypt species of interest in South Africa. Ms Reynolds has particular interest in translating research outcomes, such as those from the Genome Diversity Atlas Project, into technology applications for tree improvement research. Her passions lie in innovative problem solving and development of new resources and technologies, such as her current focus establishing DNA marker resources for *Acacia* and *Macadamia* and setting up a high-throughput DNA extraction facility at the University of Pretoria, funded by the Technology Innovation Agency.

