



Emergent Futures

What's Emerging Mid October 2009

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Welcome to the mid-October edition of What's Emerging.

Paul is riding in the Round the Bay Ride this Sunday. If you want to sponsor him and donate money to the Smith Family Education and Learning Programs go to:

<http://aroundthebayfundraising.com.au/?PaulHHiggins>

Don't forget you can also help us raise funds for charity by making us pay! Get your friends and associates to sign up to our newsletter and Emergent Futures will donate \$2 to charity for every person who signs up and stays signed up for 6 months. Plus they get a chance to win one of five \$100 book vouchers. Click [here](#) for more information.

Cheers

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Kim Stewart, Anitha Mendonca, Syed Muqthar, and Samantha Kyle-Little



Business Tips

Eliminate ranges from your negotiating vocabulary

A tip from Brad Feld on how to negotiate, with some interesting comment responses. [Read more...](#)

If you need to work better, maybe try working less

A groundbreaking four-year study, set for publication in the October issue of Harvard Business Review, seems to confirm that getting away from work can yield unexpected on-the-job benefits. The results surprised Harvard researchers and Boston Consulting executives alike. Working together to make sure each consultant got some time off forced teams to communicate better, share more personal information and forge closer relationships.

[Read more...](#)

Exploiting Chaos

You can download the first chapter of this book for free. Certainly looks interesting and some people who we respect are having great things to say about it. [Read more...](#)

DIRPY

Many YouTube Videos such as TED talks are reasonably long and are often just as good on audio only if you are travelling somewhere. Use Dirpy to convert your favourite YouTube videos to mp3's and play them on your MP3 player. [Read more...](#)



What's Emerging

You really can die of a broken heart

According to an Australian Heart Foundation study of the physical changes suffered immediately after a profound loss, grieving people are at significantly higher risk of heart problems. The work is important because

it challenges deeply embedded cultural notion that grief is a short-term emotional reaction. [Read more...](#)

Intel plans even tinier circuits in 2011

Moore's Law coming to an end? Not if you ask Intel, which announced Tuesday that it plans to offer chips based on a 22 nanometer process technology in the second half of 2011. The 22nm chip packs in more than 2.9 billion transistors into an area the size of a fingernail. [Read more...](#)

Want to get something made?

100Kgarages is a community of workshops all over the world that are run by "Fabbers", with digital fabrication tools for precisely cutting, machining, drilling, or sculpting. [Read more...](#)

A \$1 million research bargain for Netflix and maybe a model for others

Even the near-miss losers in the Netflix million-dollar-prize competition seemed to have few regrets. [Read more...](#)

Distributed enviro sensing in Paris

Green watch / Citypulse was conceived under Cities 2.0 of Fing. The aim is to multiply by 1000 the number of environmental sensors in the city. The green watch comprises a watch and two environmental sensors (ozone, noise). Data are regularly broadcasted via a mobile phone to an open platform called Citypulse which receives, stores and makes measure data available. [Read more...](#)

Great post from seth godin on not for profits and change

"Non-profits, in my experience, abhor change. Take a look at the top 100 twitter users in terms of followers. Remember, this is a free tool, one that people use to focus attention and galvanize action. What? None of them are non-profits. Not one as far as I can tell. Is the work you're doing not important enough to follow, or is it (and I'm betting it is) paralysis in decision making in the face of change?" [Read more...](#)

Is there a climate-Change tipping point?

Global warming — the very term sounds gentle, like a bath that grows pleasantly hotter under the tap. Many people might assume that's how climate change works too, the globe gradually increasing in temperature until we decide to stop it by cutting our carbon emissions.....There's just one problem: that's not how climate change is likely to unfold. Instead, scientists worry about potential tipping points... The trick is to identify the warning signs that indicate a tipping point... and there may be ways to do this, since certain warning signals appear to be similar across a variety of complex systems. [Read more...](#)

World food output must rise 70 pct by 2050: FAO

The world will have to produce 70 percent more food by 2050 to feed a projected extra 2.3 billion people and as incomes rise, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation said on Wednesday. [Read more...](#)

The evolution of overconfidence

This is an interesting paper looking at why evolution may have created a bias in humans for overconfidence. [Read more...](#)

Where will the e-reader revolution take publishing?

Some experts believe the devices will change our reading habits and throw several industries into turmoil -- that is, just as soon as Apple gets into the game. [Read more...](#)

Stimulating sight

Led by electrical engineering professor John Wyatt, research team develops retinal implant that could help restore useful level of vision to certain groups of blind people. [Read more...](#)

Mad genius: Study suggests link between psychosis and creativity

Vincent van Gogh cut off his ear. Sylvia Plath stuck her head in the oven. History teems with examples of great artists acting in very peculiar ways. Were these artists simply mad or brilliant? According to new research reported in Psychological Science, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science, maybe both. [Read more...](#)

Economists fail to agree over cause and cure to crisis

A year into the worst global recession for 75 years, the Australian Conference of Economists has found no agreement on what caused it - or what we should learn from it. [Read more...](#)

Bell Labs breaks optical transmission record, 100 Petabit per second kilometer barrier

This transmission experiment involved sending the equivalent of 400 DVDs per second over 7,000 kilometers, roughly the distance between Paris and Chicago. This is the highest capacity ever achieved over a transoceanic distance and represents an increase that exceeds that of today's most advanced commercial undersea cables by a factor of ten. [Read more...](#)

Nanotech could make humans immortal by 2040, futurist says

Ray Kurzweil says nanobots will soon wipe out cancer, back up memories and slow aging. [Read more...](#)

Loss of top predators causing ecosystems to collapse

The catastrophic decline around the world of "apex" predators such as wolves, cougars, lions or sharks has led to a huge increase in smaller "mesopredators" that are causing major economic and ecological disruptions, a new study concludes. [Read more...](#)

Internet overtakes television to become biggest advertising sector in the UK

Record £1.75bn online spend makes UK first major economy to spend more on web ads than TV. It has taken the internet little more than a decade to become the biggest advertising sector in the UK. [Read more...](#)

Clock turned back on aging muscles, researchers claim

Scientists have found and manipulated body chemistry linked to the aging of muscles and were able to turn back the clock on old human muscle, restoring its ability to repair and rebuild itself. The study involved a small number of participants, however. And the news is not all rosy. [Read more...](#)

Trading post goes online only

No more will Darryl Kerrigan be able to leaf through the Trading Post looking for reasonably priced jousting sticks after owner Telstra confirmed it was closing the print edition of the classifieds bible. [Read more...](#)

Today's babies could live to 22nd century

More than half of the babies born today in rich countries will live to 100 years if current trends of life expectancy continue, says a study in the medical journal *The Lancet*. [Read more...](#)

Protein that enhances long-term memory by controlling rest intervals identified

As most good students realize, repeated studying produces good memory. Those who study a lot realize, further, that what they learn tends to be preserved longer in memory if they space out learning sessions between rest intervals. Neuroscientists at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) have now discovered how this so-called "spacing effect" is controlled. [Read more...](#)

Nissan explores how cars that mimic fish can help avoid collisions

Japanese engineers at Nissan Motor Co. have been studying fish and their ability to swim collision-free in large groups, and are trying to apply their discoveries to future vehicles. [Read more...](#)

Revealed: The ghost fleet of the recession anchored just east of Singapore

The biggest and most secretive gathering of ships in maritime history lies at anchor east of Singapore. Never before photographed, it is bigger than the U.S. and British navies combined but has no crew, no cargo and no destination - and is why your Christmas stocking may be on the light side this year. [Read more...](#)

TED TALK: Tim Brown urges designers to think big

Tim Brown talks about using design thinking to create innovative solutions to big problems rather than a "design priesthood" that focuses on incrementalism. [Read more...](#)

New trend in laser eye surgery tailors eyesight to profession, lifestyle

A new trend is emerging at the forefront of laser eye surgery: patients who want to tailor their eyesight to suit their lifestyle or profession, hoping for a bespoke optical edge in their field. Are you a hunter who could use

better long-range vision? Are you a tailor who needs to optimize your vision to the short distance between you and your textiles? [Read more...](#)

Google's Zebra Crossing project: Celebrating bar codes

Behind the scenes, they have been working on a bar code project called Zebra Crossing, an image-processing library built in Java that is already implemented on Android and other mobile devices. Check out this app called CompareEverywhere. **PH: This is one of the applications that can be used to fulfil the vision of an article we wrote for The Age in Melbourne called 'Internet consumers: armed and dangerous'.** [Read more...](#)

Amazon's Kindle hits Australia

On October 20 when online retailer Amazon aims to light a fire under the local bookselling business with the release of its latest Kindle gadget. [Read more...](#)

Urban surveillance as a game?

Internet Eyes is a new "game" where the public is invited to watch thousands of CCTV cameras for criminal activity. The most successful crime spotters can win cash prizes. [Read more...](#)