

What's Emerging ... April Issue

27th April 2006

www.emergentfutures.com

Welcome to the April edition of What's Emerging.

We hope that you all had a great Easter and managed to spend time with your families.

This month we have a small advertisement.

The Australian Davos Connection is running the Australian Future Summit in Brisbane on May 11-12th. The conference brings together a wide range of speakers and participants to think through the future of some of the big issues facing Australia. Paul is acting as one of the assistant facilitators for the conference and if any of you are interested in attending then please visit:

www.futuresummit.org/

We have no financial interest in the summit and Paul is acting as a volunteer in his capacity at the summit.

We hope that you continue to find the newsletter interesting and useful and please feel free to pass it on to anyone else you think would enjoy receiving it.

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle and Samantha Kyle-Little

Business Tip

We have two business tips for you this month

If you are interested in new business models and comment then this blog by venture capitalist Fred Wilson is clever and a little offbeat. You can subscribe on the site and you will automatically receive emails of the new posts on a daily basis.

Venture Capitalist Blog

If you are snowed under with emails and meetings and cannot get anything done then we recommend you read David Allen's "Getting Things Done - The Art of Stress Free Productivity." It is published by Penguin and is full of great systems and tips on how to organise yourself better. Most of it is fairly straight forward but most of us aren't doing it and the beauty of the book is that it give a simple system to make it all work.

Emerging issues from around the world

Click on the titles to read the full stories.

25 Social Entrepreneurs

Fast Company has published a list of its 25 favourite social entrepreneurs. Have a look; someone on the list might inspire you.

Cheap Hydrogen

GE may have come up with a cheap way to produce hydrogen from water using electricity by rethinking the gadget that does it. If they can commercialise it then it would remove one of the barriers to the hydrogen economy as long as the oil price stays up.

RFID worm

Scientists have created a computer worm that can infect Radio Frequency Identification Tags creating the spectre that these widely used identification tags could be populated with malicious code and have their information distorted.

Nanocages Target Cancer

Researchers at Montana State University have been able to create protein Nanocages from a bacterial protein extract. The cages are easily manipulated and can be modified to target blood vessel growth in tumours.

New Microsoft Services

Microsoft is moving increasingly into internet services. Live expo is the latest offering. It will challenge free classified services such as Craigslist and with its massive band of Messenger and MSN users linked to the site, it already has plenty of potential users. Another shot in the war that is occurring over internet services, which will transform the way we do things.

Slow release vaccines

Scientists are working on slow release vaccines where the vaccine from a single injection is released over a period of time avoiding the need for a course of injections. Using bio-glass particles that the body naturally dissolves at different rates the antigen is released over several weeks.

Coal powered Jets

A helicopter jet engine has been successfully powered by fuel that was derived 50% from coal using technology that can be adapted to conventional refineries. If the technology is successful, in the medium term it can replace oil, but we have to be careful

about the greenhouse gas implications.

Automated Aircraft Carriers

Britain and France are joining together to build massive new aircraft carriers that will use automation to reduce personnel numbers by 60% in order to save on operational costs.

Retiring at 85?

A US biologist has suggested that the retirement age might have to be moved up to 85 years by 2050 as breakthroughs in anti-aging give us all longer lives. That means that if you were born in 1965 you still have another 44 years of working life in you!!!!

Buy your own wind farm generator

Stealthgen is offering small scale wind generators for use in built up areas.

The future of computing

For those of you interested in the future of computers this feature article set from Nature on computing in 2020 will give you all the thinking you might want. Thanks to Chris Stewart from Emergent Insights for sending it in.

What Are We Writing About

This month's article is one that Paul wrote for the Business Age on the 6th of April. The article describes possible business models for podcasts and what the Australian Broadcasting Commission might be able to do with the success of its podcast system, which is reported to have 368,000 downloads a week. The big question is whether anyone can make money out of podcasts. The article can be accessed at the website at:

<http://www.emergentfutures.com>