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*Welcome to our first newsletter for 2007. We hope you had a good break during the festive season. This month's business tip on unclaimed money could help you pay off some of the Christmas splurge or all those bills that seem to converge upon us early in the year!*

*This year promises to be an interesting and busy time for us with some new and interesting complexity thinking tools we are working with. We look forward to keeping you up to date on these in coming editions.*

*Cheers*

*Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Syed Ahmed Muqthar and Samantha Kyle-Little*

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## **Business tip**

### **Big screens**

Interested in buying a big screen and don't know the difference between LCD and Plasma screens? This blog and videocast from the Consumer Electronics Show could help you.

### **101 dumbest moments in business**

Business 2.0 has released the 101 dumbest moments in business for 2006. This link goes to number 4 which shows how viral marketing can go wrong.

### **Unclaimed money**

If a company or financial institution owes you money, for example inactive bank accounts, shares from takeovers, or life policies, and is unable to locate you (as may be the case if you have moved address often) the funds are transferred to the Commonwealth Treasury and are administered by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC). Finding out if you have any unclaimed money is very simple - phone ASIC unclaimed monies section on 1300 301 198 and they will do a search (free) using your surname/company name. You can also do a search on their website but this won't necessarily show all the monies that may be owed.

Another handy site is the ATO SuperSearch which enables you to find superannuation you may have lost track of - [SuperSearch](#)

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## **Emerging issues from around the world**

*Click on the titles to read the full stories*

### **Plug in hybrids and the grid**

Plug in hybrids are hybrid cars you can plug in at home and charge up extra batteries.

This is an interesting article on how development of such cars may benefit the base load electricity generators.

### 5 top trends

Trendwatching.com provides its view on the 5 top consumer trends for 2007.

### Artificial platelets

A company called Brinker Technology has developed artificial platelets that can be injected into a leaking pipe and seal the leak. The system is modeled on the way our blood clots and seals leaks when we cut blood vessels. The technology could save significant losses due to pipeline leaks, both financially and environmentally.

### Nano copper reduces energy use

Airnatech, a company based on copper nanotechnology research, believes its technology can significantly reduce energy use in heat exchange systems such as air conditioners. The nano copper technology is the brainchild of Dr J H Lee, an ex-NASA scientist who helped develop the powerless cooling technology for the US space shuttle.

### Five top nanotechnology breakthroughs

This online article from Forbes describes 5 top nanotechnology breakthroughs of 2006.

### Nanotechnology outlook

The Institute for the Future in the UK has published 11 outlooks for nanotechnology over the next fifty years.

### China Leaps in R&D

The OECD is forecasting that China will move up to second place on the world table of R&D spending. While still well behind the USA at US\$330 billion, the OECD is predicting that China will move to US\$136 billion this year, passing Japan's US\$130 billion investment.

### Nanotechnology in wound healing

The first clinical trials of a medical bandage that heals wounds faster concludes this month, bringing two University of Akron researchers closer to commercializing a product years in the making.

### The earth is shrinking

According to the Earth Policy Institute the combined pressure of rising sea levels from global warming and desertification of farming land from poor farming practices will cause a squeeze on available land, causing significant social problems and tension.

### Sensor for diabetics

Getting regular blood samples for glucose testing is literally a pain. Gerald Loeb, a biomedical engineering researcher at the University of Southern California, is working on an optical fibre that could be implanted into the skin of a diabetic to measure glucose.

### No more mad cow

A team of researchers from Japan and the USA claim to have produced a line of cattle that will not get mad cow disease even if exposed to the cause. The researchers have removed the gene that produces central nervous system prions from the cattle. The next test is to see if they will breed normally.

### Apple iphone

Apple has announced the development of its iphone with a prototype released at MacWorld and slated for commercial release later in the year. The combination of mobile phone, music player, video player, organiser and wireless connectivity could turn the whole mobile business on its head.

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### *What we are writing about*

Paul was interviewed for an article in the CSIRO Ecos magazine on biofuels and sustainability.

You can read the article at:

[http://www.publish.csiro.au/?act=view\\_file&file\\_id=EC133p22.pdf](http://www.publish.csiro.au/?act=view_file&file_id=EC133p22.pdf)