

@ Emergent Futures | New Around the World | What Are We Writing About

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Welcome to the middle of March edition of What's Emerging. We hope that all our Melbourne readers survived the wild storms over the Labour Day weekend unscathed. Australia is again showing its climate variability by having record drought followed by record rainfalls in many areas. Last week Paul was quoted in the Sunday Age on change and what is disappearing in our society. We have included a link to the article in the "What We Are Writing About" section.

Cheers

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



Business Tips

9 tips for efficient meetings

Here are some ways you can facilitate more efficient meetings and hopefully get more done in less time. [Read more...](#)

Google enhances local search with "nearby" filter

Google has just turned on a nifty location feature in search. Now, you can refine search results with a "Nearby" button, which will filter your results that cater to your location. [Read more...](#)

YC-funded Crocodoc makes it a snap to share and mark up documents

Crocodoc makes it easy to share and mark up virtual documents the same way you would on a piece of paper, and it only takes a few seconds to start using it. [Read more...](#)

3 techniques used by CIA analysts to see alternative perspectives

From the book Psychology of Intelligence Analysis, "Several techniques for seeing alternative perspectives exploit the general principle of coming at the problem from a different direction and asking different questions. These techniques break your existing mind-set by causing you to play a different and unaccustomed role." [Read more...](#)



What's Emerging

The future of money: It's flexible, frictionless and (almost) free

What if people could transfer money over Twitter for next to nothing, simply by typing a username and a dollar amount? [Read more...](#)

The present and future of unmanned drone aircraft: An illustrated field guide

Inside the wild kingdom of the world's newest and most spectacular species of unmanned aircraft, from swarming insect 'bots that can storm a burning building to a seven-ton weaponised spy plane invisible to radar.

[Read more...](#)

Amazing facts and figures about the evolution of hard disk drives

This article looks back at how hard disk drives have evolved since they first burst onto the scene in 1956. [Read more...](#)

Perfect insulator could eliminate heating bills

A new material developed by MIT scientists perfectly reflects heat and absorbs none of it. [Read more...](#)

Wal-Mart to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. plans to eliminate 20 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from its global supply chain by the end of 2015. The world's largest retailer has collaborated with the Environmental Defense Fund to develop an approach that looks at the supply chain on a global scale. [Read more...](#)

Exploring the future of book publishing at tools of change conference

Paul Higgins: A really good post on the future of book publishing by Mark Coker. [Read more...](#)

Mobile location-based services could rake in \$12.7 billion by 2014: Report

The rapid evolution of mobile phones, both on a hardware and a software level, combined with a surge in application storefront releases, deployments of higher-capacity network infrastructure and recent developments in positioning technologies could drive revenues from mobile location-based services to more than \$12.7 billion by 2014, according to a new report published by Juniper Research. [Read more...](#)

Massive solar storms of the future could reap Katrina-scale devastation

No electricity, no running water, and no phone service for millions of people. That scenario could easily become reality if a solar storm as intense as those found throughout the history of our planet were to strike Earth today. NPR reported on FEMA's recent simulation of such a storm, and the grim conditions it uncovered. [Read more...](#)

Argonne scientists discover novel materials approach to fighting cancer

A team of scientists have developed a technique that uses gold-plated iron-nickel microdiscs connected to brain-cancer-seeking antibodies to fight cancer. The discs possess a spin-vortex ground state and sit dormant on the cancer cell until a small alternating magnetic field is applied and the vortices shift, creating an oscillation. The energy from the oscillation is transferred to the cell and triggers apoptosis, or "cell suicide." [Read more...](#)

Augmented identity

A new app makes it possible to identify people and learn about them just by pointing your phone. [Read more...](#)

Mobile workers prefer smartphones over notebooks, iPhones over Blackberry

A mobile workforce survey found that the majority of Blackberry-carrying employees would trade their devices in for an iPhone, if only their companies supported it. Likewise, nearly two-thirds of those surveyed employees said they would prefer to be issued a smartphone instead of a notebook computer. [Read more...](#)

Mass loss from Alaskan glaciers overestimated? Previous melt contributed a third less to sea-level rise than estimated

Previous studies have largely overestimated mass loss from Alaskan glaciers over the past 40-plus years, according to Erik Schiefer, a Northern Arizona University geographer who co-authored a paper in the February issue of Nature Geoscience that recalculates glacier melt in Alaska. [Read more...](#)

A machine that prints organs is coming to market

THE great hope of transplant surgeons is that they will, one day, be able to order replacement body parts on demand. And that possibility may be closer with the arrival of the first commercial 3D bio-printer for manufacturing human tissue and organs. [Read more...](#)

Nearly 300 million mobile VoIP users by 2013

A new study by research firm In-Stat estimates the total number of mobile VoIP users will reach 288 million in less than three years time. Aside from continuing the downward spiral of voice communication costs, this rapid growth of mobile broadband portends more capable and robust mobile data applications for the enterprise,

suggests the study's author, In-Stat analyst Frank Dickson. [Read more...](#)

Knowing the mind of God: Seven theories of everything

The "theory of everything" is one of the most cherished dreams of science. If it is ever discovered, it will describe the workings of the universe at the most fundamental level and thus encompass our entire understanding of nature. It would also answer such enduring puzzles as what dark matter is, the reason time flows in only one direction and how gravity works. Here's a brief guide to some of the front runners. [Read more...](#)



What We Are Writing About

Book Review

Paul was quoted in the Sunday Age story "A Fond Farewell to Old Technology" by Peter Munro on the 7th March. The article looks at what might disappear from our lives in the next few years. [Read More...](#)