

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

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*Welcome to the October edition of What's Emerging. This month we feature our recently published article on potential for catastrophic food shortages. The consequences of potential long term global food shortages are a concern for all with flow through impacts for society and all sectors across the economy.*

*Also you still have time to get on board for a good cause and sponsor our Noosa triathlon team on 2 November to raise funds for charity – more details [here](#).*

*We hope you enjoy this edition.*

*Cheers*

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



## Business Tips

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### 8 Simple tools for better bookmarking

Frustrated about how to bookmark and organise your information on-line? Check out this simple guide to some top bookmarking tools. [Read more...](#)

### (The) Startup depression

This is a very useful post on how the financial crisis could affect the start up business in the US. It is a useful thinking piece for the start up and venture capital business but also for general business model thinking. Those who want a follow up and slightly different take should read Fred Wilson's blog on the post [Here](#). [Read more...](#)

### 10 ways to convince your boss to let you work from home

This is a little IT focused but it gives some great evidence for telecommuting. Its free but does require you to register. [Read more...](#)



## What's Emerging

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### Volvo thinks locusts can make us safer drivers

Rind's research at the Insect Vision Laboratory focuses on the behavioral patterns of locusts in flight and how it is that millions of them can swarm without hitting each other. Turns out the bugs' visual input is transmitted directly to their wings, seemingly bypassing the brain in what Rind calls the Locust Principle. [Read more...](#)

### **iPhone developers go from rags to riches**

Steve Demeter, developer of the vastly popular \$5 iPhone game Trism, announced he made \$250,000 in profit in just two months. If his profits continue at this rate, Demeter will earn nearly \$2 million by July 2009. [Read more...](#)

### **Gene therapy restores sight**

With the help of gene therapy, two people who once were blind now can see. The individuals -- their identities remain confidential -- are participants in an early-stage clinical trial of gene therapy for Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, a rare and untreatable form of congenital blindness. [Read more...](#)

### **The great Iceland meltdown**

Who knew? Who knew that Iceland was just a hedge fund with glaciers? Who knew? A really thoughtful piece from Thomas Friedman of The New York Times on the financial crisis. [Read more...](#)

### **A new kind of search engine?**

Yotify is a search engine that allows you to search over time. Sort of like an extended Google Alerts where you can put in key words and phrases and get reports when they pop up on the web. [Read more...](#)

### **Newspapers' web revenue is stalling**

In the US, newspapers, already facing a grim economic forecast, are digesting another piece of bad news: the growth in online advertising they saw as their salvation has slowed to a crawl. [Read more...](#)

### **Interested in the US presidential election**

For those of you interested in the US election this is a great site to see what is happening and make your own assessments. Because whoever wins the election in any state gets 100% of the electoral college vote of that state and because states vary significantly in their electoral college votes and the way they historically vote there are usually only a handful of states "in play" which means that the national polls are often no use at all. [Read more...](#)

### **World Bank mash up**

The World Bank has mashed up Google Maps with World Bank data to give you a visual entry point to browse their projects, news, statistics and public information center by country. [Read more...](#)

### **Drink beer to cure cancer**

BiOWLogists' from Rice University, plans to unveil an anticancer beer, dubbed 'BioBeer.' It will contain resveratrol, 'a chemical in wine that's been shown to reduce cancer and heart disease in lab animals.' [Read more...](#)

### **h+ transhumanist magazine launched**

Humanity Plus has launched h+, a web-based quarterly magazine that focuses on transhumanism, covering the scientific, technological, and cultural developments that are challenging and overcoming human limitations. [Read more...](#)

### **Breaking China's coal addiction - Renewables revolution is there for the taking**

The southern Chinese province of Guangdong manufactures products for the whole world – from toothbrushes to DVD players, from shoes to cars. It is among the richest regions of China, yet lack of power generation has been a huge barrier to its economic growth, and until recently blackouts were common. Four years ago, Greenpeace China launched a pilot project called Wind Guangdong to promote wind power in the region and show that Chinese development could be powered by clean, renewable energy. [Read more...](#)

### **'Clean coal' con**

In coal towns and boardrooms around the world, the promise of 'clean coal' is suddenly being touted as our best hope for energy security. But there's a catch: coal remains the dirtiest source of energy on earth. [Read more...](#)

### **Wall street meltdown primer - In a nutshell...**

This neat history of the current financial meltdown by Walden Bello, professor of sociology at University of the Philippines, offers some insight as to the causes and key questions we need to ask next including: How deep and long will this recession be? Does the U.S. economy need another speculative bubble to drag itself out of this recession? And if it does, where will the next bubble form? Some people say the military-industrial complex or the "disaster capitalism complex" will be the next bubble. [Read more...](#)

### **More links**

We have many more links than we can fit in the newsletter – this month's 'Additional Links' are available on our [website](#).



## What We Are Writing About

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### **Food shortage catastrophe creeping up on the world**

In this article, published in The Age on 26 September, we explain how catastrophic food shortages could eventuate. The consequences of potential long term global food shortages are a concern for all – whilst Australians may not directly face actual food shortages, the flow through significantly impacts on society and all sectors across the economy. Anyone interested in exploring the implications for their business or sector further can contact us to get involved in 'Consequence and Strategy' workshops we are planning around this. [Read more...](#)

**Paul Higgins**