

# EMERGENT FUTURES



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## What's Emerging End January 2018

### Welcome to the end of January 2018 Edition of What's Emerging

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2018. We hope you all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and that our Australian readers are ready to launch themselves into the year after the summer holidays.

We have dispensed with our traditional early January edition with forecast as we think they are becoming even less reliable due to the increasing complexity of the world we live in.

Instead we have a question for you. Paul's step-daughter is insisting that the title of the driverless car book should be: **Is Driverless Always More? – How driverless vehicles with transform our economies and our economies. Instead of: Rise of the Autobots - How driverless vehicles with transform our economies and our economies.** Tell us what you think.

As well as continuing with the book writing on driverless cars, in the next couple of months Paul is presenting to four different organisations on the future of automation and AI in agriculture, working with a tourism leadership program on mapping the future of tourism, presenting workshops to aged car and family health organisations, and facilitating a transport workshop on the future of taxis and ride share business models . After Easter Paul is doing two further presentations on technology in agriculture, and presenting a keynote to the Communities in Control Conference. Paul is also continuing his involvement in venture philanthropy with SVP Melbourne's latest investment. If you are interested in any of these subjects then please email us at [info@emergentfutures.com](mailto:info@emergentfutures.com)

We hope that you continue to find the newsletter interesting.

Cheers,

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Ranjitha and Samantha Kyle-Little

### What are we writing about?

Paul took a break from posting over the summer holidays to concentrate on research and writing, as well as taking a well earned break. There will be more writing in the next edition.

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## ■ Business Tips

### Research Reveals How to Take a Better Break

New research suggests there are good ways and not-so-good ways to spend our break time. While some breaks can leave us refreshed and reenergized, others tend to leave us depleted and drained [Read More...](#)

### Evaluate Your Team's Skills and Interests with a Roles Venn Diagram

An interesting approach to harnessing the talents of your team [Read More...](#)

### Why You Can Focus in a Coffee Shop but Not in Your Open Office

New research shows that it may not be the sound itself that distracts us...it may be who is making it. In fact, some level of office banter in the background might actually benefit our ability to do creative tasks, provided we don't get drawn into the conversation [Read More...](#)

## ■ In case you missed it: Most popular links from the Last Edition

### [Bitcoin Mining Guzzles Energy—And Its Carbon Footprint Just Keeps Growing](#)

## ■ What's Emerging

### ASIC approves seven crowdsourced funding 'gatekeepers'

The country's corporate regulator has licensed the first crowdsourced funding intermediaries under the new money-raising regime. [Read More...](#)

### Large 'Tesla ships' all-electric container barges are launching this autumn

The Dutch company Port-Liner is building two giant all-electric barges dubbed the 'Tesla ships'. The company announced that the vessels will be ready by this autumn and will be inaugurated by sailing the Wilhelmina canal in the Netherlands. [Read More...](#)

### Energy Department is seriously underestimating solar power abroad

If trends in solar power around the world deserve a theme song, it's "Here Comes the Sun."

[Read More...](#)

### AI learns how to fool speech-to-text. That's bad news for voice assistants

A pair of computer scientists at the University of California, Berkeley developed an AI-based attack that targets speech-to-text systems. [Read More...](#)

### Why Sweden Is Shifting To A 6-Hour Workday

Be more focused, have fewer meetings—and then go home early. It sounds like a dream, but it can work. [Read More...](#)

### CES 2018: Intel proclaims 'major breakthrough' in quantum computing chip

Intel's CES 2018 keynote focused on its 49-qubit quantum computing chip, VR applications for content, its AI self-learning chip, and an autonomous vehicles platform. [Read More...](#)

### Oxford University admits more women than men for first time – Ucas

As elite institution marks watershed, poor white males are among least likely to go to university [Read More...](#)

### Google and Others Are Building AI Systems That Doubt Themselves

AI will make better decisions by embracing uncertainty. [Read More...](#)

Whole of England to be mapped with lasers to tackle flooding and illegal waste dumps

Data is to be made public to archaeologists, urban planners and even gamers [Read More...](#)

Pod Vending Machine concept by Haseef Rafiei tackles housing demand by printing modular homes

Breaking down barriers for underrepresented kids could quadruple America's pool of inventors. A skyscraper 3D prints modular homes and dispenses them like a vending machine in the latest instalment of our Dezeen x MINI Living Initiative video series. [Read More...](#)

Bitcoin and Ethereum have a hidden power structure, and it's just been revealed

Close examination reveals how power is being consolidated across their networks. [Read More...](#)

Engineers design artificial synapse for "brain-on-a-chip" hardware

Design is major stepping stone toward portable artificial-intelligence devices. [Read More...](#)

Why the genome of wheat is so massive

It has over five times as much DNA as the human genome [Read More...](#)

Self-Healing Robot Muscles Are Stronger, Faster And More Flexible Than People —And They Only Cost 10 Cents To Make

Scientists have created nimble robotic muscles as strong as an elephant and as bendy as an octopus. [Read More...](#)

Jackfruit increasing in popularity as a meat alternative as plant-based diet trend continues

Since adding jackfruit to the menu at her vegan eatery, Allie Pyke and her staff have found themselves having to reassure customers that what they are eating is definitely not meat.

[Read More...](#)

China Goes All In on the Transit Revolution

Just one city's fleet of electric buses is bigger than the five largest North American bus fleets combined. [Read More...](#)

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