

# EMERGENT FUTURES



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## What's Emerging End March 2018

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

As well as continuing with the book writing on driverless cars, in the next couple of months Paul is presenting two further presentations on technology in agriculture, presenting to the leaders of First State Super on Foresight and Leadership, presenting a keynote to the Communities in Control Conference, and two presentations on digital disruption in the housing market. In July and August Paul will be presenting with NAB Chief Economist Alan Oster in a major capital city road show with the National Bank on the Future of Health. In April he is also attending the Amazon Web Services Conference in Sydney, and the Reconverge G2 Conference in the USA where he will participate in an all-day wargaming session on strategy for the future of driverless cars with a view to bringing the approach/technology back to Australia. 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 has presented a number of keynotes and workshops in the last two weeks including the Grains Research and Development Update in Bendigo on "How to Think About Emerging Technologies in Agriculture", "Future Trends and Disruptions" for the Moonee Valley Council 2040 Vision, and a workshop for Windermere Child and Family Services on how to think about innovation and technology. You can see the summaries and the presentations by going to our [Home Page](#) and looking under "Our Latest Work"

[↑ Top of the page](#)

### Business Tips

Square Defangs Difficult Decisions with this System — Here's How

Consensus means no ownership. What's important is not that everyone agrees, but that everyone is heard and then the right person makes a decision [Read More...](#)

Voice, sleep, smart cities, TV, & more — new on IFTTT

New services on "If This Then That" [Read More...](#)

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## Communicate with Amazon Chime

An integrated communications package from Amazon – and given their track record, worth checking out. [Read More...](#)

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

[AI breakthrough: Otter.ai app can transcribe your meetings in real time, for free](#)

## ■ What's Emerging

### MIT's New Robots Can Build The Custom Furniture Of Your Dreams

When Jeffrey Lipton was first learning carpentry, the master carpenter who was training him had cut off both his thumbs—twice. Today Lipton is a researcher at MIT, and he has teamed up with his colleagues Adriana Schulz and Daniela Rus to build a robotic sawing system called AutoSaw that could not just change the way carpenters build projects in factories or on construction sites, but one day allow any Home Depot weekend warrior to build the custom cabinets of their dreams without risking life and limb [Read More...](#)

### Forecasts of genetic fate just got a lot more accurate

DNA-based scores are getting better at predicting intelligence, risks for common diseases, and more. [Read More...](#)

### Potato power: Student wins \$250,000 prize for blight solution that could save billions

New York student Benjamin "Benjy" Firester has won one of the United States' top young science prizes for his research on the devastating microorganism which caused the Irish Potato Famine, devising a computer model that could prevent it causing billions of dollars in lost crops every year. [Read More...](#)

### Platypus milk could help fight superbugs thanks to 'Shirley Temple' ringlet-shaped protein

Platypuses are, plainly put, oddly shaped — those flat bills, beaver-like tails and venomous spurs. Now it seems an unusual ringlet-like protein in their milk could help in the fight against superbugs. [Read More...](#)

### China's radical plan to limit the populations of Beijing and Shanghai

Laoximen is one of a number of neighbourhoods in Shanghai to be "upgraded" in the city's relentless race for modernity. The redevelopments are a reaction to the city's runaway growth, and key contributors to the first population falls in Shanghai and Beijing for decades.

[Read More...](#)

### Sierra Leone didn't really use blockchain in their election

Following the presidential elections conducted in Sierra Leone on March 7, it was widely reported in the media that Sierra Leone had become the first country in the world to run blockchain-powered elections. [Read More...](#)

### Scientists on brink of overcoming livestock diseases through gene editing

Farming is poised for a gene editing revolution that could overcome some of the world's most serious livestock diseases, the UK's top animal scientist has said. [Read More...](#)

### Over 20% of College Students Use Their Student Loans to Invest In Cryptocurrencies

A recent survey has revealed that over 20% of college students have not been using their student loans for their studies. Instead, they have been using their financial aid to invest in the crypto market. Absolute madness. [Read More...](#)

## Drake drops in to play Fortnite on Twitch and breaks the record for most-viewed stream

Last night, Twitch broke its record for most-viewed stream by a single player when pro-gamer Tyler "Ninja" Blevins assembled an unlikely supergroup to play the wildly-popular sandbox shooter Fortnite. [Read More...](#)

## Pantries Have Become The Home's Newest Status Symbol

I'm usually fairly immune to kitchen envy, but when I'm scrolling through Instagram and spot a proper pantry—lined with neatly labeled jars of lentils, bulgur and oats—I get a little pang of longing. [Read More...](#)

## Google's and Facebook's share of the U.S. ad market could decline for the first time, thanks to Amazon and Snapchat

Google and Facebook — the world's biggest online ad companies — could see their share of U.S. digital advertising decline for the first time, thanks to slowing growth and competition from the likes of Amazon and Snap. [Read More...](#)

## Japan's Prisons Are a Haven for Elderly Women

Every aging society faces distinct challenges. But Japan, with the world's oldest population (27.3 percent of its citizens are 65 or older, almost twice the share in the U.S.), has been dealing with one it didn't foresee: senior crime. Older women are committing crimes to access communities in prison. An indictment of social isolation in Japan. [Read More...](#)

## Nearly Half of 2017's Cryptocurrency 'ICO' Projects Have Already Died

Last year was without a doubt the Year of Bitcoin, as exploding interest in cryptocurrency fuelled a massive market runup. It is a Wild West scenario out there. Caveat Emptor.

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## NSW Government announces trial of 'driverless car' technology on Sydney motorway

The NSW Government has downplayed safety concerns over driverless car technology, following the death of a pedestrian in the United States who was hit by a driverless Uber. [Read More...](#)

## Uber Agrees on Southeast Asian Sale to Grab

Uber Technologies Inc. has reached an agreement to sell its Southeast Asian ride-hailing business to rival Grab and could announce the deal as early as Monday morning in Singapore, people familiar with the matter said. [Read More...](#)

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