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## Mid April 2015

### Welcome to the Mid-April Edition of What's Emerging

Welcome to the mid of April edition of the newsletter.

In the next few weeks Paul will be working on the energy transition for the Australia Sugar Industry, presenting to a NZ conference on education futures, working with the Victorian Local Governance Association on the future of local democracy and community, and several other projects in the pipeline to be announced shortly.

If any of those approaches interest you then please contact us at [info@emergentfutures.com](mailto:info@emergentfutures.com)

We hope that you continue to find then newsletter interesting and useful.

Cheers,


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

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### What are we writing about?

We have no public presentations or articles for this newsletter. However there were some problems with the link for the video in the last newsletter which was Paul's summary of his presentation to DPI on apps and social media for agriculture. If you wish to look at the summary please go to <http://bcove.me/z3mjgm40>

### Business Tips

Creativity in teams? The truth hurts

New research has come to light that shows that teams are, in fact, less creative than individuals. [Read More...](#)

Why You Should Keep a Journal (and How to Start Yours)

Paul: I have just re-started a daily journal habit via Evernote – this is a useful discussion about the why and the how of journaling. [Read More...](#)

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

[How To Get Paid To Speak](#)

an oldie but a goodie.

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# What's Emerging?

## ■ What's Emerging

### How Google is making sure cows won't foil its self-driving cars

Most of us haven't had a cow wander on to a road in front of us while we're driving. Still, it's the type of situation Google is wisely anticipating. A significant challenge for self-driving cars will be handing edge cases, essentially rare situations on the road. [Read More...](#)

### Science and mathematics boost Australia's economy by \$145bn a year

Science and mathematics directly contributes \$145bn a year to the Australian economy, a report to be released on Wednesday shows. [Read More...](#)

### CyborgRoaches aka RoboRoaches aka BioBots

By placing an array of microphones and electrode sensors onto a small circuit board, they've created what they call a "backpack" to be worn by the cockroaches. [Read More...](#)

### MIT Crowdsourcing Project Asks for Your Help in Solving Climate Crisis

Climate change can seem like such a huge and intractable problem, its causes so beyond our control, that it's easy to throw up your hands and say, "There's not much I can do about it." It seems like we're always being told that no matter what steps are taken, it's not enough. [Read More...](#)

### A Brain-Computer Interface That Lasts for Weeks

Brain signals can be read using soft, flexible, wearable electrodes that stick onto and near the ear like a temporary tattoo and can stay on for more than two weeks even during highly demanding activities such as exercise and swimming, researchers say. [Read More...](#)

### The Sharing Economy Is On The Brink Of Disrupting Business Travel

The foundations of the business-travel ecosystem are under more strain than ever before. U.S. companies are projected to spend \$310 billion on business travel in 2015 (up 6.2 percent from last year), but how they spend that money has become a source of tension and uncertainty. [Read More...](#)

### TACTUM – Tactile Augmented Reality (Teaser)

All too often, augmented reality exists as a digital overlay in our physical environment. But what if you could actually touch and manipulate this digital information? And what would you create. [Read More...](#)

### NYTimes is running spectacular coverage of California's mega-drought

In this article, the Times questions if "constant growth" (vs a sustainable population and flat economy) is part of the problem. [Read More...](#)

### Why are interest rates so low?

Interest rates around the world, both short-term and long-term, are exceptionally low these days. The U.S. government can borrow for ten years at a rate of about 1.9 percent, and for thirty years at about 2.5 percent. [Read More...](#)

### For a brighter robotics future, it's time to offload their brains

Robots already stand in for humans in some of the duller and most dangerous jobs there are, handling everything from painting cars to drilling rocks on Mars. And if you listen to the hype about the potential of drones and autonomous vehicles, it's just a matter of time before robots do more. [Read More...](#)

### [5/100] The World is Much Better Educated than in the Past

Looking at the graph on the top we see that in 1870 more than 3 quarters of the world's people never had the chance to go to school. Looking at the graph at the bottom we see that this meant was that similar small shares – 19% – of the world were able to read. [Read More...](#)

### Game-Based Simulations Teach Environmental Science at ASU Online

To better engage its online learners, Arizona State University is piloting game-based simulations from Toolwire in its ASU Online environmental science courses. [Read More...](#)

## What's Emerging?

### Hi-tech and Big Data offer hope to battered U.S. oil industry

(Reuters) - The tech geeks are coming to the oil industry's rescue. With the price of crude plumbing lows not seen since 2009, Royal Dutch Shell, Whiting Petroleum Corp and many others are turning to rocket fuel, Big Data, lasers, spectrometers and other new or revamped technologies to do more for less. [Read More...](#)

### The Rise of the Working Poor and the Non-Working Rich

Many believe that poor people deserve to be poor because they're lazy. As Speaker John Boehner has said, the poor have a notion that "I really don't have to work. I don't really want to do this. I think I'd rather just sit around.". [Read More...](#)

### Finland schools: Subjects scrapped and replaced with 'topics' as country reforms its education

For years, Finland has been the by-word for a successful education system, perched at the top of international league tables for literacy and numeracy. [Read More...](#)

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