

What's Emerging?

The latest news and information ...

We help you think about the future so you can act today ...

Published by Emergent Futures Pty Ltd

Mid August 2013

Welcome to the Mid of August Edition of What's Emerging

First an apology. Due to an error on our part the presentations discussed in the last newsletter were not available on our website. They have been uploaded now and are available. Our apologies to anyone that tried to access them.

Secondly we are looking to hold a "Lunch with a Futurist" in Perth in October, probably on October 31st. Anyone in Perth who is interested can pre-register by emailing us at info@emergentfutures.com and when we confirm the date we will get back to you for a priority booking before making the tickets publicly available.

In the last week and the next two weeks Paul has been working with Women's Health Loddon Mallee on the future of women's health services in regional Victoria, working on a new vision and strategy for a major agricultural company in Western Australia, running a senior management future challenge session for a retail and services company, presenting on the future of agriculture for wheat growers in Western Australia, and working with a collaboration group on ways to experiment more with strategy in complex futures. If any of these interest you please contact Paul at paul@emergentfutures.com.

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

Cheers,

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Kim Stewart, Smitha K, Syed Muqthar, and Samantha Kyle-Little

What are we writing about?

As stated above the following two presentations are now up on our website:

Lunch with a Futurist

This is the presentation that Paul gave to our lunch event. It represents the five top subjects that the attendees voted on for discussions. Without the conversation it is obviously less valuable but will give you a flavour of the event if you want to think about attending the next one.

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Leading and Influencing in Complex Futures

This is a presentation that Paul gave to the 2013 year group of the Williamson Leadership Program as part of a workshop on how to lead and influence on in complex futures. Its focus is on how to design a set of experiments that you can use to navigate your way through complexity. If you are interested in this approach please contact us at info@emergentfutures.com.

Both of these presentations can be accessed by going to our home page at www.emergentfutures.com and looking under latest downloads.

Business Tips

Google Translate Does Handwriting Recognition

Google Translate is an incredibly useful tool. But one of the problems is that there are times when typing the text you want to translate is difficult, particularly if the characters you need to translate are not in the English alphabet. Google has added handwriting support to Translate, making it easier to sketch characters in unfamiliar languages. [Read More...](#)

Best Practices for EBook Publishing with Mark Coker of Smashwords

Notes from a Mark Coker talk. [Read More...](#)

Standing orders

Real science lies behind the fad for standing up at work. Paul Higgins: I have purchased a standing desk which actually happens to be a flat pack Ikea Kitchen Island but is ideal size and height. [Read More...](#)

How Risk-Averse Entrepreneurs Succeed: Low-Cost Testing Using Reddit, PayPal, In-Person Pressure, and More

Tim Ferriss: in my experience, nothing could be further from the truth. Over the last 13 years in Silicon Valley, I've found that the homerun hitters are precisely the opposite: risk-averse. They mitigate downside whenever possible with low-cost and short-term testing. They're often extremely ambitious and aggressive (e.g. Travis Kalanick of Uber or Elon Musk), but they aren't remotely haphazard..... [Read More...](#)

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What's Emerging

Android Fragmentation Report July 2013

Open Signal Insight Report into the State of Android Fragmentation July 2013. [Read More...](#)

"Organic stories" – Rob Horning via the New Enquiry

Face book recently changed its News Feed algorithm, which determines which content users see of all the stuff shared by the other users they have elected to follow. [Read More...](#)

Why are Finland's Schools Successful?

The country's achievements in education have other nations, especially the United States, doing their homework. [Read More...](#)

Amazon – leading the way through chaos

How can something be random on purpose? Well, Amazon, the world's largest online retailer, stores its goods in a chaotic disorder. But only at first glance, because there's order behind the apparent disarray. It's called chaotic storage. [Read More...](#)

Zero-hours contracts will not create a sustainable economy

Zero-hours contracts may keep actual unemployment lower, but they also depress consumer confidence and activity – which are just as important for a healthy economy. [Read More...](#)

Use a bus stop touch screen to kill time – and help out

Bored people at bus stops could carry out useful tasks on public touch screens and make their time pass faster too. [Read More...](#)

L.A. Story

The Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy: a new model for American liberalism? [Read More...](#)

This Recycling Bin is Stalking You

Recycling bins in London are monitoring the phones of passers-by, so advertisers can target messages at people whom the bins recognize. [Read More...](#)

The Science behind the Netflix Algorithms that decide what you'll watch next

A lot of people tell us they often watch foreign movies or documentaries. But in practice, that doesn't happen very much. [Read More...](#)

Climate economist warns of impact of climate change

Climate economist, Dr Chris Hope, who is one of the authors of the report in 'Nature' which warns that climate change could wipe 60 trillion dollars off the world economy, discusses the research and the implications of climate change. [Read More...](#)

Through platform, Drop box users can monetize their uploads

Sellbox wants to provide a way for anyone to sell downloads of digital files direct from their Dropbox or Google Drive accounts. [Read More...](#)

Economists forecast the end of growth

Unlimited GDP growth is over as we enter a new age of resource scarcity - we must transition to a new economy. [Read More...](#)

How LEDs Have Transformed the City Skyline

LED lighting is transforming skylines all over the world—and architects, city governments, and urban denizens should take note. [Read More...](#)

Adapting Vermont's Transportation Infrastructure to the future impacts of Climate Change

An overview of climate related adaptation and resilience oriented efforts underway at the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans). [Read More...](#)

Serco profits rise as detention contracts hit \$1.86bn

Serco has welcomed the increase in asylum seekers in its annual report. But it says its future profits in Australia will depend on the "country conditions" in the Middle East and Asia. [Read More...](#)

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Address: Level 27 | 101 Collins Street | Melbourne | VIC 3000
Phone: +61 3 9018 7917 | Fax: +61 3 9012 3580 | emergentfutures.com

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