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

Welcome to the middle of August edition.

In the next few weeks Paul will work with the NFF on the future of the NFF Blueprint for Agriculture, continue to work with the Bendigo Bank on the future of their community banking model and travel to the USA to attend the Business Innovation Factory's 10th conference and present to the Las Vegas Community Catalyst event. If any of these approaches interest you then please contact us at 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?

Paul's presentation to the Australian Fodder Industry National Conference is now up on our website. You can access it by going to www.emergentfutures.com and looking under latest downloads on the home page. As always our presentations are designed to be an experience for the audience rather than asset of detailed notes. If you are interested in an online run through of any of our presentations then please contact us at info@emergentfutures.com. This is also a service that we offer clients during the presentation preparation phase for conference and workshops to fine tune our focus on the audience and the client requirements.

Business Tips

Travel search engine matches the cheapest flights with the best frequent flyer miles

30k is a comparison site that enables travellers to determine their optimum flight, taking into account both low cost and high reward miles. [Read More...](#)

Can a search engine also become a platform for creative thought?

[Seenapse](#), created by Mexican entrepreneur Rafael Jiménez, is a different type of search engine, aimed squarely at creatives: it presents you with a crowdsourced variety of additional search terms related to your first ones, allowing you to not only narrow down your search but also find new and unexpected directions for your curiosity. [Read More...](#)

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What's Emerging?

Schedule a 15-Minute Break Before You Burn Out

Studies show we have a limited capacity for concentrating over extended time periods, and though we may not be practiced at recognizing the symptoms of fatigue, they unavoidably derail our work. [Read More...](#)

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

[Thirty Things I've Learned](#)

Great list from Nick Crocker.

What's Emerging

17 ways that drones are changing the world

Drones are a truly exciting area right now and are constantly in the media, with so many interesting uses popping up on the Web. [Read More...](#)

How the Web Became Our 'External Brain,' and What It Means for Our Kids

Recently, my two-year-old nephew Benjamin came across a copy of Vanity Fair abandoned on the floor. His eyes scanned the glossy cover, which shone less fiercely than the iPad he is used to but had a faint luster of its own. I watched his pudgy thumb and index finger pinch together and spread apart on Bradley Cooper's smiling mug. At last, Benjamin looked over at me, flummoxed and frustrated, as though to say, "This thing's broken." [Read More...](#)

Robot Self-Assembles And Walks

Roboticians have developed a flat machine that can fold itself into an operational form and take a walk. [Read More...](#)

New Report: The Cost of Delaying Action to Stem Climate Change.

The signs of climate change are all around us. The average temperature in the United States during the past decade was 0.8° Celsius (1.5° Fahrenheit) warmer than the 1901-1960 average, and the last decade was the warmest on record both in the United States and globally. Global sea levels are currently rising at approximately 1.25 inches per decade, and the rate of increase appears to be accelerating. [Read More...](#)

The rise of data and the death of politics

Tech pioneers in the US are advocating a new data-based approach to governance – 'algorithmic regulation'. But if technology provides the answers to society's problems, what happens to governments?. [Read More...](#)

22 Pictures That Prove We're Living In The Damn Future

The future is now, y'all. [Read More...](#)

First of Its Kind Map Reveals Extent of Ocean Plastic

There's less than expected on the surface. Scientists are trying to find where in the ocean it's gone. [Read More...](#)

Pocket-sized smartphone projector turns any surface into a touchscreen

Currently seeking funding on Indiegogo, TouchPico is a device that can wirelessly project an 80" display from Android smartphones, with a touch interface. [Read More...](#)

The median household is 20% poorer today than in 1984

A new study from the Russell Sage Foundation reveals that while wealth levels for all classes of Americans declined between 2007 and 2013, Americans in the bottom half of the distribution are poorer than they were way back in 1984. Meanwhile, elites have amassed considerable wealth since then: [Read More...](#)

Designing an Operating System for Democracy

BUENOS AIRES—Pia Mancini is the photogenic leader of Argentina's Net Party, which she co-founded in May 2012 and runs on her MacBook Air—from airplane lounges, conferences in Europe, government ministries, and sometimes an office that her group shares in a Buenos Aires district known for its television studios. [Read More...](#)

What's Emerging?

REBOOTING YOUTUBE

When Susan Wojcicki took over YouTube in February, she received almost as much unsolicited advice as there are YouTube videos. One open letter not-so-subtly pleaded with Wojcicki, "So please, I'm begging you, please, please, please, don't f*** it up." [Read More...](#)

Smartphone Zombies, Please Stay Out Of The Fast Lane

Using a smartphone changes your behavior in public space. People tend to walk, cycle or even drive more slowly and less focused when they try to be in the digital and physical world at the same time. This leads to tensions and strange, sometimes even dangerous situations — not only on streets and in bicycle lanes but also on sidewalks, according to the makers of the National Geographic series *Mind over Masses*. That's why they wanted to find out what would happen if they created a dedicated zone for smartphone zombies on the sidewalks of Washington DC. [Read More...](#)

NASA tested an impossible space engine and it somehow worked

If the tests of the Caninae Drive technology hold up, a trip to Mars could take weeks instead of months. [Read More...](#)

Different Kinds Of Workers Need Different Kinds Of Workspaces

Canon Australia worked with Puzzle Partners to observe how workers actually used their old workplace, ethnographically. What they discovered led them to reject a pure Activity-Based Working (ABW) arrangement, where no employee 'owns' or has an assigned workstation. [Read More...](#)

Why we should believe the dreamers — and not the experts

History is littered with the failed predictions of experts. Yet governments hire high-paid consultants to advise on policy; businesses use them to vet research and development projects; and venture capitalists have them make investment decisions. Experts excel in looking backwards, protecting their turf, and saying what their clients want to hear. Their short-term predictions are sometimes right, but they are almost always wrong in forecasting any more-distant future. [Read More...](#)

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