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

It is Federal budget week here in Australia and it gives us a timely reminder of how poor we are at forecasting. Our mistakes are in relying on forecasting to set our strategies rather than admitting our weaknesses. The Federal budget was forecast to be in surplus when it was put together last year and now is \$18 billion dollars in deficit. The whole process of coverage has been driven by politics and the Treasurer was crazy in our view to keep to a promise of a surplus given the economic volatility that is around but at the same time has a reasonable story to tell about why the budget has blown out by so much relative to its forecast. The reality is that we live in a volatile and uncertain world and we think that uncertainty is here to stay. If you want to talk to us about how you build that uncertainty into your strategic thinking and a strategy for your organisation that will improve the way you deal with that uncertainty then please contact us at info@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?

Paul has written two recent blog posts that you may be interested in:

The Rise and Rise of Social Enterprise (and the bloodbath that precedes it)

This is an expansion of one of the key issues that Paul presented to the Australian Tax Office last week in a workshop on how the work force of the ATO might look like over the next 5-10 years. [Read More...](#)

Managing the rabbit burrows

A post on how to scan for future signs of change and some of the practical ways Paul does this for his work. [Read More...](#)

 [Top of the page](#)

SECTIONS

[What we are writing about](#)

[Business Tips](#)

[What's Emerging](#)

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■ Business Tips

Tactics to spark Creativity

Even people who lack ideas can set the scene for inspiration; just walk away. [Read More...](#)

10+ advanced formatting tips for Word users

You can waste a lot of time trying to get a document to look right. These power user tricks will help speed your formatting chores. [Read More...](#)

5 Social Media Monitoring tools to simplify your marketing

Are you measuring your social media efforts? Do you know what's working? [Read More...](#)

Need motivation? Declare a deadline

Publicly committing to meeting a deadline is a powerful motivator because it puts your reputation on the line. [Read More...](#)

Want the most reliable Windows PC? Buy a Mac (or maybe a Dell)

A new report from Solutio uses data from its massive online database of PC crashes, hangs, and performance metrics to identify the 10 most reliable Windows PCs you can buy today. Surprisingly, a MacBook Pro is at the top of the list. Even more surprising is who's not included. [Read More...](#)

■ What's Emerging

London to create airport of the future with 'Internet of Things'

London City Airport wants to eradicate the many nuisances associated with flying. [Read More...](#)

Father of the internet, Vint Cerf, on creating the interplanetary internet

Vint Cerf discusses an interplanetary internet. [Read More...](#)

Interactive map plots locations of more than 100 million species

The United States Geological Society (USGS) has launched an online database and map that keeps track of more than 100 million different species and where they live within the United States. [Read More...](#)

AOL vs. Netflix: The entire internet in one simple chart

At the end of March, almost 2.7 million people still subscribed to AOL service, the company reported this morning. That's about where Netflix stood at the end of 2004. [Read More...](#)

U.S. approves first new nuclear plant in a generation

U.S. regulators on Thursday approved plans to build the first new nuclear power plant in more than 30 years, despite objections of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman, who cited safety concerns stemming from Japan's 2011 Fukushima disaster. [Read More...](#)

Which Social Networks are growing fastest worldwide?

Twitter, Google+ see major gains in active users. [Read More...](#)

The global youth jobless crisis: A tragic mess that is not getting any better

A new study from the International Labor Organization takes a global tour of youth joblessness and finds that what's gone up won't come down in the next five years. [Read More...](#)

The world's most powerful computer network is being wasted on Bitcoin

The world's most powerful computer network is being wasted on Bitcoin. [Read More...](#)

Warren Buffett sees 'brutal' damage for savers from central bank money printing

Veteran investor Warren Buffett has warned that savers and bondholders are suffering a "brutal" erosion of their money as the US Federal Reserve and other central banks force yields

to historic lows. [Read More...](#)

Santander: Test bed for smart cities and open data policies

To support these ambitions, the city is deploying more than 10,000 sensors to monitor everything from garbage collection to crime to air quality. [Read More...](#)

The Reading Brain in the digital age: The Science of paper versus screens

E-readers and tablets are becoming more popular as such technologies improve, but research suggests that reading on paper still boasts unique advantages. [Read More...](#)

If you want to be 'uber-rich', you will need to earn \$668,700

An income of \$210,100 per year makes you ultra-rich, an income of \$688,700 makes you uber-rich. [Read More...](#)

How the Internet is boosting marriage rates

Real Time Economics's Brenda Cronin points to a new discussion paper (pdf) arguing that Internet access is halting the drop in marriage rates among young people. [Read More...](#)

China emerges as new force in drone warfare

China's move into large-scale drone deployment displays its military's growing sophistication and could challenge U.S. military dominance in the Asia-Pacific. [Read More...](#)

Global report: Obesity bigger health crisis than hunger

Obesity is a bigger health crisis globally than hunger, and the leading cause of disabilities around the world, according to a new report published Thursday in the British medical journal The Lancet. [Read More...](#)



[Top of the page](#)

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