

# EMERGENT FUTURES



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## End-September 2017

### Welcome to the End-September 2017 Edition of What's Emerging

Paul has blocked out a couple of weeks during the school holidays to focus on book writing while still being around for his step children. So no outside work engagements to comment on. Paul will be regularly publishing posts from the book on [Medium](#) during this time so go there and follow him if you want to be notified of updates.

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's has written a new bog post: [The Future of Food : No Advertising?](#) On how Technology and information will increasingly determine our consumer product choices and change the way food and other consumable goods are marketed, distributed, and sold. Paul has also put up his presentation from The Techspo Conference in Western Australia from the week before last. You can see the presentation and read the summary [Here](#).

### Business Tips

Post a boarding pass on Facebook, get your account stolen

A timely reminder of how easy it is for hackers if you give them certain information, even accidentally [Read More...](#)

Hemingway App makes your writing bold and clear.

Paul: have been using this app to make my writing tighter and more readable. It has been fantastic. Writing 1500 or so words each day and then the next morning pass it through the app a couple of hundred words a day. Points out where sentences are hard to read, overuse of passive voice, etc. Has really improved my rewrites. [Read More...](#)

Scientists agree: Coffee naps are better than coffee or naps alone

Paul: This is from a couple of years ago but very useful. I use it most days I am home and writing. I tend to have a flat spot after lunch so I have a coffee and sleep for about 20 minutes. Then I am good to go for the rest of the day. [Read More...](#)

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

[Find a fulfilling career that does good](#)

## ■ What's Emerging

### Every One Of These Endearing Parrots Will Have Its Genome Sequenced

When humans first settled in New Zealand in the 13th century, they found a wonderland of strange creatures—including a green, bumbling parrot with the face of an owl and the mien of an old gentleman. Now DNA sequencing is giving them hope. [Read More...](#)

### Ford disguised a man as a car seat to research self-driving

Yes, you read that correctly: Ford put a man in a car seat disguise so that a Ford Transit could masquerade as a true self-driving vehicle. Why? To evaluate how passers-by, other drivers on the road and cyclists reacted to sharing the road with an autonomous vehicle. This may seem a little silly but how people interact with driverless vehicles is a big technical issue. Will they walk in front of them to test them, or drive towards them to do the same. Or climb on them for a ride? [Read More...](#)

### Record-breaking Hornsea Two wind farm will cut cost of green energy

The world's biggest offshore wind farm will be built in British waters at a fraction of the price of the Hinkley Point nuclear plant in a breakthrough for the renewable energy technology. Another great story in the phenomenal reduction in renewable energy costs. [Read More...](#)

### Automated Drone Maker Airobotics Nails Down Funding from Prominent Investors

Airobotics, an Israel-based maker of fully automated industrial drones, has completed a \$32.5 million funding round led by BlueRun Ventures China, as well as Microsoft Ventures, OurCrowd.com and another strategic investor. Paul: I spoke about this in Western Australia two weeks ago. They are operating in mining operations there. [Read More...](#)

### Knox Grammar mothers sue each other for defamation over WeChat comments

Two mothers at one of Sydney's top private schools are suing each other for defamation after posting comments about each other on the instant messaging app WeChat. An interesting case which will test the boundaries of defamation law. [Read More...](#)

### The Washington Post's robot reporter has published 850 articles in the past year

It's been a year since The Washington Post started using its homegrown artificial intelligence technology, Heliograf, to spit out around 300 short reports and alerts on the Rio Olympics. It has proved more accurate than human reporters doing the same reports. [Read More...](#)

### This weird 'organic' battery tech claiming to charge an EV in 5 mins raises \$60 million led by Daimler

Israel-based startup StoreDot has been making waves in the battery world for the past few years. Lots of announcements in this space. Many of them crash and burn. This one will be interesting to watch. [Read More...](#)

### Deutsche Bank plans to replace a "big number" of workers with robots

Deutsche Bank CEO John Cryan said a "big number" of employees will eventually lose their jobs as technology makes their roles obsolete, according to the Financial Times (paywall). [Read More...](#)

### A Bionic Lens Undergoing Clinical Trials Could Give You Superhuman Abilities In Two Years

Maybe you watched Ghost in the Shell and maybe afterwards you and your friend had a conversation about whether or not you would opt in for some bionic upgrades if that was possible - like a liver that could let you drink unlimitedly or an eye that could give you superhuman vision. [Read More...](#)

## The X-Spect scanner reads the makeup of fabric and fruit

A representative from Bosch held the X-Spect scanner against my shirt for a few seconds. "Cotton" read the small screen on the handheld device. Close. It was actually linen. "Same molecular structure," said the rep. Part of a concept demonstration that can link scanning to the operation of your machines. [Read More...](#)

## Teens and their screens: Are we raising a generation of unhappy, non-resilient adolescents?

Teens are driving less, starting to drink alcohol later, and having sex later. Sounds good, right? I found this weird. We worry about teenagers risk taking behaviour and then when it reduces we worry about that. [Read More...](#)

## A Stanford Neuroscientist is Working to Create Wireless Cyborg Eyes for the Blind

For the nearly two million Americans who have degenerative eye conditions, the ability to see is anything but a guarantee. Now there is early hope. [Read More...](#)

## Government moves on new equity crowdfunding regime: Five things startups need to know

Australian startups and small businesses will soon be able to raise money through equity crowdfunding, with the introduction of new legislation into Federal Parliament on Thursday. An important development for raising funds. [Read More...](#)

## Chinese robot carries out world's first fully automated dental implant

TA woman just played host to the world's first fully-automated dental implant procedure. A Chinese robot implanted artificial teeth into her mouth with no human assistance, according to a report in South China Morning Post. [Read More...](#)

## Pumped hydro storage 'could make Australia run on renewable energy alone within 20 years'

Australia has the capacity to store up to 1,000 times more renewable energy than it could ever conceivably need, according to an analysis by researchers at the Australian National University (ANU). [Read More...](#)

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