

# EMERGENT FUTURES



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## What's Emerging December 2017

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2017.

We will now be taking a short break from the newsletter and will be back with our first edition for 2018 at the end of January.

Coming up next year:

Paul and Chris will be publishing Rise of the Autobots – How driverless cars will transform our economies and our communities. March 31st is the target date.

In the new year Paul will be working with a group of tourism operators on mapping the future of tourism, presenting to three different conferences on the future of agriculture, and presenting to a community services group on the future for not for profit organisations. Paul will also be presenting a keynote to the [Communities in Control Conference](#) in May. He will also be working with Leadership Victoria on several leadership programs, including one with the Victorian Taxi Commission.

Several other projects are currently in various stages of negotiation. We will notify you of them as they firm up.

We hope all our readers have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to thinking about the future with you in 2018.

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 has written a series of new posts that are emerging from his book writing with Chris Rice:

[What is Shell Playing at? What is the Shell electric charging investment strategy?](#) and [Gaming the Safety of Self Driving Cars - Why intermediate levels of automation don't work](#) and [Driverless Cars and Country Road Deaths - How do we apply the technology where the fatalities are?](#)

These are all partner posts with Medium. Paul has now unlocked all of his post permanently so you can access them for free. Paul has also opened a creator page at Patreon where you can get early access to book chapters and other rewards if you support his writing. Go to [his page at Patreon](#) if you want to support him

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## ■ Business Tips

### Chrome Can Search Your Bookmarks With This Hidden Feature

If you find yourself drowning in an ocean of unorganized bookmarks, then Chrome's bookmark manager has one or two tricks that may help. One is the option to search through your bookmarked pages right from the browser's address bar at the top of the interface. [Read More...](#)

### Keeping Data Secure When Your Laptop Is in the Shop

For the security of the data on the drive, you can lock up personal folders that you would like to keep private with encryption software. [Read More...](#)

### Behavior hacks to avoid your worst money impulses

Paul: I am a big fan of Dan Ariely's work in general. Some useful tips here. Some very simple but do we do them? [Read More...](#)

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

### [My Favourite Writing Tools](#)

## ■ What's Emerging

### South Australia's Tesla battery called on a day ahead of schedule as hot weather takes hold

South Australia's giant Tesla battery has begun dispatching stored wind power into the electricity grid a day ahead of its scheduled switch-on. [Read More...](#)

### It's been 25 years since the first-ever text message and the kids are alright

Sometimes a full stop in a text is simply the end of a sentence. Other times, it can signify crossed wires, an angry boyfriend or a pile of dirty dishes left in the sink. [Read More...](#)

### Bitcoin Mining Guzzles Energy—And Its Carbon Footprint Just Keeps Growing

Some crazy predictions have Bitcoin mining consuming more energy than the whole planet uses by 2020 if current trends continue. [Read More...](#)

### Optimus Ride will provide self-driving vehicles to Boston community residents

A new partnership between autonomous driving startup Optimus Ride and real estate developer LStar Ventures will see self-driving vehicle access offered up to residents of a new urban development near Boston called Union Point, via a revenue generating last mile commuter and local destination autonomous travel service. [Read More...](#)

### Duck-like dinosaur with crocodile teeth and clawed flippers so 'peculiar' researchers thought it was fake

With a bill like a duck but teeth like a crocodile, a swanlike neck and killer claws, a new dinosaur species uncovered by scientists looks like something Dr Seuss could have dreamed up.

[Read More...](#)

### NVIDIA Introduces Titan V For Machine Learning Acceleration On The PC

NVIDIA created the "TITAN" line of products years ago to represent "the best" of everything the company brings to the PC platform. This GPU is a continuation of the amazing increase in capacity NVIDIA has provided over the last few years. [Read More...](#)

### Moody's Warns Cities to Address Climate Risks or Face Downgrades

Coastal communities from Maine to California have been put on notice from one of the top credit rating agencies: Start preparing for climate change or risk losing access to cheap credit. Finance markets and insurance companies will build risk into housing well before the politicians get onboard fully. [Read More...](#)

## Australia is now home to the world's first blockchain-based stock exchange

The Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) said today (Dec. 7) that it would use blockchain to clear and settle trades, becoming the world's first mainstream equity market to employ the technology behind bitcoin for its core services. [Read More...](#)

## This Laser-Toting Tentacle Carves Up Old Nuclear Hardware

A remotely controlled writhing robotic arm is being used to cut through thick metal in hostile environments. What could possibly go wrong. [Read More...](#)

## Groundbreaking empirical research shows where innovation really comes from

Breaking down barriers for underrepresented kids could quadruple America's pool of inventors. Paul: This applies all over the world. It is one of the reasons I support 100 Story Building in Melbourne through Social Venture Partners Melbourne. Giving kids more opportunity benefits us all. [Read More...](#)

## The AI Guru Behind Amazon, Uber, and Unity Explains What AI Really Is

Computers aren't conscious, but they can now think for themselves, says Danny Lange, who's built machine-learning platforms for three tech giants. [Read More...](#)

## Global Warming's Worst-Case Projections Look Increasingly Likely

A new study based on satellite observations finds that temperatures could rise nearly 5 °C by the end of the century. [Read More...](#)

## Amazon is working on a self-dismantling drone to keep you safe

As companies and governments around the world test drone deliveries, turning the slightly unnerving prospect of heavily-loaded unmanned machines flying over your head into an approaching reality, Amazon is preparing for the worst. [Read More...](#)

## Revealed: Mayor's plans to pedestrianise London's Oxford Street next year

Radical plans to pedestrianise Oxford Street are set to get underway next year to provide a traffic-free space in central London in time for the full launch of Elizabeth Line services.

[Read More...](#)

## Saudi Arabia Plans to Raise Gas Prices by 80% in January

Saudi Arabia plans to raise domestic gasoline and jet fuel prices in January, part of a program to gradually eliminate energy subsidies as the kingdom seeks to overhaul its economy and balance the budget, according to a person with knowledge of the matter. [Read More...](#)

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