

FLYING TAXIS

Everyone's fantasy of a world with traffic snarls may finally be realised say proponents of the burgeoning flying taxi industry taking shape around a hybrid of a taxi and a drone. A VTOL (Vertical Take Off and Landing aircraft). All that on-the-ground effort in making self-driving cars and electric vehicles will have flying taxis off-the-ground in the next four years. Yes, they're definitely coming. In the US flying taxi investment, now \$2 billion will grow to \$25 billion by 2025 and \$328 billion by 2040. NASA has defined urban air mobility or UAM as "a safe and efficient system for air passenger and cargo transportation".

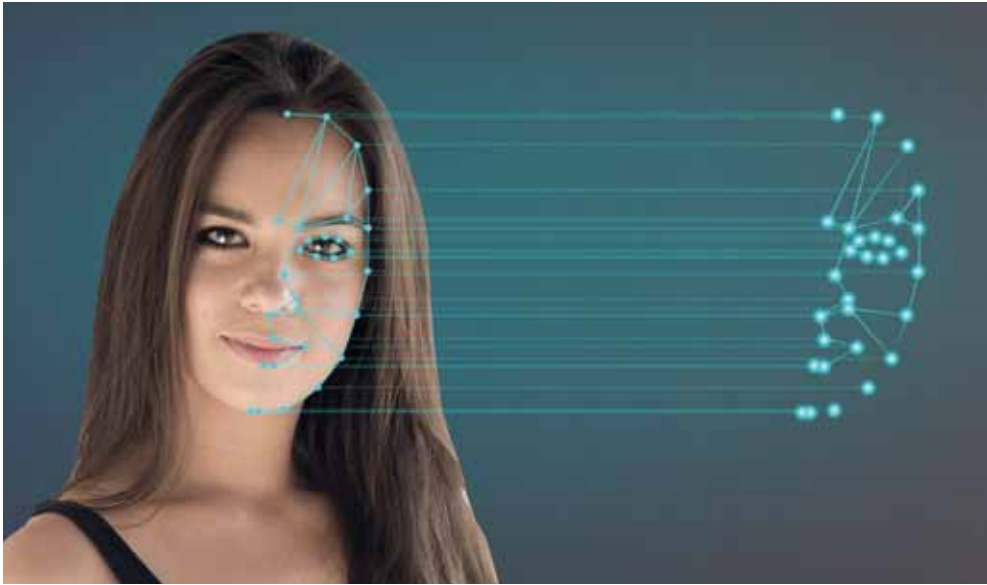


This year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas drew 180,000 attendees that wanted to know what the technology future holds for humanity. Five key themes were evident at CES this year and Jon Mamonski was there to find out



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

Technology now plays a crucial part in not only growing our food but in changing the food that we eat. Meat burgers are being replaced by identically tasting plant burgers that have virtually no greenhouse emissions. New tech fridges can tell us how long items have been in there and when we're running out. And if we have food we don't know how to cook, we can ask Google or Alexa for directions. If that's not enough, a Japanese company, Open Meals is experimenting with 3D printed food that's customised to you taste.



THAT FACE

Thanks to recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI), recognition of images and faces has improved markedly. Facial recognition is being used for everything from security to unlock your phone, to identifying criminals and medical applications such as helping Alzheimer patients identify their loved ones. To acknowledge the positive possibilities is also to understand the controversies that surround facial recognition – especially public surveillance. Controversy is nothing new to the tech industry which has long thought through the best way to incorporate contentious tech for a better world.

Provincial Media, publisher of *Geelong + Surf Coast Living* magazine, and our Tech journalist Jon Mamonski were deeply honoured when Jon was chosen to be an international judge for the 2020 World Consumer Electronics Show Innovation Awards and the only Australian on the team. With more than 20 years experience in keeping abreast of, analysing and reviewing, Jon was chosen for his expertise on the world technology.

# The future is now



TRACKING YOUR HEALTH

Right now, more than 300 million people are using wearable devices (usually fitness and smart watches) for health and wellness tracking. Digital health is disrupting the health care market. Increasingly, we are willing to share our physical health data with our doctor and are becoming more engaged in our health care. For mental health the brilliance of technology is that it provides greater privacy, a sense of anonymity where patients can seek treatment from the comfort of their own home when they need it, rather than scheduling an appointment and waiting in an open clinic.

ROBOTS REPORTING FOR DUTY

Move over transactional robot machines and welcome a loving and caring robot like Lovot a CES Innovation Award winner (left). LOVOTs have lots of functions, all aimed at bringing out people's loving side. LOVOTs recognise the face of someone who loves them and will want to get closer for more hugs. LOVOTs interact with you as though they're alive, recognising your face and posture and responding with some of their own. They detect objects – even in a cluttered room – and move without bumping into things. So your favourite vase (or balloon) is safe. How much you ask? About the same price as a purebred dog – \$3500 with no food or







CES Innovation Awards

# The winners



## THE WORLD'S FASTEST AND COOLEST PHONE

ASUS has created the fastest and coolest new mobile – the ROG Phone II, using the world's best Snapdragon 855 Plus engine, 8GB RAM, a long-lasting 6000mAh battery, the GameCool II cooling system and the first ultrafast AMOLED 10-bit HDR 6.59" display creating the ultimate mobile video and gaming phone. There are some ripper accessories like slide-on game controllers, docks and extra screens. Available now from a remarkably affordable \$799 with a really cool cover.



## ONE NOTEBOOK – TWO SCREENS

ZenBook's 15-inch Pro Duo by ASUS is a groundbreaking laptop for professional content creation. It features the innovative ASUS ScreenPad Plus, a revolutionary full-width secondary touchscreen above the keyboard that expands multitasking and content creating capabilities.



## SMART GLASSES

Norm Glasses are everyday AR smart glasses that appear indistinguishable from normal sunglasses, featuring an android based OS, Alexa and Google voice assist, dual speakers, a camera and a head-up display that can show digital content in your field of view. Weighing less than 36 grams they can be worn comfortably all day long. All common lenses on the market are supported, including prescription, photochromatic and polarised lenses that can be changed by a local optometrist. From \$518 on Indiegogo.



## SINUS RELIEF

ClearUP Sinus Pain Relief is a game-changing treatment for sinus pain due to allergies. This small, hand-held device is the first to use gentle microcurrent waveforms to reduce allergy-related sinus pain and is clinically proven and FDA cleared. To use, simply glide the tip along the outside of the cheek, nasal bone and under the brow bone for a quick five-minute treatment. Hopefully in Australia before Christmas. \$199.



## ALMOST INDESTRUCTIBLE SMART WATCH

China's biggest phone and smartwatch maker introduced the new Amazfit T-Rex at CES. The Amazfit T-Rex passed 12 military grade certifications, ensuring its robustness and resistance to harsh environments. A new circuit design advances low power-consumption to give a longer battery life of either 7 days (display always on) or 20 days without. There's 4 colour design options and will sell for the remarkably affordable price of \$AU199. [www.en.amazfit.com](http://www.en.amazfit.com).



## ROLL-UP 65-INCH LG OLED TV

The LG Signature 65RX is a revolutionary rollable OLED 4K TV with a screen that can roll out for viewing and roll back down when not in use. Full View rolls out the display, Line View minimizes the display, but still gives access to weather, time and music. Zero View offers music control, even as the display disappears. Expect to pay in the order of \$59,000 when it turns up later this year.



## BEST EAR BUDS FROM NUHEARA

Introducing IQbuds2 MAX Hearables and the IQstream TV Audio TV streamer bundle – the world's first TV Streamer and hearables combination that delivers personalised high-fidelity and optional TV listening. IQbuds2 MAX has Ear ID that learns and adapts to your hearing profile, delivers real world hearing customisation and a best-of-class audio listening experience with Audio Noise Cancelling (ANC) and are designed by Australians to deliver a significantly more advanced experience than just a good music listening and hands-free phone calls.

## ALSO MAKING A SPLASH AT CES



## ANY LANGUAGE ANYWHERE

Pop the earpiece over your ear and the other for the person you want to talk to and away you go. Ambassador Interpreter is a sleek and specially designed over-the-ear interpreter engineered to translate speech with higher accuracy than any other tool on the market. From training to travel, groups to solo, the Ambassador allows you to have smooth conversations free from the constraints of language barriers. Ideal for professionals and travelers of all backgrounds. On Indiegogo for \$199.



## MOBILE PHONE THAT'S TOUGH AS NAILS

Yes, Telstra was at CES and introduced a new phone that's almost indestructible. The new Tough Max 3 has military-grade IP68 water and dust resistance, an immersion rating of 1.5 metres for 30 minutes, 3.920mAh battery power and packs all the mod-cons, including fingerprint sensor, USB-C charging and NFC. The Tough Max 3 is available now for \$499 outright and on our 24- or 36-month repayment options on plans at an extra \$20.79 or \$13.86 per month (plus plan costs) respectively.

## GEELONG'S EXPERTS IN GAMING

BEST PRICES ON GAMING LAPTOPS AND CUSTOM DESKTOPS

Windows 10



Western Digital



PC Specification  
CPU PROCESSOR Intel® Core™ i5 9400F – 6 Cores  
CPU COOLING Intel Stock Cooler  
OPERATING SYSTEM Win 10 Home DVD  
MOTHERBOARD Gigabyte Prime B360M-H  
MEMORY TEAM 8G DDR4  
SSD Samsung 500G SSD  
Monitor None  
WIRELESS LAN None

LAN 100/1000 Gigabit Lan  
GRAPHICS Gigabyte GTX1660Ti-6G OC  
CASE Thermaltake L20MT ARGB ATX  
POWER SUPPLY Thermaltake 750W Lite PSU  
AUDIO Sound On board HD Audio  
Keyboard & Mouse None  
SOFTWARE Google Chrome I Acrobat Reader

FIGHT TILL DAYLIGHT **\$2450**  
ASUS ROG Strix Scar 3

GAMING RIGS FROM **\$1349**  
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