

Received the package, yes, thanks and read the questions although that's the only document I have opened.

I understand that yes. I consent yes. I will yes.

David Blackall. I am a Senior Lecturer in Journalism. My speciality is filmmaking. I have made quite a number of films and some of those have been broadcast and others have been in the cinema and festivals and this and that.

I also write some academic papers and occasionally broadcast news and affairs on ABC TV. I have a PhD in ethics and law of filmmaking, around informed consent and that sort of thing and that was quite an interesting process to inform my film making and of course my teaching.

I have probably arrived at this point through largely through my Son, Leigh Blackall who is very much into online networked learning and Wiki News was one that we used in a project, a couple of projects through last year, throughout last year over two sessions where I obliged students requirements by writing and publishing with the peer review that goes with WikiNews, news stories and that we changed the face of the actual Wiki News for a period of time because I would actively encourage the to write certain types of stories, world issues stories and showed the, how to source information and including WikiLeaks about and to inform those stories.

That's how I guess we have arrived at this situation, to the best of my knowledge.

I am happy yes thanks yes. Well it means, I have a fairly basic assumption that's perhaps its a device, a computer obviously for various purposes that could be for locating you in the wilderness right through to assisting you documenting satellite points on the ground surface and and you have the computer embedded or integrated into your clothing, so you wear it, rather than strapping it on your wear it and it has a number of functions including as a garment and you have other devices I guess built into the wearable garment if you want to call it that.

Well I go back the other way and perhaps body worn are those that a surgeon, the extreme of that would be devices that as surgically embedded under your skin. Goodness knows, there's a whole lot of extremes that one could think of whereas something that you wear is perhaps integrated into a garment or some sort of functional thing that enables you to have hands free and very much the military would be addressing such things. Police, military in funding technology to try and get these devices very much embedded in the clothing that perhaps a soldier would wear including solar panels and perhaps other intelligent polymer applications such as the ability to change colour for camouflage purposes into that contexts a whole computer that is built to serve that particular operation.

No I don't I am just thinking aloud that's all. I have never been involved. Unfortunately, it sounds very interesting but no I've never been involved in such things.

Oh...for my own filmmaking I just like a 1960's hand held approach, no lights and that sort of thing so its minimal technology to keep gadgetry out of it and that is my style in a way but I am aware of lots of technology that people can use, you know like high definition cameras that sit on top of helmets and that sort of thing but I just, I am not into that and so I am aware of them but I am not into using them.

Oh well of course the privacy and the invasive aspects such as used by paparazzi whenever they can is a problem and the better the technology gets the more invasive it can be and of course you have the State who will be, well it already is of course using such technologies mounted on drones and goodness knows what to invade one's privacy as well as skimming off information via technology such as Google or whatever.

It really comes down too law and an ethical approach as to how these technologies are deployed and I'm afraid we are in for some rather sinister times because of the growth of such technologies and the ability for them to be used invasively without the subject even knowing that they are nearby.

I suppose again I would sort start to use the military metaphor if you like because in many ways, again I am just shooting off the top of my head but ultimately military are the main funders of such research and development in such areas. A locally enabled piece of technology might have a whole lot of maps and grid systems to enable the operator to be very familiar with the terrain because of the satellite located and depending on what the operation was but you would have preset technologies to enable you much more than you would without such technology.

If it is very cold you might have some, as I've mentioned before, you might have some embedded in a jacket to make things easier on one and better able to operate in such conditions, its purpose built for that location taking into account temperature perhaps whether its very wet or whether its very dry and even your ability to detect and put on a mask to block out gases that are designed to kill you.

I am not aware of them but I can envisage how they would be used, for instance I used to teach biology and a lot of that involved field trips so you could have a whole batch of embedded technology into these jackets that every student wears that enables them to test PH levels and test carbon levels in the soil or whatever, water retention in soils comparing them to other soils and so forth and so you could have a very handy thing with the complete particular field trip and all the

knowledge that is needed and all the techniques and the assignments essentially embedded into the thing that each student wears but that's just the beginning I suppose of how you could use those sort of technologies in such field location...it could apply in how to teach surveyors I'd imagine and people who are involved in, such as engineers or miners or, well you know mining companies could do with such equipment to save them time and keep their whole operation, enabling it to keep going no matter what the weather and so forth.

Ah...well very little for the sort of thing I do but I do quite a bit of bushwalking. I mean I have tried to use to GPS coordinates on my smart phone but it just doesn't work obviously even though it's supposedly got satellite connection it just doesn't work and often tells me I am in a location I know I am not in so it has a long way to get us to be that smart.

In the bush it's a long way from mobile phone towers that are often blocked by trees, cliffs and stuff so I guess it has something to do with the triangulation and all that sort of thing but it would be wonderful in that sort of context to have something that was truly reliable and when a phone call comes through its sort of answers it for you because it knows you are there and you just talk.

You don't have to hit a button to say yes answer or not it just works because your hands are busy doing something else like climbing rugged terrain or something but coming back to learning I think that those of things in the field would be ideal for all sorts of learning that takes place outside in the field where you really wait real the whole interaction you make it real because you are there in the field and you can run tests or whatever as part of the learning process and the feedback is instant and in response to the learning environment is instant and, interactive with other people who may be a couple of valleys away or something.

Well you could have in my area of journalism you could have a kind of David Vertoff kind of roving keno-microbes where you actually sort of have camera operators that are at an event or some huge event it would be to justify the numbers and they are all filming different aspects of the event. You know a football match would be one but also riots or even war where you have people who are live or in contact with each other as good as the military and there enabled technology allows them to communicate and say who should be doing what and so it coordinates everything and you could actually have that as a lesson.

If you have a lot of money of course in teaching people to use the technologies as they film so that they don't get distracted by having to sort of answer the phone they can continue instead to film or take instructions or guidance or whatever while they are actually filming, they don't have to take their hands off it but I don't know. You just have to use your imagination and you could apply it

everywhere...but rest assured it will be the military who invents them first and uses them first.

No I haven't but maybe if you could jog my memory. Yes well I have heard about them and actually you can have iris control too so your hands are free and thumbs and everything is free of having to operate the thing because your eyes tell it what to do and so you don't even have to talk which could be a problem in some situations and of course if you are recording with a camera that would be a problem as a journalist, like a kind of roving video journalist but the military situation they don't want to talk either in a field doing anything you must not talk.

That's assuming that everything is going to keep marching on progressing nicely, but it won't. There will be wars for a start and we may not have a society that is able to afford such things and there might be many societies of different levels depending on where they are and how much they might have been affected by war or natural disasters or whatever and so I don't know. I would rather sort of say that there will be a lot of people who will not be able to access these technologies and they already are but there's going to be more because it's not going to be a utopia.

There's going to be a lot of people who won't be able to access them and therefore they won't have power so it will remain in the hands of the powerful I guess. Yes, who knows I mean, obviously it's going to get better and better technology wise and actual links are going to be better supposedly with the national broadband network but ultimately there could be other things that throw a spanner in the works such as world economic meltdown...there aren't really energy companies or at least companies enabled to continue to produce electricity even.

There might be some sort of crisis in that respect so I really think it is impossible to predict and just keep on keeping on and whilst it's there while you can use it, you develop things, you do creative things, you do creative design to make really giant leaps forward but then you get a whole lot of leaps back because there is some disaster that is meaning that everything slows down again such as the 2008 crisis many people will continue to suffer from that and they will be unable or excluded from such technologies.

Well of course I think one area that might have spoken about is the ethics of all of this. There needs to be very strict guidelines and laws and there is a whole lot of debate about whether Australia should have a privacy tort of some sort.

I think that yes, there certainly needs to be a lot more discussion because while we are boldly marching on with such technologies there needs to be or have clear guidelines as to how it's used.

Oh both but it doesn't really matter. Any one of these technologies are capable of being very intrusive and used by the state for instance to skim off data that otherwise people would rather it didn't know about, that which is private and so.

Then that depends on how that is used...whether it is used to blackmail people or arrest people just take them out and disappear them forever or control them even with propaganda and basically that is what the mainstream media is doing very well at the moment in the west particularly, but invasive devices need to be constantly discussed and guidelines need to be rewritten to take them into account and I'm afraid that is not done and there is always the potential for a lot of these things are being done at the moment and we don't know about them.

We will know about them in years to come perhaps and some of them perhaps in some court pestered by some civil action perhaps. There is an ethical dilemma there because this is the thing, who decides?

Is it the those people who have the technology and the education that decide, well no and they are only as powerful as they are while they hold that technology until one day things turn, but this is why I think there needs to be constant dialogue and there is not throughout the world with respect to the way in which these technologies can be used and increasingly we see it in the UK and the US particularly but I am sure there are plenty of examples here that we don't know about yet as to the state using such technologies in ways that are inappropriate to the way we understand our democracies to work.

Every which way you look the media should be doing it and in much more informed and sensible ways. They just go on gimmick trips and expose the things that are appealing and in an infotainment way and the debate is not had but that is really the media's role because the media should be bringing all of these forms ranging from courts, parliament to what we are taking about into a public arena to save the people actually having to do it themselves but I am afraid the media doesn't do that anymore, don't know if it ever did but less and less is the media playing that role.

Ok...you are welcome. Thanks and I look forward to the transcript. Maybe I won't! I hope I was coherent enough. I am about to find out when I receive the transcript.