

CYBERNETICS, AI, AND LIBRARIES

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Australian
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A wide-angle photograph of a lush green park. In the foreground, a large, mature weeping willow tree with long, drooping branches frames the left side of the image. The ground is covered in vibrant green grass. In the middle ground, a paved path winds through the park, with a wooden bench and a person sitting on it. Another person is walking on the path to the right. The background features more trees, some with yellowing leaves, and a building with a blue roof. The sky is bright and slightly overcast.

Acknowledgement of Country



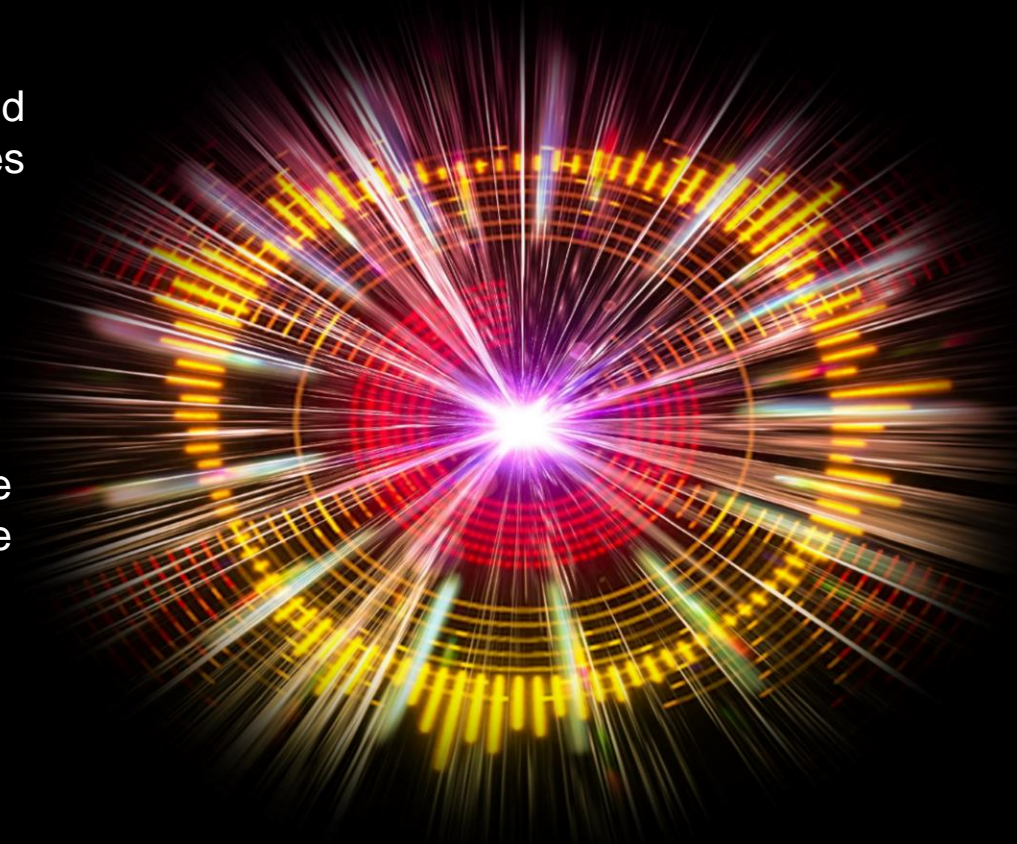
Agenda

Cybernetics, AI, and
Libraries

AI Stories

The Thing from the
Future

Conversation with
Ingrid Mason and
Alex Zafiroglu



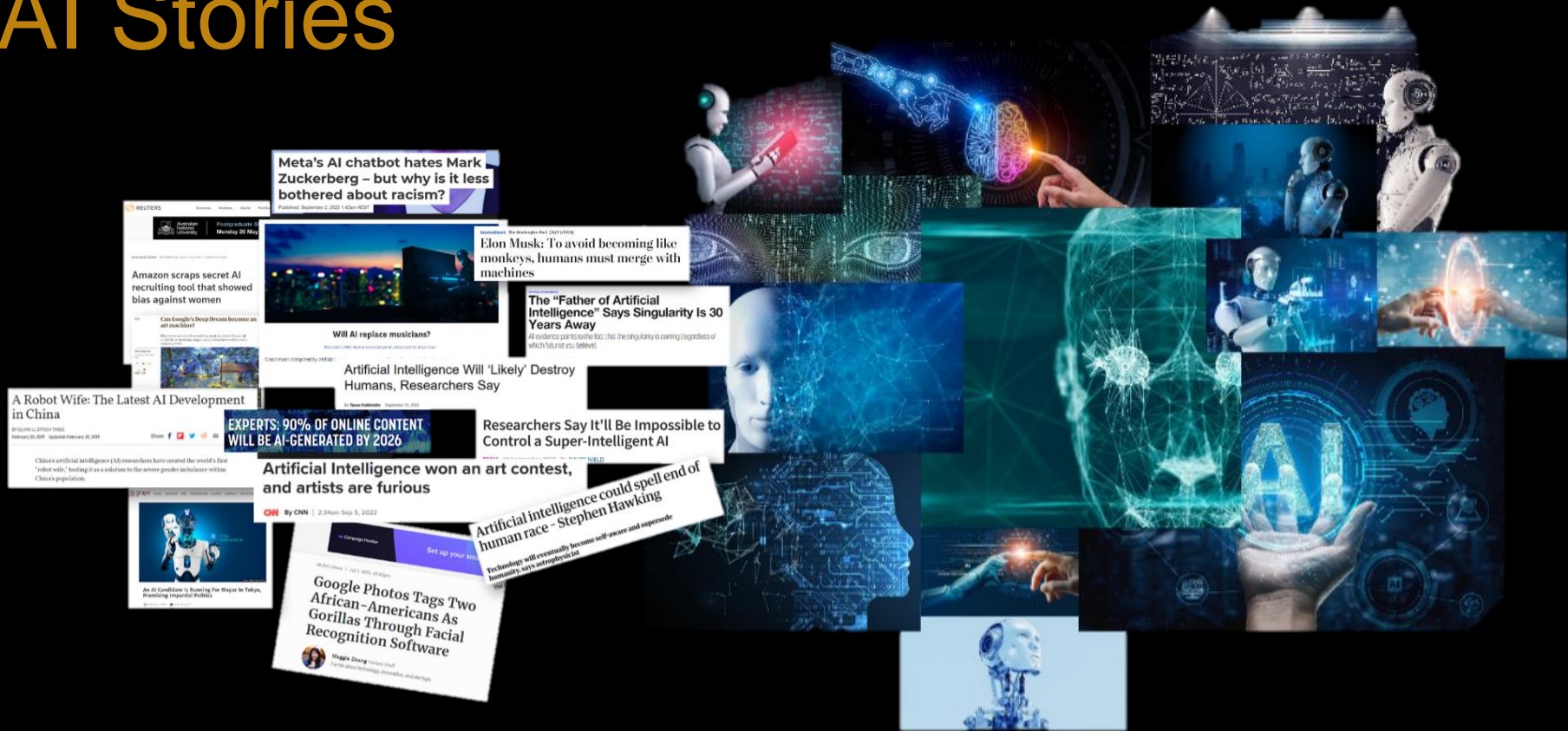
How do you feel about the future of AI?



Cybernetics, AI, and Libraries



AI Stories



AI Stories: Magnifica Emerges from the Web



AI Stories: Magnifica Emerges from the Web



into catalogue records, which can then be searched by people like Grange.

Having found the map, Grange picked his way through a series of additional clues scattered through oral histories, handwritten letters, and photographs from the area, also made accessible by AI. One notable find was a 1923 letter from Ms Dymphna Marston to her

For all his enthusiasm about the new technology, though, Grange, a Wurundjeri man, is ambivalent about the map that set him on his journey. “When I saw those words [orchid, stony soil], I got so excited” he said. “But then I zoomed out, and all I could see was someone cutting up our country, taking it for themselves.”

Grange’s discovery marks a small bright spot in an otherwise dark year for Australian biodiversity. Three endemic Australian species that were living before colonisation in 1788 have been listed as extinct in 2023, taking the total tally to 122. “I reckon it’s only a matter of time before there are more flowers in the library than the bush,” said Grange.

by the AI as a ‘native flower’.

“It notices things and connections we don’t,” said Grange. “It found that same damn tree again in an oral history with a local done after the 1985 bushfires. Poor bloke. Lost most of his farm, but all he wanted to talk about was how Avoca’s one tree hill kept standing. I’m pleased it did, ‘cos I followed it all the way.”

ich contained a fragile
e other than the caladenia
tailed description of
n she spent walking
e found the bud nestled
Ms Marston’s letter
a small, grainy Kodak
of her and her friends
stance. The same tree was
ground of several photos
alking Club in 1982,
g flash of red annotated



AI Stories: Magnifica Emerges from the Web



The thing from the future

In an AI-enabled future, there is a _____
related to _____. What is it?



In an AI-enabled future there is a journal related to engagement. What is it?

In conversation with Alex Zafiroglu and Ingrid Mason



Questions and comments for Alex and Ingrid

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New

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