

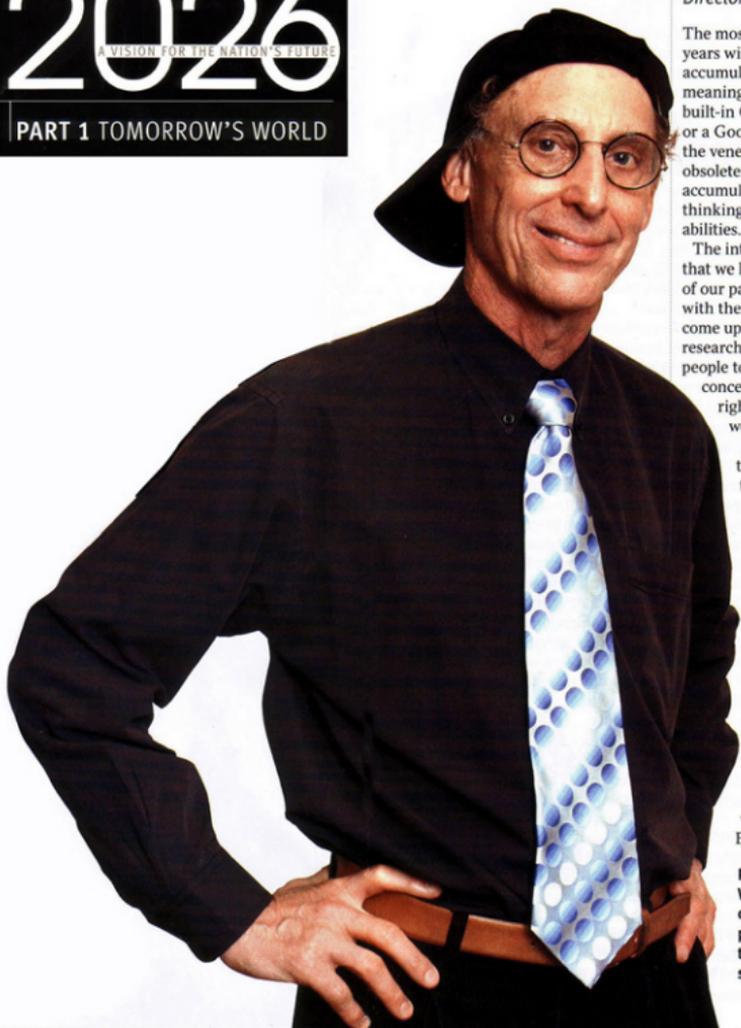


THE AUSTRALIAN

2026

A VISION FOR THE NATION'S FUTURE

PART 1 TOMORROW'S WORLD



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The most profound change in the next 20 years will be that knowledge, the mere accumulation of facts, will have almost no meaning. In 2026, everyone will have a built-in Google – like a chip in the brain or a Google wristwatch – so quiz shows, the veneration of memorising, will be obsolete. We'll be hiring people not for their accumulation of knowledge, but for their thinking patterns and problem-solving abilities.

The intrinsic bottleneck to creativity is that we look at the world through the filter of our past experiences. That makes us fast with the familiar, but it blocks the ability to come up with new ways of doing things. Our research at the Centre for the Mind allows people to momentarily, artificially, turn off the conceptual left side of the brain and use the right side to see things as they are, not as we preconceive them to be.

By 2026, ordinary people will be able to use these techniques to enhance their problem-solving abilities.

Our research into creativity has shown that many people who suffer manic depression, bipolar disorder and some forms of schizophrenia may be highly creative because inadvertently they experience a convulsion allowing the right hemisphere to become more dominant.

We will have exquisite ways to impart the champion mindset to everybody and an ability to measure how well you are absorbing it. Each of us is unique, but our school system currently favours those who learn quickly, not the people who will change how we think – the Einsteins, the Freuds.

PREDICTION

We will use "thinking caps" that turn off the part of the brain that imposes preconceptions, allowing us to see the world as it is, and access other skills.