



## MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Legendary futurist and global inventor Raymond Kurzweil to visit Australia for Creative Innovation 2011, a major 3 day event looking at the challenges of doing business and governing in a super-connected digital world.

Ray Kurzweil is one of the world's leading inventors. He's been recognised by 3 US Presidents and predicts that by 2020 the first true Artificial Intelligence will exist. He says by 2029 computers will be capable of learning and creating new knowledge without any human help and by 2029 most communication will be between humans and machines – not humans to humans.

He says Artificial Intelligence will be the smartest and most capable life form on Earth and machines will have the ability to communicate, think and act so quickly that humans will not be able to keep up. His amazing predictions surprise people. So far 89 out of 108 of his predictions have been entirely correct.

Over 35 world class international and Australian speakers are involved in this huge event.

Ray Kurzweil – the global inventor, author and legendary futurist – will be in Melbourne in November for Creative Innovation 2011, an international 3 day event that will look at the challenges of doing business and governing in a super-connected digital world.

Over 35 world class international and Australian speakers will address the event – Creative Innovation 2011 – which has been put together by award winning social entrepreneur and Founder/Executive Producer Tania de Jong AM.

A percentage of any profits from the event will be put towards Creativity Australia's "With One Voice" program, which supports disadvantaged people and inspires people to find their voice. Tania de Jong says the event will emphasise the fact that creativity is the strategic tool of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Ray Kurzweil has been called "The restless genius" by the Wall Street Journal and is one of the top 10 entrepreneurs in the US. He is famous for his countless inventions and amazingly accurate predictions. He is widely regarded as one of the leading inventors of our time.

He predicts that from 2020 a computer will become the first true Artificial Intelligence. Ray predicts that by 2029 computers will be capable of learning and creating new knowledge on their own and without any human help.

Ray says that by 2029 most communication will be done between human and machines and not human to human. He also predicts that by 2045, \$1,000 will buy a computer that is a billion times more intelligent than every human being combined. He says that by 2019 humans will begin to have deep relationships with automated personalities (machines), which hold some advantages over human partners.

Ray Kurzweil's most famous invention was the first reading machine for the blind – the first customer was legendary hit maker Stevie Wonder. In 1999 he received the National Medal of Technology, the USA's highest honor in technology, from President Clinton.

By 2099 he predicts that humans and machines will merge together – physically and mentally. He says individual beings (humans and machines) will constantly be merging together and separating – making it impossible to determine how many "people" there are on Earth. As a result of the constant merging, there will no longer be any clear distinctions between humans and machines.

He also predicts that by 2099 machines will have attained equal legal status with humans. Also by 2099 he predicts that most conscious beings will lack a permanent physical form.

In 1990 his first book "The Age of Intelligent Machines" he accurately predicted the explosive growth of Internet usage. So far Ray Kurzweil has made 108 predictions – 89 of which have been entirely correct.

Tania de Jong said, "Having Ray Kurzweil at this event is amazing coup. This is his first visit to Australia. He will be a keynote speaker and will participate in a 'deep conversation' session. For anyone in business, or involved in managing change, this is a huge opportunity to hear about the acceleration of technology first-hand from one of the world's brightest minds."

"This event isn't just for CEOs and directors. Small and medium business will benefit. If you are in finance, health, government, banking, the arts, education or the not-for-profit sector, you cannot afford to miss this opportunity."

Creative Universe and ANZ are presenting the event. Other business identities involved legendary thinker and author Edward de Bono, British education technology guru Stephen Heppell, leading philosopher Daniel Dennett (USA), IDEO partner and Stanford Design Thinking expert Brendan Boyle and Dr Paddy Miller from Spain, who works with multinationals on change. He taught leadership at the Harvard Business School and has worked with everyone from the World Bank and Boeing to Ericsson.

The event – Creative Innovation 2011 – is being held at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins from November 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011. To find out more and register, just go to <a href="www.ci2011.com.au">www.ci2011.com.au</a>. You can also contact Baldwin Consulting Group on 03 9645 9858 or ring Creative Universe on 03 8679 6000.

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