



Community news

Erick



This Sunday is the date for the Melbourne marathon. Erick is overcoming some minor injury, so he won't be competing this year. He was planning to run as a pacer for at least 21 kilometres, and if he was up to it on the day, perhaps 35 kilometres. It is a pity for an injury to force you to run so slowly! Pacers maintain a consistent and precise pace throughout the race,

helping runners from their Club to manage their energy, avoid early burnout, and achieve their race-day goal. It is a special gift to offer another athlete. Unfortunately, there has been a death in Erick's extended family and he feels a strong need to offer emotional support, so he will go to Adelaide for a few days and miss the marathon.

Mike is heading for Hobart on Thursday to assist with a monthly Mass and sacraments for Vietnamese speaking Mass attenders..

JD is continuing his research work preparing an application for doctoral studies. This requires significant discipline

Tri will be serving as deacon at Heidelberg this Sunday. He preached at a wedding for the first time last week.

I headed to Vietnam on Wednesday to work with our formators there over four and a half days. I am due to arrive back on Thursday 16th. Denis Travers will also be in Saigon, along with Bro David Leary OFM who will be guiding us.

Jerome is going well. He had a haircut and beard trim from Erick on Monday. He wants to look good for the nurses at his medical appointment on Friday!

Chris will celebrate his 70th birthday on Wednesday 16th. He adjusted back to Melbourne time zone very quickly, then daylight saving, despite a busy week.

Brother Mark Wells is the only remaining male sibling (there were four brothers) in his family after his brother Denis, passed away on Sunday. He still has a sister who is alive. Mark will be 85 on Christmas Day. May Denis rest in peace.

Teresa Lim celebrated her birthday on Tuesday 7th. Happy Birthday Teresa.



Peter Day and Debbie Pichut

Peter and Debbie visited the Passionist house in Rome and were pleased to have Fr John Baptist to escort them around the property and explain what's what. Here they are standing in the front corridor. We look forward to hearing about their trip to London to meet young Freddie, their grandson who we prayed for over many months. They will be back on Thursday next week.



BBQ area

Some of our regular assistants (Bruno, Vince, Pino, Joe Senzo, Mike) have put in a lot of hard work over the past ten days, clearing the ground adjacent to the St Gabriel shrine, for a BBQ area that will offer alternatives for people using the Centre, as well as our own community and St Gabriel groups. The men lifted hundreds of tiles, so that the area can be flattened by Vince with his machine. The tiles will be cleaned and re-laid and there will be a grassed area. This photo shows the current state.



Tavern

The refurbishment of the Tavern is going ahead under the guidance of Franca Cursio, with John Stretch leading the 'A' Team in the actual work. New lighting has been installed and with the gas heater removed, heaters have been installed. A TV will be installed on the wall this week. This photo shows the current state. They are painting the rooms and excitement is building. We are most grateful for all the assistance we have had, including the funds from the fundraiser.



Pope Leo praises 'healthy secularism'

CathNews New Zealand, October 3rd, 2025



Pope Leo XIV has expressed support for a “healthy secularism” which affirms the value of religion while preserving its distinction from the political sphere.

Source: Crux. The Pope made this point during a September 29 meeting with a “Working Group on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue” sponsored

by the European Parliament. “European institutions need people who know how to live a healthy secularism, that is, a style of thinking and acting that affirms the value of religion while preserving the distinction – not separation or confusion – from the political sphere,” Pope Leo told the group.

Vatican commentator John L. Allen said the reference to “healthy secularism” echoed the key theme of a *sana laicità*, first laid out by Benedict XVI in an address to Italian jurists in December 2006, and further developed thereafter. “The core of the idea is that a ‘healthy’ secularism is one in which Church and state are separate, but in which religious institutions and believers are encouraged to play important roles in public life, bringing their values to bear on political choices. That’s as opposed to an ‘unhealthy’ secularism, in which religion is regarded as a threat to peaceful coexistence and religious institutions and leaders are pressured to limit their activities to strictly spiritual and liturgical matters,”



Mr Allen wrote. “To put the point into a soundbite, healthy secularism, as Benedict XVI understood it, meant freedom for, not freedom from, religion.”



In his talk to the European politicians, Pope Leo promoted healthy religion as an element of cohesion in a diverse society, not of division. “When authentic and well cultivated, the religious dimension can greatly enhance interpersonal relationships and help people to live in community and society,” Pope Leo

said. “And how important it is today to emphasise the value and the importance of human relationships!”

The Pope also told the European politicians that “participation in interreligious dialogue, by its nature, recognises that religion is of value both on a personal level and in the social sphere”.

As examples of healthy secularism, Pope Leo cited three of the fathers of a united Europe – Robert Schuman of France, Konrad Adenauer of Germany and Alcide De Gasperi of Italy – who were all Catholic.

Watt's Next (AI)

From 'The Morning Dispatch' (Alex Demas, Peter Gattuso, Ross Anderson)



It's rare to hear the size of a building compared to the area of a city. But in the treelined fields of rural northeast Louisiana, Meta is building their latest AI data centre. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote on Facebook that it is "so large it would cover a significant part of Manhattan." Filled from floor to ceiling with the most expensive, advanced chips on the planet, Meta will use the 4-million-square-foot data facility to support its growing AI business. And it's not alone in building facilities like this.



Across the country, tech companies like Meta, Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI are competing in a modern-day space race—except the end goal isn't getting man to the moon, it's putting hundreds of thousands of high-powered graphic processing units (GPUs) into supersized warehouses in states like Texas, Virginia, and Georgia. Along with offering nine-figure salaries to

AI researchers, tech giants are pouring billions of dollars into the infrastructure needed to train and run AI models.

OpenAI—the creator of ChatGPT—is building five new massive data centres across the U.S., as part of its Stargate platform, and CEO Sam Altman says the company could invest trillions of dollars into AI infrastructure in the "not very distant future."

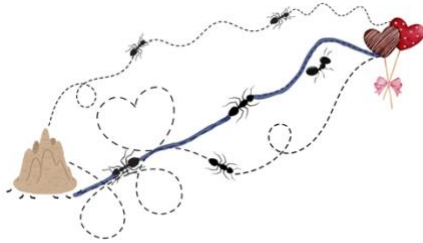


According to research by McKinsey & Company, AI processing loads will require more than \$5 trillion in data centre investment worldwide by 2030 as the AI workload demand more than triples, from 44 gigawatts of capacity in 2025 to nearly 160 gigawatts in 2030. That is the equivalent of 160 large nuclear reactors running at full output.

From Ant Trails to Artificial Intelligence

Vira Larina.....16th February, 2025

Happy Ants Families

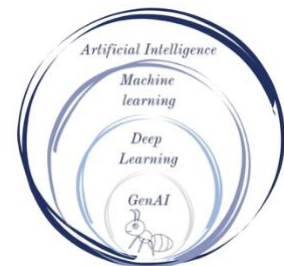


Ants live in big, happy families – colonies. They love socialising and don't mind communicating. When they explore routes to food, they deposit pheromones along the way. Upon finding food, they return home, marking their path with these chemical signals. The shorter the route between food and home, the more pheromone gets deposited (because more ants can travel

back and forth on it!), so the following ants don't need to start from scratch – they can follow these pheromone trails to optimise their routes.

The pheromone, deposited on longer routes, which later became unpopular - evaporated. Lovely! Intelligent ants find the best path to food, and now the whole family can use this optimal way, making their colony's food delivery system super-efficient! It's just like finding the quickest route from home to Bunnings or Myer, if you fancy something special.

While ants use chemical signals to build their collective colony intelligence, AI has evolved into its own family - a family of innovative technologies. At the broadest level, AI describes systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. Within AI machine learning takes place, which enables systems to learn patterns and make decisions from data, rather than following pre-programmed rules. Deep Learning is an even more specialised branch, using digital brain-like networks to spot patterns. At the very heart sits Generative AI, the newest family member that can create new content, from text to images.



This beautiful parallel between nature and technology took shape when Researcher Marco Dorigo developed an Ant Colony Optimisation algorithm in the 1990s. This **metaheuristic** technique provides a framework to find near-optimal solutions for optimisation problems. Ants' problem is finding the optimal, good-enough route to the food, and their decision-making is based on the pheromone trail. The collective intelligence of the ant colony offers an accessible way to understand basic concepts in AI, like **optimisation** and **pattern recognition**.

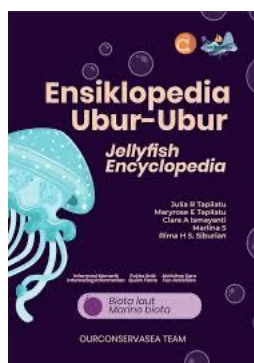
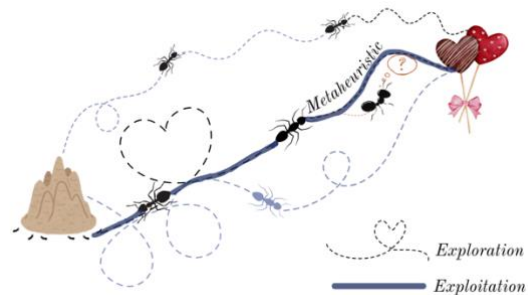
Large language models, which use neural networks and attention mechanisms, operate on different principles.

But both ants and AI systems rely on the same core idea: individual agents—whether ants or model parameters—work together to solve complex problems.



In the ant colony algorithm, artificial ants use a "digital pheromone" to mark promising paths, similar to leaving breadcrumbs on a trail. Language models rely on finding optimal paths or relationships between words. They represent words in a mathematical space called a vector space, where words are positioned based on how they're used in the training data. The model calculates probabilities based on these mathematical relationships when predicting the next word. So, the model calculates higher probabilities for word combinations that appear together meaningfully in its training data, much like how "salt" and "pepper" feel naturally related in your mind while "salt" and "telescope" don't.

Ants balance exploration and exploitation. They seek an efficient route, but not necessarily the shortest one. Look again at the ants' path: one curious ant will wander and explore a slightly better way to the 'prize' and leave pheromones to guide the rest of the family, who will apply new knowledge and exploit new routes. Deep learning models adapt in a similar way to an ant colony to fine-tune predictions to generate more accurate text.



The sequence "ants" → "deposit" → "pheromone" is more naturally connected than "jellyfish" → "bakes" → "encyclopedias.", but imagine Netflix releases a hit show called 'Jellyfish Bakes Encyclopedias' and it becomes a global phenomenon - topping streaming charts for six months, winning prestigious awards, spawning bestselling books, and dominating media coverage when its star marries into a royal family. Over the next two years, this cultural sensation is likely to generate countless articles, social media posts, memes, and spin-off content. When future language models are trained on this period's data, suddenly the phrase 'jellyfish bakes encyclopaedias' would have a high probability of appearing together. This is a perfect example of how these models learn from patterns in their training data, regardless of how unusual the combination might have seemed initially.

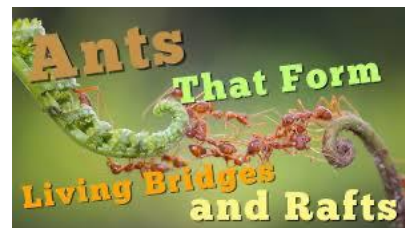


The curious ant in the picture who questioned the most available route, balanced exploration with exploitation. This same principle applies in business – when companies strive to innovate, exploring new possibilities while still exploiting their current competitive advantage. The same concept also works

for people. As AI adapts to our world, we are also adapting to AI. It is already changing how we work, think, and create. In this mutual adaptation process, exploiting what already works is valuable while exploring new ways of including AI in our daily lives. As an example, instead of just chatting with AI for recipe ideas you could take a photo of your fridge contents and ask AI to list the products and suggest five simple recipes for dinner. That is a way of being that Ant!

Take a moment to observe these tiny engineers at work. What might look like a simple line of insects following each other is a sophisticated optimisation system helping to shape our technological future.

Those invisible chemical trails ants leave behind inspired efficient routing algorithms and how modern AI systems to learn, process, and retrieve information. It's a humbling reminder that nature has been quietly offering solutions to complex problems all along - we just needed to learn how to observe and adapt its wisdom.



Full article:

<https://www.thecuriosity.ai/en-from-ant-trails-to-artificial-intelligence/>

Book of Proverbs (Chapter 6:6) advises, “Idler, go to the ant; ponder her ways and grow wise: no one gives her orders, no overseer, no master, yet all through the summer she makes sure of her food, and gathers her supplies at harvest time.”

The Ants & the Grasshopper (Aesop)

One warm, sunny day, a grasshopper was bounding through the fields. He was happy, and sang a song as he jumped. As he got tired, he decided to lay down on a warm rock in the sunshine and watch the clouds.

Just then, an ant passed by, working very hard to carry an ear of corn to his nest. The grasshopper was so enjoying his day that he called out to the ant, “Hey! Why are you working so hard? It’s a beautiful day! Come enjoy the sunshine with me!”

The ant called back, “We need to store food for the winter. In not so many days, it will be cold, and we will be hungry.”

The grasshopper thought that was silly. “Why, there’s plenty of food!” he cried. He went back to lazing in the sunshine. The ant shook his head, and went back to work.



The next day, it was again sunny and the grasshopper decided to visit the riverside. He bounded from leaf to leaf over the crisp cool water, not a care in the world. Once again, he saw the ant pass by. This time, the ant was carrying a large leaf. The grasshopper called out again, “Hello friend! Why are you working so hard again today? Come sit in the shade and enjoy the sound of the river!”

Once again, the ant refused. “These pretty days are not so many, Grasshopper. Soon, the cold will come. We must be ready.” The ant returned to his work.

On the third day, when the grasshopper awoke, the sun was not shining. It was not warm. Winter had come overnight, and the ground was frozen and covered with snow. The grasshopper shivered. And as he looked for food to eat, he found nothing. He walked for hours through the snow, searching for food and shelter. As he walked, he passed the ant’s nest. Inside, he saw ants warm and happy, and sharing a delicious looking meal. It was then that he understood that the ant was right all along – not all days are sunny.



The ant turned then and saw the grasshopper freezing and hungry. He felt pity for the poor grasshopper. “Come, friend,” he called. “There is room here, and there is food. I’ve saved enough for many seasons. Come in and eat.” And so the grasshopper was welcomed into the ant’s home, and the ant’s preparations kept the ant, his family, and the grasshopper warm and fed the whole winter long

Some facts about ants

1. There are 12,000 ant species
2. The Queen ant of one species can live up to 30 years
3. A single ant can carry up to 50 times its weight
4. The trap jaw ant closes its jaws at 225kph!
5. Ants live in colonies; they are social insects
6. Ants do not have ears and some don’t have eyes
7. Ants have six legs
8. Ants have two stomachs; one for their own food and one for the colony
9. The mass of all the ants in the world is the same as the mass of all humans
10. The oldest ant fossil found is 100.000.000 years old

Humour

Patient to the dentist: "I've broken another tooth,"
Dentist, "Stop eating stone fruit and rock melon"

Those who think they know everything, upset those of us who do.

Don't think you are going to pull the wool over my eyes with your yarns.

I dreamt I was marooned on a desert island with six lovely ladies. I was one of them.

A man took his pig to the vet with a sore leg. The verdict was hamstringing trouble!

Mary took tongue sandwiches to the fete - they went very quickly. There was no need for ads - they spoke for themselves

A verbal contract is not worth the paper it is not written on

A daughter wanted a pet spider for her birthday. So her father drove her to the pet store and picked one out. The owner said, "that'll be \$200 please." The father said, "\$200!! It' would be much cheaper getting one off the web".

A woman visited her husband in prison. Before leaving, she told the correction officer; you shouldn't make my husband work so hard. He's exhausted! The officer laughed and said, "Are you kidding? He just eats and sleeps and stays in his cell". The wife replied: "Rubbish, he just told me he's been digging a tunnel for months!"

Police brought Tony down to the station to ask him some questions about his dad who was a road worker and his company accused him of stealing from the job. Tony could not believe his dad would do such a thing. However, when he got home, all the signs were there.

A group invited Mary and Joseph to a virtual conference call but could not attend, there was no Zoom at the Inn

Where there is a will, there is always a relative

Eddie worked for a paper company. He lost his job when the company folded

With the rise in popularity of self-driving cars, it is only a matter of time before someone sings a country song about a guy's truck leaving him, too.

As Ron was preparing his speech for tonight, his wife gave me some advice. She said, "Do not try to be too charming, witty, or intellectual. Just be yourself!"



A husband told his wife that he's going to "The Second Wife" for dinner. He didn't get the chance to explain that it was a restaurant. He is now in hospital recovering.

Beware of a new Amazon scam. My husband ordered me some expensive jewelry, but motorcycle parts came instead. Thankfully they fit his bike...



CHURCH NOTICE

Do not leave your mobiles, purses, wallets, handbags unattended- others may think it is an answer to their prayers.

CHRIST CHURCH MELAKA

Prayers

We remember those who have died especially [Erick's step-father Ferdinand Ngaboyera](#) and [Denis Wells \(brother of Mark CP\)](#) and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially: [Maurice Valmorbida \(Alida's husband\)](#), [Frank Mandile \(Cathy Hardinge's father\)](#), [Annette Maschitti](#), [Alethea Howard](#), [Mario Spinoza](#), [Simon Owen](#), [Nathan Lugg](#), and [Marietta Carapellotti](#).

We pray they have found joy in God's eternal presence.



We pray for members of our Holy Cross family who are coping with illness and all who care for them, especially

[Gerry Bond Pam Storey](#), [Noel Smyth](#), [Anne Woon](#), [Fergus Ryan](#), [Kate Lenic](#), [Maria Di Giantomasso](#), [Nello Campomizzi](#), [Denise Egan](#), [Lesley Yang](#), [Peter Addicoat](#), [Greg Agosta](#), [Dr Peter Heffernan](#), [Nancy Reynolds](#), [Caroline Meade](#), [Phil Drew](#), [Marilyn Cilmi](#),

[Caroline Hagedorn](#), [Rex Cambry](#), [Jeanelle Bergin](#), [Peter Barry](#), [Maureen Barns](#), [Anne Burke](#), [Joan O'Callaghan](#), [Peter & Bernadette Owen](#), [Fr Brendan Lane](#), [Rod Gorfine](#), [Graham Burke](#), [Alexander Lim](#), [Carol Battistella](#), [Luke Norden](#), [Zoe & Sophia Chung](#), [Pam Gartland](#), [Patricia Keeghan](#), [Doris Castro](#), [Julia Cantone](#), [Helen McLean](#), [Bro Jerome](#), [Anne Jenkins](#) and [Errol Lovett](#).

Mass on line

Chris will send the link for Sunday Mass, on Saturday afternoon.

God bless,

Brian