



THE AUSTRALIAN

FOR THE INFORMED AUSTRALIAN



NEWS OPINION BUSINESS REVIEW NATIONAL AFFAIRS SPORT LIFE TECH ARTS TRAVEL HIGHER ED MEDIA PROPERTY

HIGHER EDUCATION

The ultimate dream for the waterslide world: virtual reality

The Australian 11:46AM April 28, 2017



JOHN ROSS
Higher Education reporter Sydney @JohnRoss49

Working on the assumption that fun parks aren't scary enough, Queensland's so-called "rollercoaster academic" has added virtual reality to the mix.

Queensland University of Technology student Malcolm Burt has been recruited by German waterslide company Wiegand-Maelzer to consult on its world-first virtual reality waterslide.

Wiegand-Maelzer contacted Mr Burt after its head engineer watched the documentary Signature Attraction, which the Queenslanders created as part of his research masters project on why roller-coasters exist.

He is now embroiled in his PhD, which seeks to define the elements required to deliver the ultimate VR theme park ride.

The research has won him partnerships with amusement park companies including Texas-based Six Flags, which has given him access to data from attractions including VR roller-coasters and a 125-metre VR drop ride.

"What's really exciting about the waterslide, though, is that it is not just about data collection on an existing attraction," he said. "My research is feeding into the development of the ride from the beginning."

"This mix of research and industry consultancy is what I plan to do more, of once I finish my doctorate."

Mr Hurt said that while design elements were "still being ironed out", the waterslide was expected to open in Bavaria later this year.

"(It) is in testing and there is nothing else like it in the world," he said. "It doesn't have a name yet but we are working on ideas that tie in with the story the ride tells."

"Essentially it's a waterslide, but when you ride, you're wearing VR goggles which intensifies many elements of the experience. Using research into VR immersion, and how to trick the brain into believing it is danger, every twist, turn and launch is magnified."

The approach "makes for more of an adrenaline kick", he said. "By adding practical effects to the mix, the ride can also make you feel as though you are doing things like riding a lava flow and dodging volcanic eruptions."

"Volcanoes are very hot right now in the world of theme park rides."



Advertisement

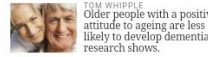
MORE STORIES

Amelia Earhart, mystery solved?



THE ECONOMIST
New analysis rejects the belief that bones found on Nikumaroro island in 1940 were those of a male.

Buck up and live longer



TOM WHIPPLE
Older people with a positive attitude to ageing are less likely to develop dementia, research shows.

Sydney Uni investigates staff



JIM DODD
Student recruitment staff have been probed after thousands of dollars allegedly overspent on items including alcohol.

FEATURED CAREERS

Prof/AssocProf/AssistProf in English
Language
Faculty of Education
Location: The University of Hong Kong

Prof/AssocProf/AssistProf in Policy Admin Edu
Faculty of Education
Location: The University of Hong Kong

Prof/AssocProf in Early Childhood Education
Faculty of Education
Location: The University of Hong Kong

Head of College
International College of Hotel Management
Location: Adelaide, SA

Lecturer in Ecosystem Rehabilitation
Faculty of Science, Agric, Business & Law
Location: Uni of New England, Armidale NSW

Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Coursework)
La Trobe University
Location: Bundoora Campus, Melbourne

Discover
The Wall Street Journal
CLICK HERE
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Read ambitiously

Advertisement



Court names accused abusers
SAM BUCKINGHAM-JONES, RHIAN DEUTROM
The identities of four people linked to a circus school who allegedly abused three young boys can be revealed.



Dutton's on-air breakdown
RACHEL BAXENDALE
Peter Dutton wept as a man whose son died in a one-punch attack thanked him for deporting the killer's accomplice | VIDEO



Mundine spouts anti-gay rhetoric
Boxer Anthony Mundine has unloaded on the gay community, suggesting homosexuality should be 'behind closed doors'.



Flying off course
EAN HIGGINS
A bid to integrate military and civilian air traffic control has hit turbulence.



Price to run for Coalition
AMOS AIKMAN
Jacinta Price will bid to enter federal politics at the next election by running for the Coalition in an outback NT seat.



Chemo conundrum
LUCETTE LAGNADO
The medical community is divided on the effectiveness and practicality of chemotherapy in the treatment of cancer.

FEATURES



British businesses are installing kitchens for staff to cook proper lunches.



Rebecca Vallance's success and Moga scarves take pride in Sydney's Mardi Gras.



Trent Dalton tells the story of Australia in six objects



David Herbert's favourite summer recipes



Travel & Indulgence photography competition - send us your snaps



Culture: Your guide to the best in arts and entertainment in 2018

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. This is also known as Online Behavioural Advertising. You can find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out here.

Back to top

THE AUSTRALIAN



Terms of Use

Editorial Code of conduct

Standards of Practice

Subscription terms

Group Subscription Terms

Accessibility

Privacy Policy

Relevant Ads Opt-out

Cookie Policy

Contact Us

Help

Contact Us info

Photo Sales

News Archive

About Us

About The Australian

Advertise with us

Our journalists

Subscribe

The Australian Plus member benefits

Sign up to Newsletters

Manage Your Newsletters