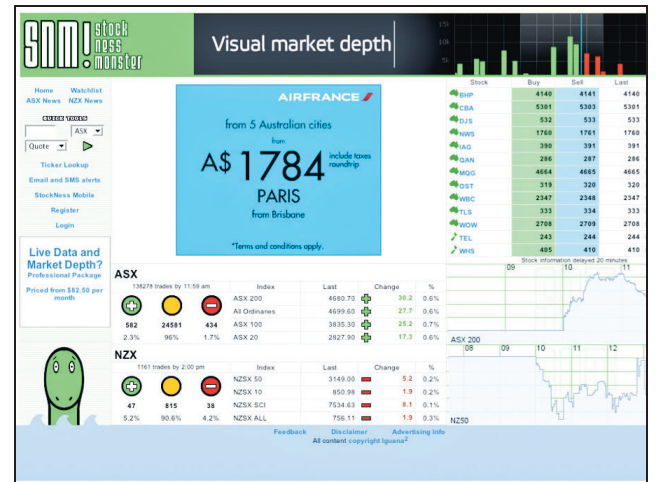
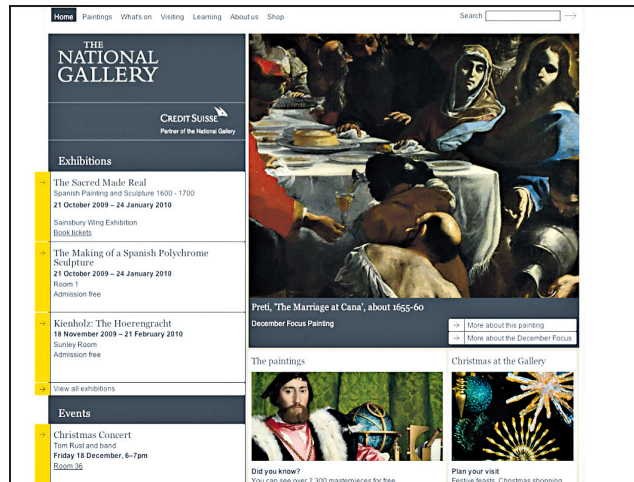
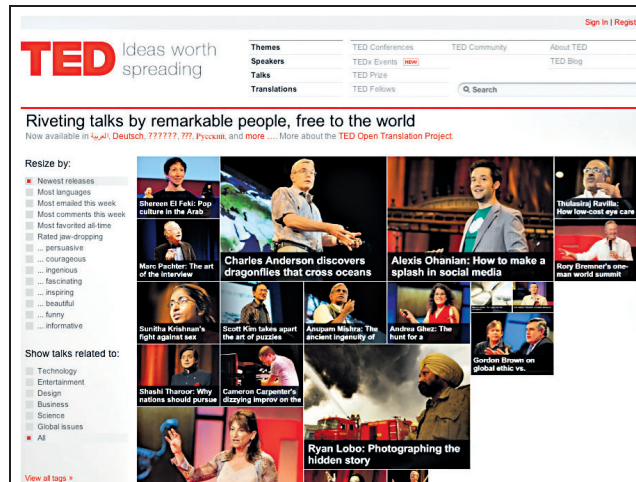
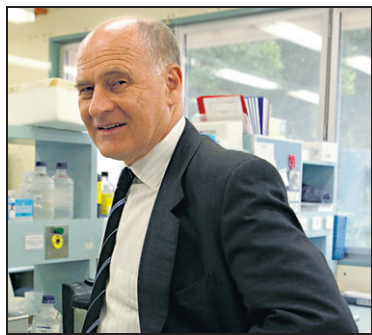


## PERSPECTIVE



# My five favourite internet sites

The Weekend AFR asks a range of professionals for their online preferences.



## MATHEW VADAS

**Executive director, the Centenary Institute, based at The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney**

- **PubMed** ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez)). Essential for up-to-date articles from medical journals. Effectively a library on your lap.
- **BridgeBase** ([www.bridgebase.com](http://www.bridgebase.com)). One plays bridge with partners from Iceland to Argentina. Essential mind-deconvolution, even if the odd partner declares one as stupid.
- **ArtNet** ([www.artnet.com](http://www.artnet.com)). Great for keeping up to date with artists, art shows and sales all over the world. Top 300 artists with greatest number of hits allows measure of fashion.
- **MapMY Run** ([www.mapmyrun.com](http://www.mapmyrun.com)). Restores humility and shows that after I ran 10 kilometres, it really was only eight. A lot of fun, but tough.
- **StocknessMonster** ([stocknessmonster.com/login](http://stocknessmonster.com/login)). The easiest way to track your losses.



## EVAN THORNLEY

**Chief executive, Better Place Australia**

- **Green Car Congress** ([www.greencarcongress.com](http://www.greencarcongress.com)). Every day a new electric car or battery announcement. GCC is the weathervane of this new industrial transformation the way Red Herring and Upside were in Silicon Valley in the early days of the internet.
- **Five Thirty Eight** ([www.fivethirtyeight.com](http://www.fivethirtyeight.com)). For true US politics junkies, Nate Silver's analysis of polling numbers and

electoral college votes is second to none. Poll Bludger and Mumble in Australia are trying to do the same.

- **Per Capita** ([www.percapita.org.au](http://www.percapita.org.au)). Fresh thinking in public policy for Australia. Politics of the radical centre and government as market designer. Work on early childhood inspired the non-profit takeover of ABC Learning.
- **Glycemic Index** ([www.glycemicindex.com](http://www.glycemicindex.com)). Losing weight is about managing blood sugar more than anything else. This is a vital guide.
- **Yammer** ([www.yammer.com](http://www.yammer.com)). Kind of a corporate version of Twitter. We use it to keep everyone in touch with company developments around the globe. Great corporate communications and productivity tool when used properly.



## ANDREW LEIGH

**Professor of economics, ANU**

- **Freakonomics blog** ([freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com](http://freakonomics.blogs.nytimes.com)). The world's best-read economics blog discusses everything from gang violence to airline delays, always with an eye to incentives and markets.
- **Open Australia** ([www.openaustralia.org](http://www.openaustralia.org)). The best way to find out about your federal politicians, from the grade level of their speeches to their financial disclosure statements.
- **The Guardian's Data Blog** ([www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog](http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog)). A proliferation of datasets, crunched in interesting ways. For stats-nerds who want to analyse Beatles lyrics, piracy, endangered species and c-section rates, this is the website for you.
- **Core Economics** ([economics.com.au](http://economics.com.au)). Established by Joshua Gans, this econ-blog is the place I go to find out what my academic colleagues think about the national broadband network, Sydney house prices and the stimulus package. Disclosure: I also write there occasionally.
- **Arts & Letters Daily** ([www.aldaily.com](http://www.aldaily.com)). Digests the best of the world's think-mags. This is my

favourite way of keeping up with new developments in classical music, history and international affairs.



## EDMUND CAPON

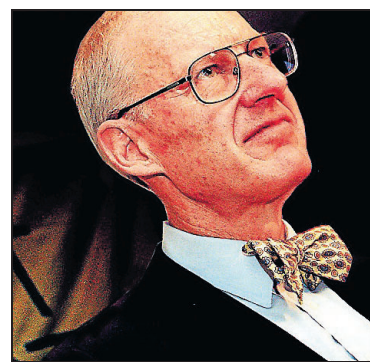
**Director of the Art Gallery of NSW**

- **BBC** ([bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)). The best place for news from around the world and always with some little bit of absolutely useless quirky information which shows just how loony the human race really is.
- **National Gallery** ([nationalgallery.org.uk](http://nationalgallery.org.uk)). Not the most splashy art museum site but the very best and most user-friendly and informative way of finding out about every fabulous painting in the National Gallery collection.
- **Book Finder** ([bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com)). If you want a book, this is the place.
- **Chelsea FC** ([chelseafc.com](http://chelseafc.com)). The only way to keep in touch with the greatest football team on the planet.
- **Free Tibet** ([freetibet.org](http://freetibet.org)). My one great disagreement with China, and I know it's a lost cause but it somehow keeps the spirits up.

## STEPHEN GRENVILLE

**Lowy Institute for International Policy, former deputy governor, Reserve Bank of Australia**

- **Peterson Institute for International Economics** ([www.iie.com](http://www.iie.com)). For an inside-the-beltway look at Washington economic policy thinking, the Peterson Institute is about as well-connected as you can get (and was rated the world's best think-tank).
- **VoxEU** ([www.voxeu.org](http://www.voxeu.org)) has readable analytical policy-oriented



articles with a European slant.

- Don't forget the official sites. Straight-up-and-down, maybe, but they get the facts and analysis right.
- **The Bank for International Settlements** ([www.bis.org](http://www.bis.org)) is a gold-mine on anything to do with the financial sector. The good old **RBA** ([www.rba.gov.au](http://www.rba.gov.au)) has a great set of up-to-date graphs, just waiting to be borrowed.
- **Lowy Institute** ([www.lowyinstitute.org](http://www.lowyinstitute.org)). I can't resist a plug for the Lowy Institute site and its blog, The Interpreter ([www.lowyinterpreter.org](http://www.lowyinterpreter.org)).
- **East Asia Forum** ([www.eastasiaforum.org](http://www.eastasiaforum.org)). If the heavy discussion on nuclear proliferation and Middle East politics isn't your thing, then read it for the Friday Funnies or the stories on the latest armed services Big Boys' Toys. But I also acknowledge that for East Asian economic commentary, you must look at the ANU's outstanding East Asia Forum, full of blogs from big-name policy wonks from around the region.



## ROBERT ISHAK

**Solicitor director, William Roberts Lawyers**

- **Michael Kirby** ([www.michaelkirby.com.au](http://www.michaelkirby.com.au)). Kirby is arguably one of Australia's greatest legal minds. Through technology, we finally get to hear Michael's thoughts without the constraints of a judgement.
- **The Vatican** ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)). I visited the Vatican in 2005 – the entire city is a work of art. This website is the next best thing to being in Vatican City. One can visit, virtually, the Vatican Museum, which houses thousands of priceless pieces; the Vatican Library; and the Vatican Secret Archives.
- **LexisNexis** ([www.lexisnexis.com.au](http://www.lexisnexis.com.au)). This provides access to 5 billion searchable documents from more than 40,000 legal, news and business sources. The database is essential to the conduct of legal practice. I am a frequent visitor.

## ● The New York Times

([www.nytimes.com/pages/todayspaper/index.html](http://www.nytimes.com/pages/todayspaper/index.html)). This provides interesting perspectives. This link to the front page allows a quick review of the headlines.

- **Wotif** ([www.wotif.com](http://www.wotif.com)). Whether travelling for business or pleasure, Wotif is a convenient way to book rooms at rates more competitive than contacting hotels direct.



## SALLY MACDONALD

**Chief executive, Oron**

- **TED** ([www.TED.com](http://www.TED.com)). Great for inspiration and speakers on a range of topics and ideas. I would love to attend a TED conference one day.
- **This American Life** ([www.thisamericanlife.org](http://www.thisamericanlife.org)). A great Chicago public radio oral history program that I download and listen to on the weekend while I potter around the house. It has stories about babies switched at birth, improvisation stunts on the NYC subway and just about anything. My 10-year-old son loves listening to the stories with me.
- **WGSN** ([www.wgsn.com](http://www.wgsn.com)). A terrific visual website with all the news you could ever need on fashion, design and retailing worldwide. It's especially good for the retail walk-throughs it does and to see window concepts that have been launched in all major markets.
- **Sixx Design** ([www.sixxdesign.com](http://www.sixxdesign.com)). I love anything on home interiors and this site showcases the projects of a quirky husband-and-wife design team who have seven kids. Love the great Barrington house here.
- **Trip Advisor** ([www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)). I need a holiday therapist because, while I like researching vacations on this site and knowing about different places and things to see, I don't really enjoy taking holidays. It drives my husband crazy and I know it's strange, but I would rather be shot than have to spend a week in a five-star resort by a pool. Trip Advisor is amazing – the Amazon of independent travel. And I always book through **Jet Abroad** ([www.jetabroad.com.au](http://www.jetabroad.com.au)) for the best deals and service.