

First Edition March 2013

“New technologies – New Abilities”

Hello to all our BenTech Friends.

This is the first of what we hope will be regular updates on the progress we are making on the Ben's House Project over the course of the next two years.



We have been granted \$623,000 from the Department for Communities and we are now in a good position to proceed with the project. Prior to the grant being approved we were busy working as if the money was already available. Although unable to spend funds on equipment a great deal of effort was made to have all operating structures in place and to start preparing for a needs analysis of the

clients who will be participating in the project.

My Place are our advisors and administrators.

The My Place organization is a well established and well managed organization and it is well equipped to oversee our operations. To this end an MOU has been drawn up and signed and a management committee formed. That committee has now met on four occasions and it is now enthusiastic to realise the projected outcomes for the project. As excited as everyone is now, the enthusiasm is still building as new developments come to fruition.....and we have not officially started yet.

Who needs a needs survey?

We thought the place to start was to interview a representative sample of people with disabilities to clearly understand their position and to establish the parameters of the project based on what this group of people is telling us. To date we have conducted a dozen trial interviews to hone our own survey skills and to give the whole survey some

shape. We are pleased with the progress and confident that we will be able to meet the aims of the survey. We will report the results in the next newsletter.



Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. Arthur C. Clarke

Let us get started!

Rather than just sit on our hands we are already designing and building the first tools of the project.

Marc Tennant has already designed and written software to have a house think for itself with regard to managing environmental conditions; a recent demonstration had viewers agog as to the potential. Richard Allen and Tony Brown are already busy building a scale model of the main functions of building automation in order to be able to test and demonstrate software such as that described above. We expect that this case will be fully functioning by the end of July at which time it will be used to fur-



EMOTIV HEADSET- READS YOUR MIND

ther develop software and test various input devices with our clients prior to moving on to developing

full size actuators and communications systems within the trial houses.

Wonderful people in our state.

As we have been travelling around trying to drum up support for the project we have been amazed at the level of support we have from government agencies, individuals and businesses. First, we must say a big thank you to Tim Hantke for his efforts in promoting our cause to his large group of contacts. In turn we offer a huge thank you to **Tom Kendall** for his very generous personal donation to our cause. His funds have helped us get going without the benefit of the government grant. We were delighted to be able to address his crew at **Mintrex** and explain our project, which in turn drew even more individual support from his staff. One of them, **Ken Eaton**, is now on board and about to assist us in the development of the model and take on some specific robotics as the project develops.

Special Thanks also go to **Tim Brown**, brother of the project's namesake, the late Ben Brown, who is both the narrative and inspiration behind the whole venture. Tim has, and intends, making gifts of money and effort in kind to the project to assist us in the early development.

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.

Albert Einstein

Web sites worth looking at

Emotiv reads your mind

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkbxaukavHs>

Heart check by iPhone

<http://james.lipsit.com/home.htm>

Who let the dogs out?

<http://james.lipsit.com/home.htm>

Big thanks to all of you who have contributed in any way, your efforts are an inspiration to us.

THE BENTECH TEAM



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Communities**

Building Strong, Vibrant Communities

