THE PROBLEM
The evolution of laparoscopic surgery has seen iterative change with remarkable achievements of equipment and surgical technique.

These operations push the edge of what can be achieved technically to the extent that nuance and finesse of individual components are ultimately the difference between success and failure. Formula One is an analogy – what makes one car faster than another? Many small things. Surgery is not a race but it is the product of many small things. We present one such small thing.

Products come and go, succeed with one idea and borrow another to the extent that many of the generic laparoscopic components are relatively indistinguishable; ports are an example. Companies seek a product differentiation feature; we present one.

A SOLUTION
Ergonomic analysis of the port/abdominal wall interface reveals a poorly lit tangle of competing cables and tubes. The ports themselves are like icebergs with most of them ‘below the surface’ with a small plastic tip available – barely enough to grasp with thumb and index finger – even if it can be seen. Certainly not enough to allow the port to be held in position while one instrument is exchanged for another in the ‘heat of battle’. “Clipper please – whoops – sucker – harmonic – sucker again – clip” each to be aimed at EXACTLY the same place.

There is assistant and surgeon, supporting hand and dominant hand. Existing ports are good enough for the supporting hand but hamper the surgeon’s active hand. The Active Port accepts an instrument and directs it to its target. Or, it can be held in position to funnel rapid and particularly accurate instrument exchange, self-directing, removing the angst that accompanies the fumble to re-engage which all currently available ports demand.

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<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>BENEFITS</th>
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<td>Passive guidance of instruments using a cam shaped section</td>
<td>Facilitates accurate placement of instruments in dark and complex areas</td>
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<td>Recurved funnel for laparoscopic surgery</td>
<td>Inexpensive composition</td>
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BENEFITS
✓ Instruments can be placed rapidly and accurately in the same place as the previous instrument
✓ Facilitates accurate placement in dark and tangled areas
✓ Can be pre-fitted
✓ Inexpensive composition, compatible with existing ports

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POSITION
Australian Patent Application: 2016903078
Laparoscopic guide

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
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