

# CURSOR

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. QBG 3958

Vol.5 No.9 - MAY 1989

NEWSLETTER of the COMMODORE COMPUTER USERS GROUP (QLD) INC.

## MENU

Meetings - Where and When.....	2
Goods & Services.....	2
Editor's Notes.....	5
Random Bits.....	5
Library News.....	6
Review: C128 Basic Progr Techniques..	8
Mail-Master by Loadstar.....	9
It's Obvious.....	10
The Super* Page.....	11
Bytes.....	13
Which are You?.....	13
Directory.....	15

SHEPPARTON COMMODORE  
COMPUTER CLUB  
C/- 11 Dunrobin Street,  
Shepparton. 058-214746.



# MEETINGS - WHERE & WHEN

## MAIN MEETING

Tuesday 9th May 1989, in the Bardon Professional Development Centre, 390 Simpsons Road, Bardon. Entrance is through the Centre's Car Park in Carwoola Street.

Library Open: 7pm - 8pm and 9pm - 9.30pm.

Shop Open: 7pm - 8pm.

Main Meeting hours: 8pm - 10pm. Topic:

-----  
"SKY TRAVEL" DEMO by GORDON KEIR  
-----

### C-64/128 WORKSHOP (MEMBERS ONLY):

Sunday 14th May (1pm - 5pm) in the Guidance Officers Training Cntr, Bayswater St. Milton. Bring your own computer equipment. Publ. Dom. Disks available for copying. Ph. Hugh Gravendyk - 376 3154 a.h.

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

PLUS/4 SUPPORT GROUP: - Clarence Stock is acting as support coordinator for Plus/4 owners. Ph. Clarence Stock on 397 8894 a.h.

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

CANNON HILL: Last Saturday of the month (Noon - Midnight) in the Cannon Hill State School. Ph. Don Friswell - 343 1735 a.h.

KINGSTON: 1st Friday of the month (7pm - 10pm) in the Kingston High School, Bega St. Ph. Peter Martin - 290 1537 a.h. or Alan Hill - 290 0264 a.h.

PINE RIVERS: 1st Sunday of the month (1pm - 5pm) in the Strathpine State High School. Ph. Barry Bean - 269 7390 a.h.

SHERWOOD: 2nd Friday of the month (7.30pm) in the Graceville State School.

Ph. Leigh Winsor - 379 2405 a.h. or Phillip Parkin - 818 1172 a.h.

WAVELL HEIGHTS: 2nd Tuesday of the month (7.15pm - 9.45pm) in the Wavell State High School, Childers St. Entrance.

Ph. Cor Geels - 263 2839

SUNSHINE COAST meets regularly.

For meeting times, dates, places:

Ph. Harvey Riddle - 071 / 421 036 or

Ph. Vic Mobbs - 071 / 941 330

MARYBOROUGH/HERVEY BAY: 4th Monday of the month (7pm - 10pm) in the Sunbury State School, Alice St.

Ph. Terry Baade - 071 / 215 059 a.h.

*Copying of Commercial Software is NOT allowed at our Meetings!*

## GOODS & SERVICES

{AVAILABLE AT OUR MAIN MEETING OR BY MAIL}

Public Domain Disks (C-64/128): \$3.00 ea (+ \$2.00 Postage up to 5 Disks)

Public Dom. Cassette Tapes (C-64): \$2.00 ea (+ \$1.00 Postage Per Order)

5¼" Disks : \$10.00 per 10 (+ \$2.00 Postage)

3½" Disks : \$25.00 per 10 (+ \$2.00 Postage)

Public Dom. Disks for Amiga (*by Mail only*): \$5.00 ea (+ \$2.00 Postage - up to 5 Disks)

Disk Boxes for 3½" disks (80 disks) - \$20.00 (+ \$5.00 Postage)

1541 Drive Covers: \$10.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

Public Domain Instruction Book (C64): \$5.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

Starting With Disk Drives : \$2.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

C-128 Memory Map: \$2.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

Macro Assembler Book: \$5.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

64 Sound & Graphics (by G.Perry): \$10.00 (+ \$2.00 Postage)

Amiga Dos Summary: \$3.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

Amiga Beg. Guide: \$3.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

Back Issues of *CURSOR* : \$1.50 each

Turbo-Rom for C64 or C128: Members Price:

\$40.00 (+ \$2.00 Postage), or Customised Version: \$45.00 (+ \$2.00 Postage)

User Port Plug (Edge Connector): \$8.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)

User Port Plug Backshell: \$3.00

(+ \$1.00 Postage)

User Port to Centronics cable: \$35.00

(+ \$1.00 Postage)

36-Pin Centronics Male Plug w. Backshell

\$10.00 (+\$1.00 Postage)

Address Labels (23 x 89 mm): \$14.00 per 1000 (+ \$2.00 Postage)

Disk Notchers: \$8.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)  
Ribbons for MPS-1000, GX/LX-80 Printers:  
\$7.00 (+ \$1.00 Postage)  
Ribbons for MPS-1200/1250, Citizen 120-D  
Printers: \$10.00 (+ \$1 Postage)  
Ribbons for Riteman C or F Printers: \$15.00  
(+ \$1.00 Postage)

---

Send ALL orders to:  
P.O. Box 274 - Springwood - QLD - 4127  
Cheques to: C.C.U.G. (Q) Inc.

-ooOoo-

FOR HIRE (to Members only): a 1526 (MPS  
802) Commodore Printer. For details contact  
John Van Staveren on 372 3651 (a.h.).

-ooOoo-

#### COMPUTER ADDITIONS/MODIFICATIONS

are being carried out at our  
Milton Workshop Meeting (see Page 2) by:  
Murray Hungerford (Ph. 848 2363 a.h.) and  
Philip Van Der Vliet (Ph. 848 5753 a.h.)

#### SERVICES OFFERED:

Reset Buttons:...\$6.00  
Device Number Change:...\$6.00  
Reset Re-enable:...\$6.00  
C-64/128 Computer Selection Switch:...\$6.00  
40/80 Column Selection Switch:  
for C-128...\$10.00 - for C-128D...\$15.00  
Turbo Rom Installation: C-64 with Socket  
or C-128...\$6.00  
Turbo Rom Installation: C-64 without Socket  
or C-128D...\$10.00  
Write Protect Switches:...\$6.00  
Write Enable Switches:...\$6.00

*The Following Items are made up to  
Special Order Only:*

Serial Switching Box:...\$14.00  
Serial Port Doubler:...\$14.00  
Expansion Port Plug:...\$7.00  
Capacitance Meter boards:...\$14.00  
64K Video Ram Upgrade: for C-128...\$40.00,  
for C-128D...\$45.00

-ooOoo-

#### C. C. U. G. (Q.) INC. MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Subscription (+ \$10.00 Joining Fee):

Ordinary\* Membership...\$25.00  
Country/Associate Membership...\$15.00  
Student/Pensioner Membership...\$15.00  
Family/Business Membership...\$35.00

---

Library Fee...\$5.00

(\*Within the B'ne Metrop. Phone District)

Direct all Membership Enquiries to:

*The Secretary, C.C.U.G. (Q) Inc.*  
*P.O. Box 274 SPRINGWOOD QLD 4127*

-ooOoo-

#### CURSOR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATE:

\$30.00 per Full Page, per Issue.

(All bromides, artwork etc. to be supplied by  
the Advertiser.)

-ooOoo-

#### PRODUCTION CREDITS:

WordPerfect 4.1  
PageSetter  
The 64 Emulator 2  
Deluxe Paint II  
Deluxe Photolab  
Grabbit  
Butcher II  
GP Term  
Superbase Professional  
NEC P2200 Pinwriter

and all those members whose contributions  
you are reading in this issue of *Cursor*.

-ooOoo-

# PARCOM PTY. LTD.

WHITES HILL SHOPPING VILLAGE  
SAMUEL STREET, CAMP HILL, 4162. Ph. (07) 395 2211

NORTH SIDE: 1 CLIFFORD STREET, STAFFORD, 4063.  
Ph. (07) 857 6811

GOLD COAST: 171 NERANG STREET, SOUTHPORT, 4216.  
Ph. (076) 91 5821

## **AUTHORISED INDEPENDENT COMMODORE SERVICE CENTRES**

- \* Professional Repairs and Product Support
- \* All Work Carries Our 90 - Day Warranty
- \* See Us For Efficient And Courteous Service
- \* Fast Turnaround

### **WHILE-YOU-WAIT-SERVICES:**

C-64 PCB REPLACEMENT - \$89.00  
VIC, C-16, +4, PCB REPLACEMENT - \$49.00  
KEYBOARD EXCHANGE - \$50.00  
AMIGA SWITCHABLE ROM UPGRADE - \$60.00  
PRINTER GRAPHICS ROM FITTED - \$80.00

**Special Rates for Users Group Members!**

## EDITOR'S NOTES

About three years ago there were two Commodore users groups in the world that stood out. They were *I.C.P.U.G.* (Independent Commodore Products Users Group) from the U.K. and *T.P.U.G.* (Toronto Pet Users Group) from Canada.

This last named group had in its heydays (about three years ago) some 16000 members world wide and backed this up with their magnificent range of Public Domain disks and a newsletter which had to be seen to be believed; to all intents and purposes it was a professionally produced magazine which compared favourably with the commercial U.S. magazines.

But since those heady days things have gone downhill. Internal dissension and financial mismanagement have caused T.P.U.G. to reign in its activities. Their latest newsletter was a 16 page affair and a pale shadow of their earlier newsletter.

Fortunately we have no internal dissension within our group's management committee and our financial affairs are in order. But nevertheless we are going through a period of change. Gradually our membership is moving away from the 8 bit computers towards

the Amiga and, to a smaller degree, the MS-DOS machines.

Although at present the 8 bit users still account for over 60% of our membership, the actual *participation* of these members in club activities is diminishing rapidly. As an instance, practically 50% of library borrowings are by Amiga owners, and this despite the fact that the Amiga library is only about ¼ the size of our total library stock.

This lack of participation by 8 bit users is shown vividly in this issue of your newsletter. Out of 16 pages 6 are taken up by Editorial and Group news, 3 pages are taken up by advertisements, 1½ page is from our faithful Canberra friend and supporter Paul Blair and 4½ pages have been supplied by our members. 1 Page is half empty. Not a very impressive record, is it?

On the strength of this lacklustre performance we have decided that with the first issue of Volume 6 (this will be the August '89 issue) we revert to a single newsletter again, which will cover all computers.

Ralph De Vries

-ooOoo-

## RANDOM BITS

### APRIL MEETING

It was wet and miserable; we didn't have our regular library room (S1) available, but despite those frustrations there was a good rollup of members.

After the usual introductory remarks, the 64 and 128 users were treated to one of the lesser known aspects of computer usage, namely the interfacing of a computer to 'the outside world'.

This very interesting demonstration was given by Col Hansen who, by means of a variety of 'gadgets', showed how the C64 can control a range of external events such as a sprinkler system (a bit ironic this, seeing it was pouring outside!).

An appreciative audience went home that night, knowing just that little bit more.

MAY MEETING ---> 9th MAY!!! <---  
This is the SECOND TUESDAY of MAY!!!

Sky Travel demo presented by Gordon Keir

Sky Travel for the 64 is an astronomy simulation which has been admired by the cognoscenti since it first appeared several years ago. Through the accidents and vicissitudes of the marketplace it has never, until fairly recently, been widely advertised or easy to purchase. But Sky Travel is a remarkable program, a model of excellence to which no qualification or apology for being "only a 64" need be attached.

Our Demos, if they are not to be mere time fillers, should aim at opening windows for our users on the process of doing interesting or useful things with their computers; not detailed instruction, but a stimulus to give encouragement and confidence to explore more of their computer.

The indefatigable and multitalented Gordon Keir by himself more than fulfills these criteria. With his skill as a presenter and the 64 behaving like a planetarium, would anyone dare to think that the 64 users were not waving but drowning?

Leigh Winsor

-ooOoo-

## LIBRARY NEWS

by Phil Guernsey

Lookout C64/128 library users! At the March meeting, Amiga borrowers were responsible for 42% of the transactions. I guess in a month or two Amiga items will be more than half of the library business and the C64/128 users will have to use a small table off to one side? (Actually, NO! We'll amalgamate.)

Part of the reason for declining interest in the 8-bit software area is of course the lack of new stuff lately. Well that is definitely being remedied with a large order of fairly recently published items being sent out in a few days after I write this.

However there are many items that would be of interest to lots of members that I am sure are hanging around some of your homes and might be available for selling to the club at a reasonable price. This is much less hassle, and of course much cheaper, than buying new programs. Just some of the popular older application programs that come to mind and are not in our current stocks include: Certificate Maker, Doodle!, Printmaster Plus, any C64/128 assembler (Merlin, Pal ...), Newsroom, Crossword Magic, any Music program (-Construction Set, -Studio, synthesizer programs).

## PRINTER RIBBON PRICES REDUCED

See price list for MPS1000 & 1250 ribbons.

## IN MEMORIAM - ROY OWEN

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Roy Owen on the 19th March 1989, after a prolonged illness. He will be remembered in particular for the work he has done in our lending library.

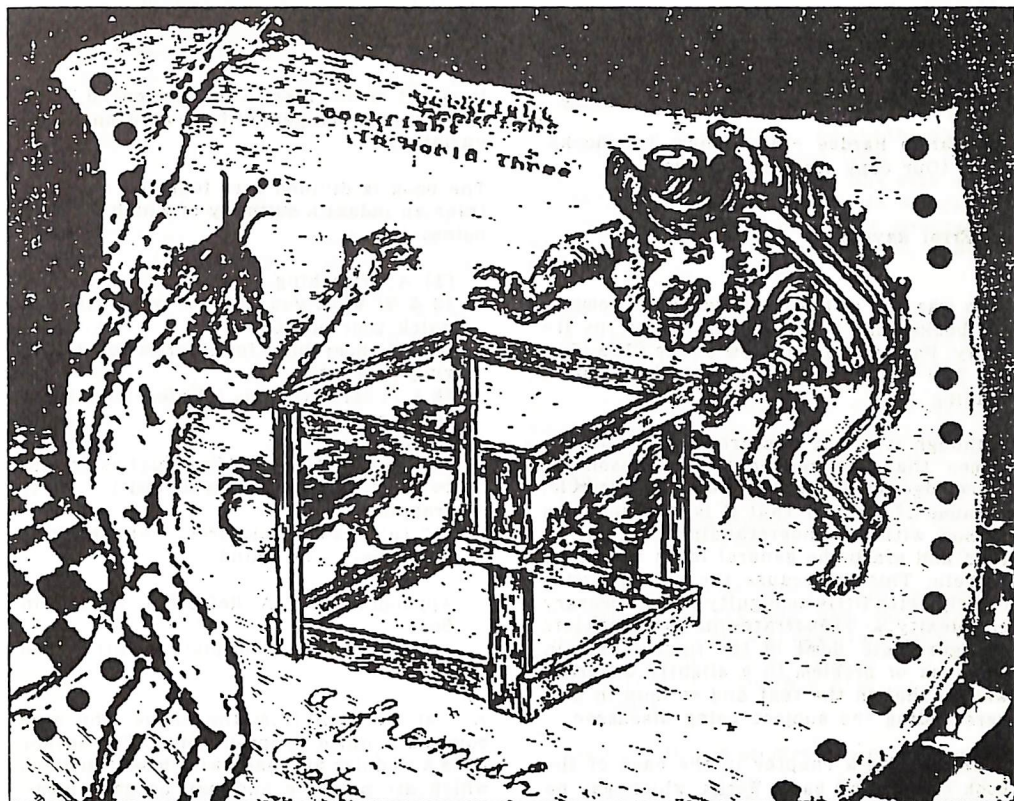
We send our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Games I would consider include Leader Board, Boulder Dash Construction Kit, the better Epyx Summer/Winter etc Games series, Elite, good text adventures ... this list could go on but it will always come down to my judgement as to what is quality and what is pulp! Also some kids/educational programs such as the Stickybear series, Sesame St series etc. See me at the meeting (preferably after the main meeting when its a bit quieter) or ring me at home at a decent hour.

For interest, the actual statistics of the March meeting borrowings were as follows:

	C64/128	Amiga
Commercial Disks	107	27
Magazine Disks	3	32
Commercial Tapes	5	-
Books	29	32
Magazines	41	44

As there were only 31 commercial disks in the Amiga library that represents an 87% borrowing rate. Compare  $107/249 = 43\%$  for the C64/128 collection. So come and try your luck at the May meeting - and while you are there borrow a couple of those magazines from the heaps available.



## A FREMISH CRATE

This picture was created on an Amiga,  
using Deluxe Paint in Hi-Res mode by  
Leigh Winsor

## REVIEWS

### Commodore 128 Basic Progr. Techniques

By Martin Hardee - Publisher: Tab Books  
(Our copy from BCF Bookshops)

by Errol Rayner

This was one of the most 'readable' computer books that I have taken out of the library. For users fairly new to the C128 (Basic 7) I would suggest that it is required reading.

Although it is not a 'starter' book and assumes that the reader has a reasonable knowledge of Basic it would be possible, because of the way that it is written, for a person with no understanding of Basic to read and grasp the general ideas contained therein. This is because the author writes clearly, with little ambiguity or unnecessary complexity, and illustrates his ideas with lots of figures etc. Some of the figures explain the idea or problem in a slightly different way to that in the text and so help in understanding the subject being discussed.

There is also a chapter in the back of the book called 'How Basic Works' which may be helpful as a refresher for anyone a little rusty in programming, though this part of the book is mainly aimed at the first time Basic user. As with most things this book has both strong and weak points.

Strong points are:-

Clearly and concisely written and easily read.  
Lots of figures expanding on existing text.  
Covers most areas of Basic 7 very thoroughly.  
Uses modular practices.  
Plenty of demo. programs and routines.  
Variables used are mnemonic where possible.<sup>1</sup>

Weak points are:-

There are typing errors in some of the lines of Basic code (common in computer books, unfortunately).

It is not made clear to inexperienced users the potential dangers of full-word mnemonic variables.<sup>1</sup>

The book is divided into fourteen chapters (plus an index) a summary of which is given below:-

- (1) A Refreshing Approach to Basic.
- (2 & 3) What you have to work with / A quick tour of DOS.
- (4 & 5) Searching for information / Storing your data.
- (6 & 7) Relative files / Professional input routines.
- (8) Sorting.
- (9,10,11) Professional Program Design: Appearance / Speed & Readability / Error trapping.
- (12,13) Drawing pictures / Animation.
- (14) Music and Sound.

Appendix (A) A Refresher Course in Basic.

Appendix (B)- A Complete Relative File program.

As can be seen from the above, the area covered is quite comprehensive. The author uses a modular approach with most routines, which are portable and may be used elsewhere, often with only slight modifications.

He also uses full-word variables (mentioned earlier) which help greatly when trying to follow the workings of the program.

Also covered in great detail is the error trapping possibilities of the C128, which are quite powerful. One of the great things about books such as this one is that the reader is encouraged to modify and further develop routines supplied by the author. Thus it is possible for programmers with only minimal knowledge of Basic to build up fairly complex routines for their programs. Something that they might not have been game to do without the guidelines supplied by the author.

Martin Hardee goes to great lengths to explain, not only what a particular routine will do, but also how it is done.



Final comment:- The advertising blurb on the back cover state "The one source on C-128 Basic that you'll turn to again and again for information and inspiration!"

I would have to agree with that - an excellent book!

<sup>1</sup> The author uses full-word mnemonic variables such as CASE\$, MUSIC\$, RESET\$ instead of CA\$, MU\$, RE\$ or the mysterious X\$, Y\$, Z\$. Calling variables by their full, descriptive name makes it easier to debug programs, providing that the programmer understands (or remembers) that variables such as RESET\$, REPAIR\$ and REEF\$ are all considered the same (eg. string variable RE\$) by Basic 7. Longer variable names are also more likely to contain 'reserved' (prohibited for use as variables) Basic words than their two letter equivalents.

-ooOoo-

#### MAIL- MASTER by LOADSTAR

by Gordon Keir

This program which is now in our library is advertised as an Address Book and Label Printing Program. This is an apt description, for it is suitable for keeping membership records and/or mailing lists for a small club or association. It will keep records of up to 200 members (simple address lists) or of 150 members if more detailed information is desired.

It will print out selected single address labels or runs of labels of standard size (23 by 89 mm), either alphabetically by surname, or chronologically by postcode. As well, it will print this information in tabular form across the page in 80 columns. It even has an envelope addressing facility which allows you to specify the size of envelope, and then puts your name and address on the top left corner, before placing the addressee's details centrally on the envelope.

Essentially it is an American program, but the address format allows the Australian City, State, Postcode mode to apply quite successfully without problems.

First of all, you must print out the instructions - all 39 pages - because the workings are not self evident. Once you do this, make a copy of the master (the instructions suggest you do this), and then delete the manual-maker files (366 blocks) from the copy. Now you will be able to use this disk as a storage disk and avoid tedious disk-swapping, for the program utilises 3 sub-programs which have to be accessed from the master program as you progress.

Follow the instructions and all will go well. It is possible to extend the basic data per person to a total of 15 fields - see page 5. Further useful information on page 17 enables the user to rename the first 6 fields, which means you can choose other headings rather than Name, Address etc. As well, the number of fields available for renaming can be extended to 15 if page 5 has already been implemented. This means that a mini-database could be created.

Extra entries can be added at any time and appended to the previous list, and the lot can then be sorted alphabetically and the new list made to replace the old on disk. Effective search commands exist to locate desired data.

To sum up - this is an effective mailing and record keeping system. It is not as good as a relative file program like Superbase, especially in terms of flexibility, but is more versatile than other similar mailing programs I have seen.

-ooOoo-

(ED: I would like to thank Gordon Keir for his review of the above program which is contained on one of the Group's Lending Library disks.

It is obvious that Gordon actually sat down and *used* the program, so that he could pass on this information to his fellow members.

Here is my plea to other members who find useful material, either on our Public Domain disks or on material of our lending library: *Please write a little review and let your fellow members know what you think of a program!* Remember there are always new members out there who are looking for this kind of information. Thank you!)

# IT'S OBVIOUS!

by Errol Rayner

Consider the following basic line:-

```
10 TI=IT+42:IF IT$=42 THEN
TI=42:IT=MID$(TI,10,20) OR 42.
```

With so many things wrong it's a nonsense line, isn't it? *That's obvious!* Well at least it's obvious to Basic programmers but it is unlikely that this line would be clearly wrong to anyone just starting out in programming. "What are you driving at?" I hear you say.

My intention is to try and encourage writers of articles etc. to make themselves understood by not assuming too much of the reader. The same also applies to lectures, of course.

Certainly there is a limit to the number and type of explanations that can be supplied. Some understanding of the subject is usually assumed by the writer or lecturer. E.g. a lecture is usually aimed at the majority in the audience. It can not hope to satisfy intellectuals with a similar or greater understanding of the field discussed, nor will it be crystal clear to someone with little or no knowledge of the subject. So writers or lecturers do have a framework within which they should remain, that is: information, data or whatever should generally be able to be understood by a reasonable cross-section of the audience. *That's obvious!*

Maybe so, but quite a few writers still discuss specialist subjects in such a way as to only be easily understood by clones of themselves. The pity is that with only a little extra effort by some writers, a much larger group of people could have the benefit of this knowledge.

Don't get me wrong! I am no saint in this area and in fact I'm probably one of the worst offenders. 'Confusing the issue' is my specialty! But doesn't this give me an 'expert' knowledge of the obvious and the right to say "don't do as I do, but do as I say!"?

In magazines, for example, a product may be advertised as suitable for the 64/128.

*Obviously*, the advertiser knows in which mode this item will work. The reader however, may not be able to determine this from the information supplied. "Does it only work in 64 mode or will it operate in the 128 native mode?" is a question that often can only be answered by careful reading of the ad, knowing someone who has one, or buying the thing! Confusion and irritation follow. All quite unnecessary if the ad had stated "Two models, one for the 64 and one for the 128" or "For 64/128, in 64 mode only"

Closer to home, the Group's Public Domain disks are often accessed by using Speedscript and yet there are scant instructions to the non-Speedscript familiar. Granted that, to many members Speedscript is second nature, however to new members (and dimwits like myself) it is *not obvious* how to get started. A brief instruction label, with companion program on the disk, would do the trick, just in case the user does not have the Speedscript instruction book ... (available from the Group).

Another example would be the Digital Research book on CP/M (which is not one book, but three!). After reading it I became more confused than ever about CP/M (I can hear Philip Parkin laughing!). In fact I learned more about CP/M from another book which was devoted to Basic, and which only mentioned CP/M in passing! What was wrong with the Digital Research book? I felt that it suffered from the academic or legal syndrome, which is the inability to communicate information without making it totally incomprehensible to all but the expert. No doubt the writers of this book thought all the descriptions were quite *obvious*.

"What's CP/M?", I hear someone ask. Herein lies another problem with communication, the use of abbreviations. Too many writers refer to something solely by its abbreviated form, because they consider that the shortened form is *obvious* to all and sundry. Well the 'all' crowd might be ok but the 'sundry' lot miss out yet again! What's wrong with a simple "CP/M: Control Program for Microcomputers." at the bottom of the page?

By the way, here's an interesting exercise for some of you: try to find a book that actually tells you what the abbreviation 'CP/M' actually means! You won't find an explanation in the Commodore 128 books supplied with the 128 (and it contains a big section on CP/M!). Have I made my point? Oh, I forgot, everyone knows what CP/M means; I guess you could say it's *obvious*, isn't it?

The bottom line is this - the purpose of writing (or lecturing) is to communicate information known (and hopefully useful) to the writer across to the reader or audience,

with minimal confusion and maximum comprehension. Any lecturer who, on completion of a talk, can manage to make an audience think that they know almost as much about the subject as the speaker does, has succeeded in this respect.

After all, the purpose of computers is to process and disseminate information with maximum speed and efficiency, making life easier for all!! Shouldn't we, after adding compassion to these requirements, try and emulate them?

I would have thought that this was *obvious*!

-ooOoo-

## THE SUPER\* PAGE

by Paul Blair

Superbase 3.01 for the C64 and C128 is now available. But before you rush out and part with the dollars, I will set out what I have been able to find out about V3.01.

Users of SB have been seeking some improvements to the program. The main request was from users of two disk drives - mainly 1541 and 1571 models. Backup and export/import from one drive to the other were seen as desirable extras. Owners of 1581 disk drives (never officially released in Oz, but there are a number around) also wanted SB support for their larger capacity drives. And a version of UTILITY to work with double-sided disks would be nice, too. In the various magazines, it was reported that Precision Software were working to deliver the goods. Indeed, it seems they were.

The first hint of trouble came from a friend whose new copy of 3.01 "runs at half the speed of my old V2.08 when reading and writing to disk". Huh? So I borrowed his disk, and went hunting. The program code was clearly set up to read and write to both 1571 and 1581. But the fast disk access to the 1571 had been removed.

With my friends disk came a blurb from PSL, claiming "the improvements... are the ability to use Superbase with a Commodore 1581 disk drive and to enable the use of two

single drives for backup, copying files, etc." On the back was an order form for the two (2!!) versions of 3.01. Nothing else was included, not even some clue to the changes that had obviously been made. It all looked quite confusing to me.

The two versions were reported thus: Version 1 is for 2 x 1571 or 1541 drives, with fast disk routines for the 1571 included. Version 2 is for 1 x 1541 or 1571 drive, and 1 1581 drive. Fast disk routines are not included. From the news that has come into me, the only version actually available (this is being written at Easter time) is version 2. Version 1 seems to have been mislaid.

Well, if you have a 1581 drive, you are OK. I think! I don't have a 1581, but am told that the changes (noted below) work just fine. Of course you can't back up a 1581 to a 1571 (or vice versa) but you can make an archive copy by using EXPORT "9:MYNAME" to shift stuff from Unit 8 to Unit 9. I don't know what happens when your data overflows the capacity of the 1571, but someone might try it for me and give a report.

There seems to be no way you can use the MAINTAIN/BACKUP option if you should own two 1581 drives. I understand that Version 1 (1541 or 1571 only) is written the same way. As this contradicts the blurb, I

can only assume that PSL mean you can EXPORT as a euphemism for BACKUP. The code in both cases will only do a proper backup of both drives are in one unit (eg 4040 or 8250) as unit 8.

Looking through the 1571/1581 Version 2 code, it appears that things like EXPORT or IMPORT "9:FILENAME" are now supported. MEMO, LOAD and SAVE use similar syntax. But MAINTAIN/BACKUP Unit 8 to 9 is not on.

From the phone calls and letters now coming in, it seems that Version 2 is being sent to everyone who orders either model. Now, if you have two 1571 drives, Version 2 is really not much use to you. In fact, it is probably a liability, due to the slower disk access times. Talk about confusion!

There are some other changes, but these will take some time to decipher. I will report on developments as soon as I can. PSL used to send me all updates as a matter of courtesy, but this nice gesture seems to have gone by the board with their recent shake-out of staff. Still, the local grapevine seems to work pretty well. Thanks to all those who have called, sent disks, and done tests on their copy for me.

To save you the cost of ringing me, there is a simple test you can do to see which version (1 or 2) of 3.01 you have. Load up SB 3.01 using a 1571 as your data unit, and kick up a database of reasonable size. Choose a record about 2/3 of the way through it that contains something no earlier record has - so the MATCH routine will not stop before it gets to that particular record. Now do

SELECT/MATCH, and time how long it takes to get there. Now QUIT, boot up your old version and repeat the test. As version 2 has no 1571 fast disk access routines, it will take about 60% longer to make the match you have chosen. If that's all too much, send me a copy of your disk, put your phone number with it, and I'll let you know.

UTILITY 128 is on the disk, but I've not had time to check out the qualities of the versions. It may be that there are versions 1 and 2 of this program too.

A few words about upgrading (apart from suggesting some caution!). New disks from the UK cost 25 and 30 pounds (64/128 versions), while upgrades from an earlier version cost 18 pounds. Those prices translate (roughly) to \$60 and \$40. Locally, a new package costs anything from \$69 to more than \$100. So the UK route is the cheapest. I don't know if anyone offers upgrades locally.

The program can be ordered on 5¼ or 3½" disks (never heard of metrics) depending on your needs. Remember that SB boots only from Unit 8, but if you have device number switches this may not be a matter of any concern.

(c) Paul Blair 1989

-----  
(Paul's address is:  
35 Calder Crescent  
HOLDER ACT 2611)

-----  
-ooOoo-

## BYTES

---

### FOR SALE

---

1530 Datasette (C2N). New and Un-used, (bought Disk Drive), in orig. Box with Manual.... Also 4 Original Program Tapes; Intro to Basic (1 & 2), Rolf Harris Picture Builder, Graphics and Sound Programming....Also 2 years C64 CURSOR Mag. Back-issues. - \$39.00 the lot.

Contact Fred LeLievre on (071) 469 129.

---

1901 (40/80 column) Monitor to suit C128/64  
1571 Disk Drive to suit C128/64

Contact David Johnson on (07) 277 6796 a.h. for details.

---

### WANTED TO BUY

---

Commodore 1201 Amber Monitor at a reasonable price.  
Would prefer the cream coloured case, but will consider the black one.

Offers to Gordon Keir on (07) 281 3929 (a.h.)

---

## WHICH ARE YOU?

Are you an Active Member  
The Kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented  
Your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings,  
And mingle with the flock,  
Or do you stay at home,  
And criticise and Knock?  
Do you take an active part  
To help the work along,  
Or are you satisfied to be  
The kind that just belong?  
Do you push the Cause along,  
And make things really tick,  
Or talk about the "Clique"?  
Think this over Member,  
You know the Right from Wrong  
Are YOU an Active Member,  
Or do you just belong?

**COMMODORE WARRANTY + NON WARRANTY REPAIRS**

- \* PROFESSIONAL STAFF (SENIOR TECHNICIANS)**
- \* FAST TURNAROUND**
- \* FLAT RATE CHARGES**
- \* ALL WORK GUARANTEED**

**1541 Disk Drive Alignment & Cleanup --- \$35.00**

**To Financial Members of the CCUGQ only!**

**TONY MAY - MANAGER**

**SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND COMPUTER REPAIRS**

**SHOP 4, 32 BRISBANE RD, BUNDAMBA  
PHONE (07) 816 1588**

# DIRECTORY

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### PRESIDENT:

Greg Perry - Ph. 366 3295 (10am - 4pm)

### SECRETARY:

Mike Williams - Ph. 209 9084

### TREASURER:

John Van Staveren - Ph. 372 3651

### TECHNICAL COORDINATOR:

Greg Shea - Ph. 345 2799

### SUB-GROUP COORDINATOR:

Terry Steer - Ph. 807 4466

### CHIEF LIBRARIAN:

Phil Guerney - Ph. 378 9756

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Ralph De Vries - Ph. 300 3477

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### C-64/128 COORDINATOR:

Leigh Winsor - Ph. 379 2405

### AMIGA COORDINATOR:

Steve McNamee - Ph. 262 1127

### PLUS/4 CONTACT:

Clarence Stock - Ph. 397 8894

## LIBRARIES & SALES

### LIBRARY - SOFTWARE, BOOKS AND MAGAZINES:

Phil Guerney - Ph. 378 9756

### SALES - DISKS & ACCESSORIES:

Leigh Winsor - Ph. 379 2405

### SALES - PUBLIC DOMAIN DISKS AND TAPES:

Doug Maclurkin - Ph. 358 4442

## "CURSOR" NEWSLETTER

### EDITOR:

Ralph De Vries - Ph. 300 3477

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

Reuben Phillips - Ph. 345 6417

### Bulletin Board System (Opus 3: 640/304):

Phone Number (07) 344 1833

### SYSOP:

Greg Shea - Ph. 345 2799

### ASSISTANT SYSOP:

Steve McNamee - Ph. 262 1127

C64/128 SYSOP:

Address all Newsletter Mail to:

The Editor "CURSOR", PO Box 384,  
ASHGROVE, QLD, 4060.

Deadline for the June issue is:

## FRIDAY 28th APRIL!

Please supply Articles on 5¼" disk in the following format (in order of preference): SEQ ASCII file, SEQ PET ASCII file, SuperScript/EasyScript, PaperClip/PocketWriter files in the SEQ save option, SpeedScript files saved with the SS converter program, option 2, (SEQ Standard ASCII file). We are unable to convert GeoWrite, FontMaster or Bank Street Writer Files.

Use *minimum* formatting - no paragraph indentation and only a *single* space after a full stop. If a specific page layout is required include a printout in the required format. Disks will be returned promptly (we pay return postage).

Short articles (less than a page) and adverts can be submitted in written or printed form.

Alternatively, articles can also be uploaded to our BBS (Ph.344 1833) to File Area 8.

Address all other Mail (including Library Material) to:

C.C.U.G. (Q) Inc., P.O. BOX 274,  
SPRINGWOOD, QLD, 4127

If unable to return Library Material before a meeting, members may also leave this with their nearest management committee member (but please ring first!).

Opinions expressed in CURSOR are those of the Author(s), and not necessarily those of the C.C.U.G.(QLD) Inc. or the Editorial Staff.

Permission for reprinting by other Commodore & Amiga Computer Users Groups is granted, *provided* that both source and author are acknowledged.

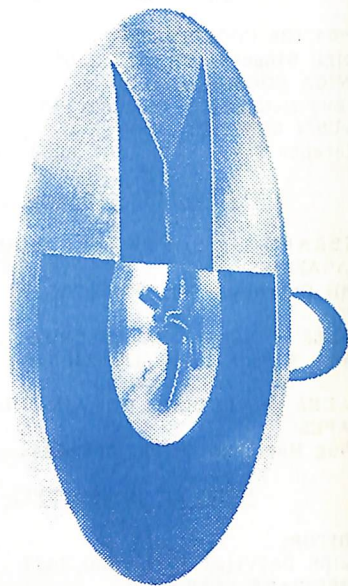
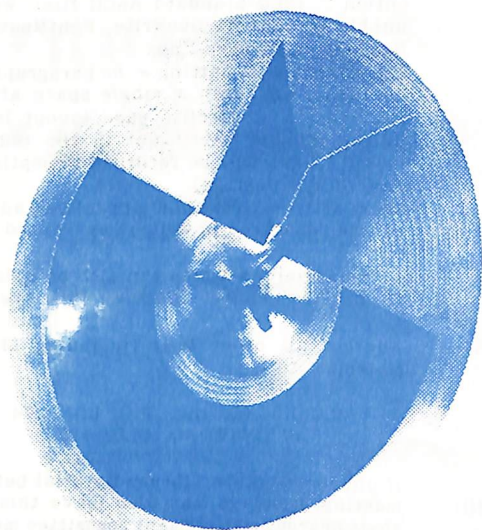
### Published by:

Commodore Computer Users Group (Qld) Inc.  
P O Box 274, SPRINGWOOD QLD 4127

### Printed by:

BANA SERVICES  
P O BOX 701, WOODRIDGE QLD 4114.

# The Number One Symbol in Computers. Commodore.



---

**C= commodore**  
COMPUTER  
Keeping up with you.

---