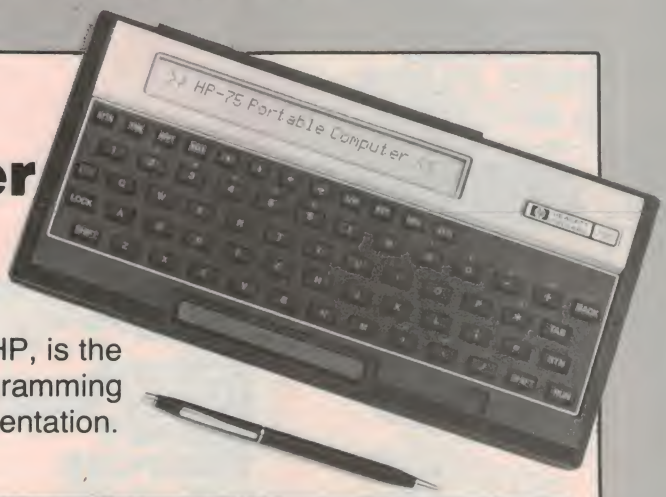
COMPUTING TODAY

New portable computer from Hewlett-Packard



This new personal computer, the first of its kind from HP, is the size of a notebook and features BASIC language programming power and software such as VisiCalc and graphics presentation.

The HP-75C functions as a portable computer by itself, as part of a portable system with compact briefcase peripherals or as a desktop personal system. It measures 254 mm x 127 mm x 32 mm and weighs only 737 grams. It has the ability to run on batteries and retain memory while turned off. It is powered by three rechargeable nickel cadmium batteries which are good for two to three weeks of normal use.

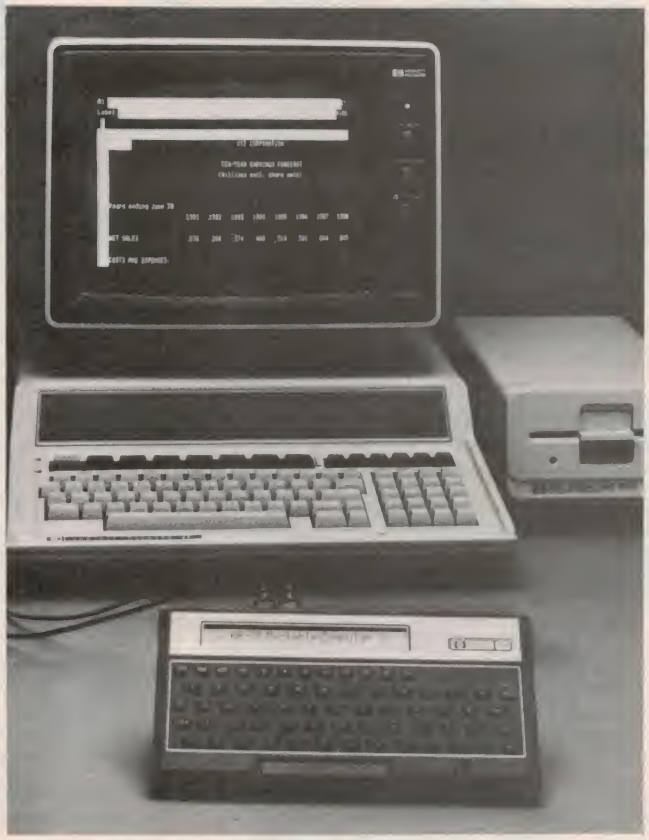
The HP-75C features 16K RAM built-in which can be increased to 24K with the plug-in 8K memory module. Three plug-in ports accept 8K or 16K ROM modules and there's a 48K ROM built-in operating system. The operating system features 169 instructions of which 147 are BASIC commands, statements or functions.

A built-in Interface Loop (HP-IL) allows communications with instruments, peripherals such as printers or graphics plotters and other computers. Touch-typing is possible on the typewriter-like keyboard. A 32-character, liquid crystal display serves as a movable window on a 96 character line and features character descenders.

The HP-75C has a manually operated mass storage system consisting of long, thin strips of magnetic card which you pull through a magnetic card reader. These cards provide 1.3K of storage each.

Software available is for specific applications such as engineering, math and statistics and general solutions such as electronic spreadsheets and graphics presentations.

For further information contact **Peter Delbridge, Hewlett-Packard, 31-41 Joseph St, Blackburn Vic. 3130. (03) 890-6351.**



Loan helps build super microcomputer

A $700 000 loan from a State instrumentality will help a Melbourne company manufacture a locally designed microcomputer which is claimed to be technologically years ahead of international competitors.

The loan from the Victorian Economic Development Corporation is one of the largest it has given and is in accordance with the Government's policy to encourage the development of high technology industries in Victoria.

The computer, known as Unison, will be manufactured by L & L Australia Pty Ltd at its new Kilsyth plant and was designed by Mr. Bill Hollier, a computer scientist from Melbourne University.

Unison will be available in three basic forms. In its largest and most expensive form it is the size of a suitcase and can accept input from 32 screens and can perform instructions at a speed approaching that of the large mainframe computers. It is regarded as the start of the next generation of microcomputers in that it takes up the same space as existing micros while its performance is compatible with the larger mini computers.

The company plans to manufacture 5000 units a year and it is aiming to sell to the education and scientific markets, offering special financial incentives to schools.

As to what the capabilities and features of the computer are, that is left to your imagination, as the Victorian Economic Development Corporation did not give us any information. So we don't know whether it is as good as they claim it to be. ■