

# The Great Skeptic CD Project Update

Work on the *Great Skeptic CD* continues at a frantic pace. I was more than delighted with the response to our plea for proof-readers resulting in Skeptic HQ being bombarded with offers. To all those who offered, my heartfelt thanks. This project could not be done without you. I now have a stack of proof-read issues of *the Skeptic* from all over the country ready for my attention.

User testing on early, incomplete versions of the CD has gone very well. The CD will have a search programme that will allow you to select a word and find every time it has appeared in two decades worth of *the Skeptic*, plus the other skeptical works that have been included. Testers have been delighted with the ease of searching hundreds of pages in a matter of seconds. The CD has already been put to good use in aiding research on alternative health for a magazine article.

The CD will contain the full text of *In the Beginning*, a compilation of articles and items from volumes 1–5 (1981–1995) and the newly produced *The Second Coming - All the best from the Skeptic 1986–1990* with articles, photos and images from volumes 6–10 of *the Skeptic* as well as new cartoons and photos. This compilation will only be available on the *Great Skeptic CD*. It will also



include the complete texts, and covers, of volumes 11–20 (1991–2000).

We are also happy to report that an updated edition of *Creationism: an Australian Perspective*, edited by Dr Martin Bridgstock and Dr Ken Smith and published in 1984, is also included on the CD together with the book *Skeptical*, edited by the late Dr Don Laycock, Prof Colin Groves *et al* and published in 1989 by the Canberra Skeptics. Both items have long been out of print and provide a wealth of fascinating information.

For those of you on the Internet, take a sneak peek at the recreation of Vol. 1 No. 1 from 1981. You will find it on the Australian Skeptics web site at:

[www.skeptics.com.au/journal/articles.htm](http://www.skeptics.com.au/journal/articles.htm)

While you are there, take the time to click around. This highly regarded web site is packed with good information on Australian

Skeptics and what we're about, plus such brain-teasing exercises as "Dr Bob's Trivia Quiz", where the answers from the correspondents are often far more ingenious than the mere truth..

The CD is on track to be ready in time for the national convention in November where we hope to have an official launching.

Oh yes.. I must correct an error I made in the last issue of *the Skeptic*. PDF stands for 'Portable Document Format', not File. (With thanks to those who caught me out!)

Richard Saunders

