



NSW State Librarian Russell Doust and Balba Berzins, Mitchell Librarian, with the watercolour 'Koala and young', by John Lewin. Dated 1803, this is the earliest-known painting of a koala and has been purchased by the State Library of NSW from a descendant of Governor Philip Gidley King.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

SINCE JANUARY 1983 when the Association required that vouchers be sold to and redeemed for institutional members of the LAA only, due to legal requirements, a number of letters have been received protesting at the minimum cost of full institutional membership, and the cost for the 'voucher only' category. Some overseas libraries, particularly in New Zealand, were concerned that they were required to pay the same as Australian libraries.

General Council considered the context of these complaints at its last meeting, and resolved that 'voucher only' membership be available to libraries with a staff and materials budget of \$50,000 and less, and the fee be \$25. It was reiterated that the 'voucher only' category was meant for charitable institutions with small specialised collections, but who have a valuable place in the inter-lending system, and other small libraries employing a librarian on a part-time basis. This category is not meant for libraries which, though small, are very important in the Australian library network and have a lot to gain by being full institutional mem-

bers of the Association.

Institutional members receive a wide range of benefits which have been built up through the efforts of the LAA. These include the portability of qualifications throughout Australia and the guarantee that these qualifications are of a certain standard due to the accreditation of courses. This means that employers do not have to worry about assessing the professional qualifications of applicants for positions, or employees. The Association is offering an increasing range of continuing education programmes to members, which is essential for libraries which do not have the resources or expertise to offer similar courses for their staff, so that they may update their skills. Institutional members also receive copies of the *Handbook* and Biennial Conference *Proceedings*, as well as the normal benefits received by personal members.

The institutional membership fees for 1984 are outlined in the Membership Fee table.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

Voucher fund operations

FOR SOME TIME the General Treasure and Executive Director, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, have been devising procedures to streamline the Association's accounting procedures.

One area to be scrutinised has been the LAA Voucher Fund. Previously the Voucher Fund has not been governed by Regulations for its operations. At its July meeting General Council adopted a number of Regulations to govern the Voucher Fund. These appear below and will be printed a part of the Constitution in the 1983 *Handbook*.

1. The Library Association of Australia shall establish and maintain a system to assist with interlibrary lending activities.
2. The Association may supply to its institutional members prepaid redeemable vouchers entitled 'Library Association of Australia Library Voucher System' at a charge to be determined from time to time by the Association.
3. The Association may impose a charge from time to time for services on the sale of vouchers.
4. The Association shall credit monies received in respect of vouchers other than monies received as a service charge to a fund styled 'Interlending Voucher Fund (the Fund)'.
5. The Association shall cause all payment in respect of the redemption of voucher by member institutions to be made by cheque and shall debit such payments to the Fund. All such payments shall be made within one month after receipt of claim for redemption. No payments shall be made from the Fund other than payments in respect of the redemption of vouchers or in meeting costs associated with the conduct of the Fund, unless approved by General Council.
6. The Association may from time to time cause monies standing to the credit of the Fund to be invested in securities having the status of trustee securities in accordance with the law of the Commonwealth of Australia or of any State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia.
7. Interest accruing to the Fund may be disposed of, firstly in defraying costs associated with the conduct of the Fund, and then as General Council directs.
8. The Association shall ensure that the amount standing to the credit of the Fund is not at any time less than the total value of vouchers issued and not redeemed.
9. The signatories for the Voucher account may be any two of the President, General Treasurer and Executive Director of the Association.

Susan Acutt
Executive Director

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