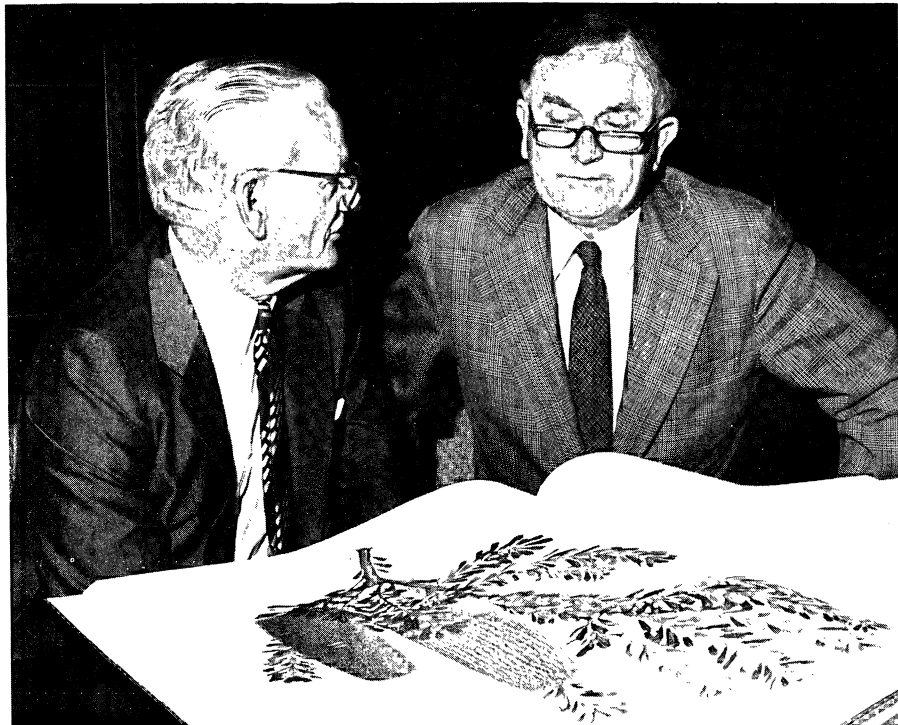


## Giant book for National Library



The largest book it has ever acquired has been donated to the National Library by Dr D.J. McAuliffe of Perth. The 77 cm by 55 cm book is the first volume in a limited edition botanical series entitled 'The Banksias', written by Alexander S. George. Mr Harrison Bryan, Director-General of the National Library, is seen (left) with Dr McAuliffe.

National Library of Australia Photograph by Hank Brusse

## New rules for LAA vouchers

EARLY IN 1978 the Library Association of Australia introduced a library voucher system, whereby redeemable vouchers are purchased and used by libraries as payment for photocopies or microform copies made for retention by another library. The scheme simplifies arrangements between libraries of all types for payment for photocopies or microforms.

To date vouchers have been sold to and redeemed for any library, although there has been a differential charge for members and non-members of the LAA. The voucher system has proved very successful and is used by increasing numbers of libraries. It is estimated that there are approximately 284,000 vouchers in circulation at the present time.

The Association's auditors have been paying particular attention to the voucher system in terms of audit controls and felt that the LAA should seek legal advice on a number of issues, in particular, use for purposes other than inter-library copying and the attitude of the Reserve Bank to the scheme.

Section 44(1) of the Reserve Bank Act 1959, provides that: 'a person shall not issue a bill or note for the payment of money payable to bearer on demand and intended for circulation'. The Reserve Bank has indicated in discussions that it does not have a procedure in respect of Section 44 similar to that which exists under Sections 49 and 51, that is, a procedure whereby the Bank may authorise particular courses of action, which might otherwise be in breach of a statutory provision. The Bank has stated that where it becomes aware of the existence of a scheme which it believes to be in breach of the Section, it takes immediate steps to ensure that the breach is prosecuted.

It was thus necessary to determine whether the operation of the Association's library voucher system comes within the terms of Section 44 of the Reserve Bank Act.

The Library Association of Australia is clearly a 'person' and thus comes within the terms of the Section. The solicitor recommended that the words 'redeemable value' be deleted to avoid any possibility of the vouchers constituting promissory notes.

The major area of concern is the degree of circulation of LAA vouchers. Section 44 provides that the bill or note must be 'intended for circulation'. It is recommended that if it could be demonstrated that vouchers are intended for use only by particular institutions, that is, institutions which are members of the Library Association of Australia, there is less likelihood of the operations of the scheme constituting a breach of the Section.

It is also recommended that the vouchers state clearly on their face that they are 'for

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## Freeze in member fees

AT A MEETING on Saturday, 21 August, the General Council of the Library Association of Australia resolved that 'the membership fees for 1983 remain at the 1982 level'. The sole exception is the institutional membership fee for libraries with a staff and materials budget of over \$500,000 which will be increased from \$200 to \$250 per annum. In terms of inflation this represents a substantial decline in the level of fees of approximately 10 percent in real terms.

General Council is aware of the criticism levelled at the LAA about fees, however it was very cautious in its consideration of the 1983 budget. The LAA, like all institutions and businesses, suffers from the escalating costs of labour and other services, therefore the only way that membership fees can be held is through very tight budgetary control — the same services will have to be provided out of a smaller pie.

The freeze on fees is a precursor to a vigorous membership drive for the remainder of 1982 and through 1983. If membership cannot be increased as a result of a lower level of fees in 1983, some of the Association's services may be at risk. It is incumbent upon every member of the LAA to promote the Association and recruit new and lapsed members.

The financial membership at 31 July 1982 was 145 less than at 20 August 1981, indicating that the decline in membership has slowed. All Branches have been asked to make membership recruitment first priority

for the remainder of the year in an attempt to stop the decline totally. It is important to remember that **new** members may join at half price after 30 June and at no cost for the remainder of the year after 30 September.

Now is a very good time to promote the Association while the level of consciousness is high. Following the huge success of LAA22, increasing numbers of publications and continuing education activities are being planned, with huge dollar savings for members. The role of the LAA in the lobbying process has been documented repeatedly; this will yet again be called into full force with the recent announcements about sales tax.

General Council has initiated a difficult bargain, it is now up to the members to keep that bargain by recruiting members to the Association.

Susan Acutt  
Executive Director

### LAA's New Address

From Monday, 20 September the Library Association of Australia's new address will be

376 Jones Street,  
Ultimo, NSW 2007

Phone: (02) 692 9233.