

Country Membership

The Melbourne Athenaeum: <https://melbourneathenaeum.org.au/>

Country Membership

The country membership service began in the early 1900s and reached a peak of 456 members in 1966. For people who live away from cities or for people in the city who are unable to travel to the library, this postal service is invaluable.



For a long period the Melbourne Athenaeum Library had so many country members that an entire room was dedicated to sorting their loans and returns.

To help you choose your books the Library sends you quarterly lists of recent acquisitions. Mark the title you would like to read and return the list to the librarian. Alternatively you may search the [online catalogue](#) and make your requests by email.

Books are then posted, reply paid in Australia, in special red, plastic satchels that have a lockable seal. The Library sends invoices for postage every three months.

Loans are for a 4-week period, or a 2-week period for new books, but can be extended by phone or email, if books are required for a longer period. A minimum of a 2-book membership is required for postal members.



To get started, or for further information, contact:

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