



FRIENDS OF LA TROBE'S COTTAGE



Newsletter No. 1, 16 May 2009

Dear Friends,

This is the first of a regular series of Newsletters to keep you informed of the group's activities.

The formation of the 'Friends of La Trobe's Cottage' was announced by Martin Purslow, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) at the La Trobe Society's gathering at La Trobe's Cottage on 22 March 2009. Many members of the La Trobe Society had for some years felt that they would like to support an initiative to improve the Cottage and its contents, and we are delighted that so many La Trobe Society and National Trust members, and others, have joined the group and are already taking an active role.

The group will come under the umbrella of The C. J. La Trobe Society but report directly to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The aim will be to support the National Trust in its efforts to maintain the Cottage, and, through fund-raising, improve the 'Visitor Experience' at the Cottage through regular public opening times, better interpretation, and improved interior and exterior appearance.

During a meeting of the initial group at the National Trust, Tasma Terrace on 15 April, the committee of FOLTC was formed and we met on 27 April. It has been agreed that we will work through sub-committees which will each establish a programme of works. The sub-committee conveners will report to their nominated committee members, who will then report to the National Trust.

Sub-committee conveners are as follows:

<u>Helen Botham (Chair)</u>		9583 1114
<u>Garden</u>	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776
<u>Guides</u>	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363
<u>Education</u>	Judith Ryles	9419 6169
<u>John Botham (Vice Chair)</u>		9583 1114
<u>Master Plan</u>	John Botham	9583 1114
<u>Building management</u>	Max Joffe	9563 6363
<u>Collections management</u>	Pam Herman TBC	9479 6590
<u>Dianne Reilly (Secretary)</u>		9646 2112
<u>Fund Raising</u>	Cecily Adams	9645 2388
<u>Events</u>	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
<u>Publicity</u>	Pam Herman TBC	9479 6590
<u>John Drury Hon. (Treasurer)</u>		9646 2112
Overall Finance Co-ordinator		

The conveners have a list of members who indicated their area of interest, and they will be forming their sub-committees. You will be hearing from them about how each group is to proceed. If you would like to be on the sub-committee of your particular area of interest, please contact your convener. Please be aware that if you would like to be involved in any activities at the Cottage – guiding, gardening, maintenance, etc., it is essential that you register as a National Trust Volunteer. Please contact Olga Givoye, Team Leader Volunteer Services, at the National Trust, tel. 9656 9840, olga.givoye@nattrust.com.au and she will give you information about how to proceed with this.

Our primary task is to formulate a Master Plan, which will facilitate applications by the National Trust for grants to support us in our work to develop the interpretation of the Cottage, and to extend and maintain the cottage and garden so that it will look as it did in La Trobe's time. We will raise funds, develop an Education Program for schools, and look after the heritage aspects of the Cottage.

Many of our plans will have outcomes in the future, but we hope in the short term to initiate some immediate repairs to the building and carry out some maintenance in the garden. The Sunday openings will also be an activity to focus our attention, and that of the citizens of Victoria.

The first of our regular Sunday Openings of the Cottage is proposed for 4 October. This will follow a day of celebrations on Saturday 3 October, which is the 170th Anniversary of the official arrival of Charles Joseph La Trobe in Melbourne. We will expect the arrival of Mr and Mrs La Trobe at the Cottage at around 2pm that day. The Property Management and Gardening sub-committees will have arranged working bees before then to spruce up the building and gardens, and the current National Trust Guide group has supported the plan for these extra opening hours.

Leading up to the week-end we propose a series of information sessions when expert speakers will be invited to add to our knowledge of the Cottage.

We can all look forward with great optimism to the future. Within our ranks we have experts in their particular fields, who, along with members who have demonstrated their enthusiasm and passion, will ensure that La Trobe's Cottage, and the legacy left to Victoria by Charles Joseph La Trobe, will be preserved and treasured.

We will keep you informed about events leading up to 3 October - I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Helen Botham