



## Newsletter No. 20

August 2017

Dear Friends,

John Drury, who has been Chair of FOLTC since the end of 2010, resigned on 21 July, and also from the role of Chair of the Cottage Management Team (CMT). We thank John for all he has done over so many years for La Trobe's Cottage. We particularly appreciate the role he took in negotiating with the National Trust in the interests of further developing the Cottage. Most recently he oversaw the formation of the Cottage Management Team, and negotiated with NTAV CEO Simon Ambrose to see that successfully inaugurated.

John Botham has offered to take on the role of FOLTC Chair.

### From the Chair

I have taken over from John Drury as the chair of the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage. The establishment of the Cottage Management Team is a great innovation, but one effect has been to reduce the role of the FOLTC Committee, with half of its members having moved across to the CMT. John took over as chair in 2010 and now sees this change as an opportunity to step back. However, he intends to retain a keen interest in the FOLTC and the Cottage in his role as manager of the La Trobe Society.

The new FOLTC committee will be:

Chair: John Botham  
Secretary: Helen Botham  
Treasurer: John Botham  
CMT rep: Neville Jarvis

I see the FOLTC role in the future being to provide:

- ) support from the LTS for the CMT and the Cottage
- ) a community for the Cottage volunteers (including newsletters)
- ) a shop front on the web
- ) fund raising
- ) high level liaison with the NTAV
- ) a flexible facility in case of future changes in the Cottage management.

In the short term, I would expect the FOLTC Committee to keep a low profile in order not to hamper the Cottage Management Team in finding its feet and bedding down its procedures.

**John Botham**

The Cottage Management Team has started working together, having had our first meeting on 21 July. You can see our roles in the box at the foot of this page, and some more specific reports follow in this Newsletter. The meeting agenda was a long one covering such issues as exterior painting needs, the removal of inoperative air conditioning units, signage, new guide assessment, electrical problems, upcoming events and a volunteers' library. We are in consultation with appropriate NTAV staff members with good, positive cooperation.

**Neville Jarvis**

### Cottage Management Team

Liaison	Neville Jarvis	8555 9116	Maintenance	Colin Mickelburgh	0423114619
Volunteers	Helen Botham	9583 1114	Funding	Neville Jarvis	8555 9116
Housekeeping	Alexis Jarvis	8555 9116	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	9592 5616
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776			

## Garden Report

The garden is looking very colourful with the white and yellow jonquils and the flowers of red flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*). I have taken some cuttings of the *Chaenomeles* in the hope they will strike and I can plant some more along the fence. Recently we purchased a half barrel and I have planted it up with succulents. The tiny *Agave americana* 'Variegata' came from the plants growing along the East Melbourne train line that once was a part of Jolimont.

*Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer' is flowering beautifully at the front door of the Cottage and the gorgeous scent in that area is from the *Daphne odora*.

Once the weather warms up, I am hoping that all the plants I pruned hard will sprout and shower us with their new juvenile foliage.

**Sandi Pullman**



Winter garden

## Housekeeping Notes

Recently, when items stored in the loft above the reception area were being sorted through, several bags of curtains were found to have been stored there. These are curtains which hung in the Cottage for a number of years, but have now been replaced. The four pairs of floral curtains which were in the bedroom until early 2015 when Lorraine Finlay arranged for their replacement, were found to have dry cleaning stickers dated December, 1980 which indicated that they had come from Como. There were the three pairs of blue velvet curtains which hung in the Dining Room until 2011. These had originally been in the private residence of Sir George Verdon over the E S & A Bank in Collins Street which later became the headquarters of the Lyceum Club.

They were donated to the Trust by the Lyceum Club in 1963. Katie Potter, Curator, Collections and Interpretation Team at the Trust, will contact the ANZ Bank, which has in the last few years restored Sir George Verdon's residence, to check whether they want them back – even just for research purposes.

Some tidying has also been done in the Volunteers' kitchen and a few items have gone across to the shed leaving us with a little more floor space than previously. A list is being created of the items that are being stored in the shed, and also the contents of each cupboard in the Volunteers' kitchen.

I spent two very productive hours with Katie Potter at the Cottage recently to go through all the various procedures with her and now have a good understanding of the housekeeping duties.

**Alexis Jarvis**

## A Storage Shed

Thanks to the negotiating skills of Sandi Pullman, our Gardening Coordinator, we now have sole access to a shed in the garden service depot adjacent to Domain House. It is a reasonable size (approx. 4 x 2 metres) giving room for storage of gardening equipment as well as items previously kept in the Kitchen block not required on a regular basis.

After initial early cleaning by some volunteers last March, further cleaning will be carried out shortly to prepare for the addition of extra shelving, and hooks will be added along with a large two-door



Lyceum Club curtains in the Cottage, 2011



Shed cleaning

steel cabinet provided to us by Bunnings, Port Melbourne, as part of their Community Support Program. We are most grateful for their generosity; it is also worth noting this generosity extended to supplying a lockable Key Cabinet for organising Cottage object keys. The shed should prove a most useful facility for us.

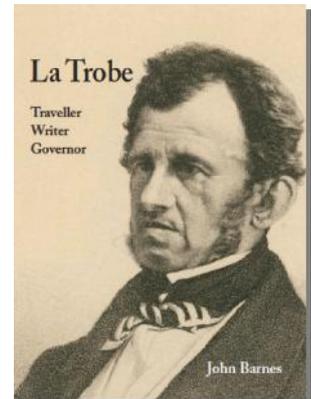
**Neville Jarvis**

### **From the Publicity Coordinator**

#### **La Trobe biography**

Professor John Barnes provides a fascinating insight into his authorship of the new biography of La Trobe, *La Trobe: Traveller, Writer, Governor* as he chats with State Library Victoria's Manuscripts Manager Dr Kevin Molloy, at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lsai5iCQVcl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lsai5iCQVcl).

Historian Dr Andrew Lemon has said of the book, which is now available more widely in bookshops (price \$59.95, 10% discount available from Readings at State Library Victoria): 'The great strength of this book, in addition to its clear and elegant prose, is its fair-mindedness. Its great originality is its lucid literary analysis which helps us understand the man'.



### **Future Events**

#### **Members talk to Members and Friends program:**

The final talks for this year's program, held on Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm in Mueller Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens, and followed by afternoon tea, are:

**Sunday 13 August:** Captain 'Old King' Cole: from Port Phillip Pioneer to Victorian Patriarch - John Botham.

**Sunday 10 September:** La Trobe and the Cape Otway Lighthouse - Tim Gatehouse.

For more details, please go to [www.latrobesociety.org.au/talks2.html](http://www.latrobesociety.org.au/talks2.html). Bookings may also be made via email: [talks@latrobeociety.org.au](mailto:talks@latrobeociety.org.au), or phone 9592 5616.

FOLTC volunteers have been assisting with these events, and a share of the profits is given to the FOLTC.

#### **Garden Day at La Trobe's Cottage**

**Sunday 1 October:** 1 – 4pm

Spring Opening of the Cottage with an emphasis on La Trobe's garden, and the heritage plants he favoured. Sandi Pullman will be on hand to take tours of the garden at 1.15, 2.15 and 3.15pm.

**Helen Armstrong**

#### **Government House Tours**

We are pleased to see a good number of bookings for Combined Tours of Government House and La Trobe's Cottage throughout August, September and October. Thanks to the Government House Guides who will be busy during the coming months – great news for La Trobe's Cottage!

#### **Volunteers Meeting**

A meeting will be held at the Cottage on Friday 22 September at 10.30am, in order to look ahead to the coming season of Sunday openings. A notice will be sent about this closer to the date.

With thanks to all for their interest and support.

**Helen Botham**