



Friends of La Trobe's Cottage



Newsletter No. 4: 6 November 2009

170th Anniversary Celebrations: 3rd October

Despite a threatening sky in the morning, the sun shone as Mr La Trobe read his proclamation to the citizens of Port Phillip. The flag was raised as the National Anthem played, and Mr La Trobe then walked with his party into the Cottage. He had arrived with Sophie and Captain Lonsdale, escorted by the militia, to a fanfare played by the Oakleigh City Band. The enthusiasm of the waiting crowd had been encouraged by John Pascoe Fawkner, who reminded them that this was indeed a great day for Melbourne.

Many in the crowd felt they had been transported back in time. The fact that his commission was read by Mr Webb, and that he responded with his actual proclamation, the presence of two bands and the attendance by others in costume really took us back to 3rd October 1839.

We are grateful to Justin Smith of Rippon Lea who provided an authentic characterisation of Mr La Trobe, members of the Victorian Re-enactment Society who played all the other characters except for the McCrae family (Dr and Mrs Farquhar McCrae, and the Misses McCrae) who were played by volunteers from McCrae Homestead, the Oakleigh City Band and the Newport Bush Orchestra.

Thanks also to all our members who helped with set-up, garden, teas, shop, reception duties and guiding in the Cottage. The National Trust contributed to the planning and management of the day and we were grateful especially to Martin Green for his involvement leading up to and on the day. The public and the invited guests were treated to a wonderful event, and one which we hope will have brought La Trobe and his Cottage to public notice.

Leading up to the event, on 29th September, Dianne Reilly gave a presentation titled La Trobe the Man at East Melbourne Library. Dianne's thorough knowledge of La Trobe provided us with fascinating insights into the life of La Trobe. Miles Lewis's presentation on 13th October, Jolimont in Context, informed us of many interesting facts about the prefabricated cottage, its time at Jolimont and then details about its removal to the Botanic Gardens. These events gave us an opportunity to meet others interested in La Trobe and his Cottage, and we enjoyed chatting with members of other groups who had come along. Many thanks to those who volunteered to help with these events.

Thanks also to Dianne Reilly and John Drury for hosting a cocktail party on 2 October, which put us all in celebratory mood for the events of the next day.

Sunday Cottage Openings

The Cottage is now open every Sunday from 2-4pm for tours. During October 60 visitors took advantage of this – many say they are grateful to have this opportunity to see the Cottage as they have often walked past and wondered what was inside! We are grateful to our Guide group and our new guide receptionists who have enabled these openings to go ahead.

A programme of training new guides has had to be delayed until next year. Anyone who hasn't been involved who would like to take part in this, please let me know.

Committee

Chair	Helen Botham	9583 1114	Vice Chair	John Botham	9583 1114	Secretary	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Garden	Sandi Pullman		Master Plan	John Botham	9583 1114	Fund Raising	Cecily Adams	
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363	Events	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Education	Loreen Chambers	0419364570	Treasurer	John Drury	9646 2112	Publicity	Vacant	
NT Rep	Martin Green	9656 9822	A Treasurer	John Botham	9583 1114			

Good News

On Monday 12 October it was announced that the National Trust had been awarded \$59,000, under the Jobs Fund initiative, for work on the Cottage. This money will go towards urgent repairs to the building, interpretative signage and costumes. The Trust will be carrying out the building repairs and the signage work in the future, but would be pleased to hear from any members who would be interested in undertaking research into appropriate costumes and could assist with decisions about just which costumes should be made. Please contact Martin Green on 9656 9822. He is particularly interested in research sourcing images of La Trobe, servants, military uniforms and women's wear of the period.

Project Manager

Scott Strachan has been appointed by the National Trust as Project Manager for La Trobe's Cottage. He will act as the liaison between the Trust and the Friends group and we look forward to seeing him at our meetings so that he can keep us up to date with news from the Trust and so that we can acquaint him with the hopes that we have for the Cottage, which he can then take back to the Trust for consideration.

Memberships

Our Treasurer, John Drury, would be pleased to receive subscriptions from Members who have not yet completed a Membership application form – a form is attached with this newsletter.

Christmas Cocktails

The National Trust will be sending invitations to members to a Christmas celebration at Tasma Terrace on Monday 14 December at 6pm so keep this date free!

With thanks again to you all for your support on 3 October.

Helen Botham, Chair

