

Newsletter No.44

14 October 2022

Our new season got off to a great start on Sunday 2 October. Thirty-six visitors attended on the day. Thanks to the great work of the thirteen volunteers at the Working Bee on 20 September the Cottage and garden looked at its best. Exterior timbers were washed down, and the brick path power-washed. The interior of the Cottage was vacuumed, including bed canopy and curtains, and all surfaces dusted. Furniture was polished, glass on picture frames cleaned. The cleaned bedspread was fitted, and the servants' building dusted and vacuumed throughout and the washed curtains were rehung in the staff kitchen and small bedroom. The roasting jack was polished and put in place in the fireplace. The garden beds were weeded and mulched and the fence and gates washed down.



Garden Day

But various maintenance issues are causing concern. We do seem to have solved the rat problem for the moment - two specially-made metal plates have been fitted over holes in the dining room fireplace, and no further evidence of rats has been found since those holes were blocked.

As reported in our meeting on 22 September, mould has appeared on the two La Trobe family portraits in the dining room. Katie Potter, NTV Senior Collections Coordinator, arranged for them to be taken to



a conservator who can remove the mould, and he will provide an extra quote for the work needed to fully restore the paintings. The C.J. La Trobe Society has indicated that they would be willing to mount an appeal for these funds. While the paintings are absent, large colour copies have been put in place in the dining room. Mould has also appeared on many of the internal panels in the Cottage. This has been removed, and we will air the Cottage as much as possible; steps will need to be taken next winter to ensure it doesn't happen again.



Cottage Management Team

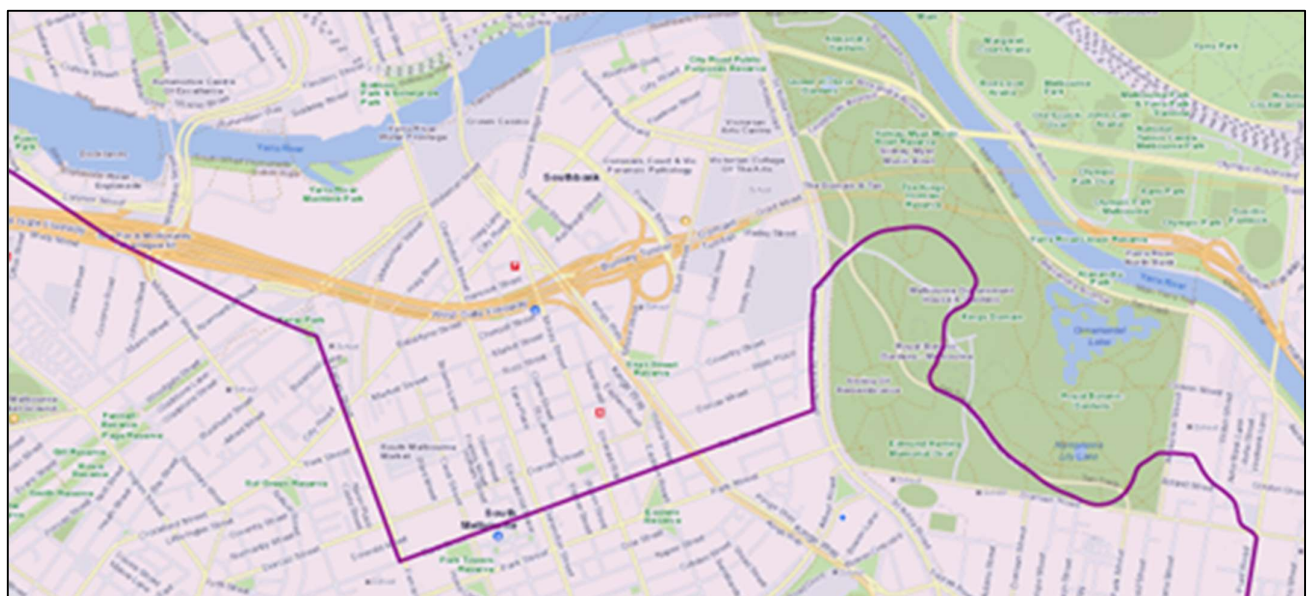
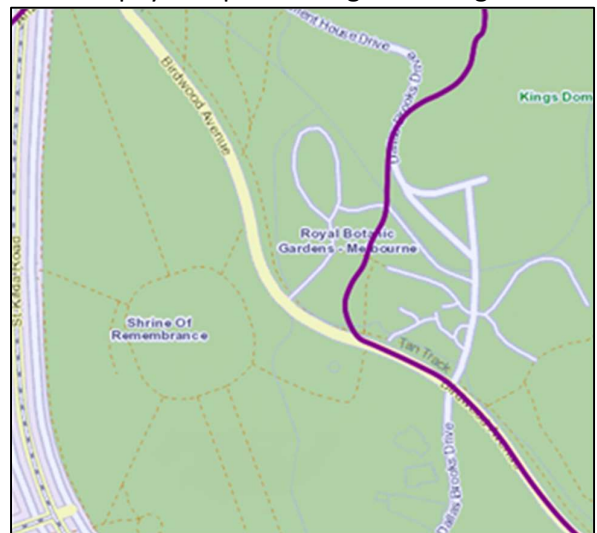
Liaison	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Maintenance	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619
Volunteers	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619	Statistics	Neville Jarvis	85559116
Garden	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	0427 925616
Curatorial	Neville Jarvis	85559116	Adjunct Coordinator:	Rob Christie	0488 759065

As reported in the last Newsletter, there are no funds in the current NTV budget for repairs to the rotting timbers on the kitchen block. However, there is concern that this should not be allowed to get any worse and the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage account may just stretch to fund this repair. Alyce arranged for a carpenter to provide a quote which is being considered.

I hope you all received the email from the National Trust on 10 October about the new Reconciliation Action Plan. The information provided there is important for us all to know, so do click on 'View Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2024' and read through it. But the other link provided there, at 'Acknowledgement of Country Guide' <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-Acknowledgement-of-Country-Staff-and-Volunteer-Guide.pdf?promo=> is an important reminder to us all about the need for this acknowledgement before our tours. You can find the appropriate words on p.3 of the Guide Notes that were issued in hard copy last year, but it is suggested in the recent email to add 'and acknowledge their continuing connections to land, waters, and community'. This current guide also provides information about the need to note the difference between a 'Welcome to Country' which is 'is only undertaken by Traditional Owners of the land upon which the event is being held', and our 'Acknowledgement of Country' which is what we are required to provide: 'a statement which pays respect and gives recognition to Traditional Owners of the land upon which the event or meeting is held. It can be performed by any individual, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal.'

If you keep double-clicking on the Map of Victoria at <https://achris.vic.gov.au/weave/wca.html>, it will enlarge so that you can see that La Trobe's Cottage is only just in the land of the Bunurong people, being just south of the border (the purple line) between the lands of the Bunurong and the Wurundjeri.

The map showing the larger area (below) shows the border running along Bank St South Melbourne before heading north opposite Kings Domain and the Botanic Gardens.



Volunteers Lunch: Please mark in your diary Friday 2 December for our End-of-Season Lunch at La Trobe's Cottage, where you're requested to bring a plate of savoury or sweet fare, with FOLTC supplying drinks and nibbles. We hope that recently retired volunteers may attend, and some NTV staff. We'll take the opportunity at that time to put up the Christmas Tree and other Christmas decorations and some help with that will be welcome.

Future Events

**Wednesday 19 October 2022, 5.30 – 7.30pm: Combined La Trobe Society and Anglican Historical Society
The Bishop and the Lieutenant-Governor**

Speaker: Dr Elizabeth Rushen AM

Dr Rushen's presentation will focus on the enduring friendship between Melbourne's first Anglican Bishop Charles Perry and Charles Joseph La Trobe, Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and later first Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Victoria.

VENUES: 5.30-6.20 pm Refreshments – Bishops court, 120 Clarendon Street, East Melbourne.

6.30-7.30 pm Lecture – Holy Trinity Anglican Church, cnr Clarendon & Hotham Streets, East Melbourne.

Admission: \$25.00. Bookings www.latrobesociety.org.au/history-month-lecture

I'll be in touch about the lunch on 2nd December.

Until then, best wishes,

Helen

Helen Botham

La Trobe's Cottage Management Team

Now in the Garden:



Babiana: Sent to La Trobe by Ronald Gunn, April 1844



Camellia japonica Anemoniflora: Sent to La Trobe by Macarthur's Camden Nursery near Sydney in 1851