



Newsletter No.45

12 December 2022

A pleasant afternoon was spent in the Cottage garden on 2 December by our volunteers with a return to our traditional end-of-year lunch. Thanks to all those who contributed to the delightful food, and to those who helped decorate the Christmas tree, now in its usual place in the Drawing Room. Alexis has made some beautiful new cornucopias to decorate the dining table and the tree, and Joan Macdermid provided her usual treasure trove of Victorian toys to place under the tree.



Volunteers End-of-Year lunch, 2 December

We were pleased to welcome Maddi Wittman (People and Culture) and Eliasha Muldowney (Horticulture team) from the National Trust, and Ann Baker, who has retired from her long volunteer career with the Cottage and Government House. The lunch followed a Working Bee in the garden to tidy, weed and trim, the garden now looking its early-summer best with roses, foxgloves, evening primrose, daisies, hydrangeas and many more. La Trobe must have loved this time in his garden. Thanks to our gardening volunteers who've kept the garden looking well-tended throughout the year. Last month Jessica (Marketing and Communications) did a photo-shoot in the garden for social media and general publicity purposes



Joan Daw presents Ann Baker with *Veronica perfoliata*, as Ann retires after 27 years guiding at La Trobe's Cottage and Government House.

During our lunch, Maddi Wittman provided some information about the National Trust's Reconciliation Action Plan and reminded us that the Acknowledgement of Country is an essential part of any tour provided at La Trobe's Cottage. More information about this was provided in the previous Newsletter, No. 44, see <https://www.foltc.latrobesociety.org.au/documents/FOLTCNewsletter44.pdf>

The mould on the ceilings of the bedroom and drawing room remains. Alyce (NTV Assets and Conservation) is considering what approach to take about this. The bad weather has delayed the start of the repair of the rotting timbers on the kitchen block, to be funded by the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage.

We are waiting on changes to the National Trust's website Donations page before circulating the appeal to the La Trobe Society members for funds needed to restore the La Trobe family portraits. We hope that funds will be raised not only to remove the mould which appeared on them at the end of the winter but also to fully restore the paintings and their frames.

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

Two groups of Year 9 students from Melbourne Grammar visited La Trobe's Cottage during November. These proved successful with 'Learning Points' set through the Cottage, with a question to be delivered by one student at each point to lead the discussion. The students were engaged and keenly interested, and we are grateful to their teacher, Diana Cudmore, for initiating the visit and the activities within it. With no other group bookings listed, we will be asking the National Trust to promote group bookings for Cottage tours Monday-Saturday.

On Sunday 4 December, the anniversary of La Trobe's death, the Vicar of St Peter's Eastern Hill, Reverend Dr Michael Bowie, invited La Trobe Society members and Friends to the service remembering Charles Joseph La Trobe, at which he spoke with insight about La Trobe's legacy in Victoria. The service coincided with a memorial service at St Michael the Archangel, Litlington, Sussex, where he is buried. The La Trobe Society always sends a bunch of Australian flowers for this service. Richard Hayward, Church Warden at St Michael's, wrote: 'The service on Sunday was Choral Compline, with the choir from Alfriston Church. We had 27 people here including the choir. We celebrated Charles La Trobe and prayed for him, the Society and St Peter's Church at the graveside immediately before the service... the Victorian flag flew, as it always does.'

Looking ahead to January, the Cottage will be open, as always, on 26 January. We hope to encourage some of the people out in the park that day, and possibly visiting the Open Day at Government House, to take a tour of the Cottage. To this end, we'd like to distribute some brochures in the Domain during the afternoon, so if any volunteers not involved in the Cottage opening would be happy to circulate around the park area for an hour or so, handing out brochures, please let me know.

And please mark in your diary the celebration of La Trobe's Birthday to be held at the Cottage on Sunday 19 March 2023, after our Sunday opening.

We welcome our new volunteers Davydd Shaw, Peter Jewell and Chrisanthy Semertzidis – we look forward to their involvement in Cottage activities.

We thank you all for your support during the past year, and we send best wishes for a happy festive season,

La Trobe's Cottage Management Team

