



We were honoured last Friday with a visit to La Trobe's Cottage by Professor Margaret Gardner AC, who was inaugurated as the 30<sup>th</sup> Governor of Victoria on 9 August. The National Trust were contacted by the Office of the Governor, requesting this visit and we were able, with the help of the gardeners and other Working Bee members, to get the Cottage looking top-notch for the visit. Her Excellency was welcomed by Deputy Chair of the National Trust Lachlan Molesworth and National Trust CEO Simon Ambrose. She took a tour of the Cottage led by Helen Botham, and accompanied by the Official Secretary, Mr Jonathan Burke, and the Governor's Aide, Iman Balla. Also in attendance on a wintery day were CMT member and guide, Neville Jarvis, FOLTC Chair John Botham, Executive Manager Collections & Cultural Projects Annette Shiell and Executive Manager Conservation & Advocacy Sam Westbrook.



The Governor was interested in learning about La Trobe, and had many comments and questions, saying she and her husband had often walked past the Cottage.

We thank all those who attended the Working Bee on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> to help us prepare for this very special visit. Garden Working Bees continued during the winter: the roses have been pruned, other shrubs cut back and Chris England from Merrywood Nursery has made his annual visit to prune the apples. The beds have been weeded, fertilized and mulched (mulch supplied by Rippon Lea). Gardeners will be thrilled to know that the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage have received a donation of gardening supplies from Bunnings Port Melbourne as part of their Community Support program. We have a new hose to replace the twisted, leaking hose we've been using, and a supply of fertilizers and pest control. Our Pre-Season Working Bee will be held on Tuesday 19 September, to prepare the Cottage and garden for Garden Day on Sunday 1 October.



We are pleased to report that work is underway on the restoration of the two La Trobe family portraits. It is a long process and the work won't be completed by our season opening on 1 October but we look forward to their return during the season.



**Cottage Management Team**

Liaison	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Maintenance	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619
Curatorial	Neville Jarvis	0490 494009	Volunteers	Helen Botham	0447 018224
Garden	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	0427 925616
Statistics	Neville Jarvis	0490 494009	Gov't House Liaison:	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619
			Adjunct Coordinator:	Rob Christie	0488 759065

The winter has taken its usual toll on the Cottage, and mould was seen on most of the interior wooden panels. Winter rains tend to drain down the hill from Birdwood Avenue, creating a damp environment around the foundations which creeps into the Cottage. Our Conservation Cleaning volunteers removed the mould at the Working Bee, and Sherredan will report our concerns to Alyce McCue.

During a recent Cottage Management Team meeting, Sherredan Maher, Executive Manager, Assets and Conservation, updated us on a few matters:

- Rob Kircher, who has been working on the launch of Pentridge Prison and developing programs there, has been appointed to the role of Assets Operations Manager, assisting Sherredan Maher in the coordination of operations at NTV sites. He visited the Cottage recently, and we were pleased to have the opportunity to discuss our operations with him.
- We have been given the go-ahead to produce some podcasts. Peter Jewell will be working with Andrew Victorsen, NTV Marketing Advisor, to make the podcasts available online. Peter will be conducting interviews during September and October.
- Sherredan is working towards a better Wifi/Internet connection at the Cottage to make reception duties on Sundays a bit smoother.
- Brook Powell, Executive Manager, Brand & Marketing, has been in touch with the City of Melbourne to request that signage at the new Anzac Station will include directions to La Trobe's Cottage. As you may be aware, the new path from the new station to the Botanic Gardens will go right past the Cottage.
- Sherredan will contact the Shrine to make another request that LTC volunteers be allowed to use three of the parking spaces on the road from the Shrine to the Cottage.

We welcome our new volunteers: Darshana Thapa and William Li are University students in fields related to Heritage Conservation and Museum Management. They have been undertaking training in Conservation Cleaning with Katie Potter at Rippon Lea and visited the Cottage with Katie in July. Shana then attended our July and August Working Bees, working with a list supplied by Housekeeper Alexis Jarvis, to prepare the Cottage for the Governor's visit. She will work with a team of her trainee colleagues, in the absence of Alexis overseas, in cleaning the interior at our big Working Bee on 19 September. Welcome also to Ronni Murphy, who has been volunteering at Como and Rippon Lea, whom we look forward to seeing at our Working Bees.



A date has been set for our pre-season volunteers meeting. We're hoping that a Zoom will suit more of you than coming into the Cottage on Thursday 28 September at 10am. We'll be pleased to see as many of you as possible. Also, we need to hold some receptionist training sessions. In order that all receptionists have an opportunity to attend we'll hold 2 or 3 of these, the first one during the Working Bee on Tuesday, 19 September, at 10am. I'll be in touch with receptionists about this.

Another event for volunteers is a special tour arranged just for us with the help of Rob Kercher to Pentridge Prison, see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/pentridge-prison/> We will receive a tour, preceded, as a special treat, by refreshments upstairs in the Former Warders Residence. I will be emailing you soon with a proposed date requesting that you let me know if you are interested.

Monthly National Trust tours of Government House continue; National Trust CEO Simon Ambrose will be seeking a meeting with the Office of the Governor to discuss National Trust tours at Government House.

In order to provide information about National Trust tours to be made available to the Governor, I have written a detailed History of National Trust Government House tours going back to 1964. This will be printed in booklet form by the National Trust and will be presented to all previous and current Government House guides, and made available to others who are interested.

With best wishes from the Cottage Management Team,  
Helen