

FRIENDS OF LA TROBE'S COTTAGE

Newsletter No. 16

May 2015

Events

Charles La Trobe's 214th Birthday was celebrated at the Cottage and Domain House on Sunday 22 March. Jane Edmanson was the guest of honour and unveiled an oil painting of the cottage and garden by artist Jo Reizte, who has kindly donated the painting to the La Trobe Society for display at the Cottage and Tasma Terrace. Jo and Jane then jointly planted a beautiful new *Camellia japonica* 'Welbankii' (white flowers) which we purchased from the Growing Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Newly created cards and postcards were launched that day and can now be purchased at the Cottage or from the La Trobe Society.

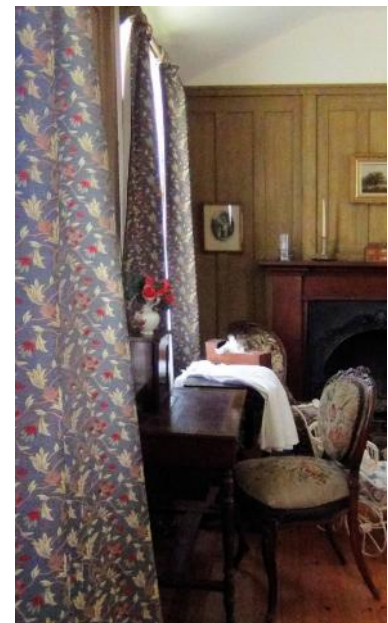


The Friends were privileged to hear Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens, talk about his 'Passion for Plants' at their annual lecture in the Gardens' Mueller Hall. Members present noted the many parallels between Professor Entwisle's passion for plants, which developed through his university work and early plant hunting adventures, and La Trobe's lifetime interest in plants and the natural environment. We were also reminded of their shared interest in bringing an appreciation of nature to the people through botanic gardens. A large crowd attended this most successful event.

Building works

Funds raised through a combination of such events and generous donations from Friends of the Cottage and La Trobe Society members have provided half of the monies needed to re-shingle the roof of the Kitchen/Storeroom block at the Cottage. The National Trust will contribute the rest of the funds. The present shingles are in a very poor state and were unlikely to survive another winter. The main Cottage roof was re-shingled with Canadian western red cedar shingles four years ago and the outbuildings will be replaced with the same type of shingles imported from Canada.

Extra funds provided by the Friends will also enable repairs to be made to rotting timbers, window frames and a number of weatherboards on the outbuilding. During the summer new curtains for the bedroom transformed the appearance of the room, as many members will have noticed. The fabric is a Belgian linen-blend, 'Bloom, Midnight' from Zepel Fabrics.



Committee

Chairman	John Drury	9646 2112	Secretary	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112	
Cottage	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Treasurer	John Drury	9646 2112	Publicity Helen Armstrong 9592 5616
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363	<Webmaster John Botham 9583 1114>
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Education	Loreen Chambers	9830 0332	

Heritage at Your Touch

The National Trust with the History Teachers' Association of Victoria have created an interactive site of La Trobe's Cottage for students studying the Australian History curriculum in Years 3 - 6. This can be accessed from both the Friends' and the Trust's websites:—

www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic/3Dlatrobescottage.

Students can navigate their way through the rooms at the Cottage and view a re-enactment of scenes in the life of members of the La Trobe family. The launch was held at the Cottage on 13 May.



Tours

Booked tours of Government House and La Trobe's Cottage on Mondays and Thursdays remain extremely popular with community groups and the general public. Because of the commitment of our experienced and enthusiastic team of volunteer National Trust guides, these tours continue to provide the necessary income to assist the Trust to maintain the Cottage. After another successful season of Sunday openings at the Cottage, the program will continue for 2015/16. Helen Botham has kindly offered to manage the roster for these openings, beginning early October.

What's happening in the Garden – by Sandi Pullman

As the summer was rather mild, and with lots of help from our volunteers, the garden looked good throughout autumn. We lost only one plant over the summer, our Waratah camellia *Camellia japonica* 'Anemoniflora'. Luckily, we still have another one and it is thriving. In order to add some autumn colour we had decided to try growing dahlias in our crescent moon bed. The soil was prepared with lots of organic material and to our delight they did really well. Another great success was our Russel Lupins, which we had not grown in the garden before. Sadly, however, we had only three apples this year, but that is an improvement on last year when we had none. It is hoped that our new bird bath log, specially made from a piece of Otways yellow box, will attract the bees next season.



For spring we have purchased lots of lovely daffodils, *Narcissus* Golden Phoenix (1777) and *Narcissus* Van Sion (pre 1620), and also *Anemone* 'De Caen' to create an absolute splash of colour along the path that leads into the garden.

Future Events

Friends who are not members of the La Trobe Society are most welcome to attend the Society's events. Details of all events are posted at — www.latrobesociety.org.au/events.html.