



Newsletter No.34

1 February 2021

Dear Volunteers,

I hope you've enjoyed the summer season with restrictions easing.

In mid-January a photo-shoot of the dining-room interior was made to feature in 'Australis COMOS' (International Council on Monuments and Sites) publicity in relation to the Burra Charter that was adopted at the historic South Australian town of Burra in 1979. Website <https://australia.icomos.org>

Our one and only 'event', the Open Garden Day on 26 January, was reassuringly successful. We were surprised at the number of people who attended, twenty-nine, bearing in mind the cold and rainy weather. While many just happened by and saw our flags and Open signs, quite a large number came because they had been aware of the publicity about the event, which we had arranged with National Trust Digital Marketing Coordinator Jessica Charleston. Several visitors commented that having searched online for something to do they found that our site was one of few things open. Although we had no access to the interior of the Cottage, everyone seemed to enjoy their visit, most really appreciating the garden. We were able to talk about La Trobe and his Cottage as well as the garden, and many lingered, enjoying the property and the relaxed, free access they had to the garden. We provided an information sheet about it which I attach here. Many thanks to those volunteers who attended and helped to make it a successful event.

A working bee had been held on 19 January to plant some new specimens and to ensure the garden looked its best; thanks to those who attended. The pictures here give an idea of the work that was required. New plantings which were on show on 26 January were our two *Grevillea latrobeis*. With a push to have this identified as a species separate from *Grevillea rosemarinifolia*, we sourced these two specimens from Edendale Nursery in Eltham, who also supplied a *Glycine latrobeana*, a species collected by, and later named after, La Trobe. Also *Rosa spinosissima* - a plant which features on the list of plants sent to La Trobe by Ronald Gunn in Van Diemen's Land in 1844. This specimen was given to us by renowned rose grower John Nieuwesteeg through his colleague, heritage rose expert Geoff Crowhurst. Just in time for our Garden Day, two little buds appeared. The flowers are small, with creamy/yellow petals and a golden centre. (Sandi had previously sourced a specimen of both the Glycine and the rose, but sadly it seems they had not survived.)



Rosa spinosissima

Any further activity at the Cottage is unlikely for the moment, except for our regular Garden Working Bees, which will continue on the third Tuesday mornings. The next one will take place on Tuesday morning 16th.

The Cottage Management Team continues to work with the National Trust. Colin continues his regular maintenance checks: he reported last week, following the visit of Adams Pest Control, that there was no evidence of activity inside the cottage or kitchen block for rats, mice or silverfish, which is very pleasing. Sheetal is embarking on some projects to ensure the maintenance and development of the Collection, and Helen looks for any opportunity to provide information about the Cottage online.

I hope you'll all keep well and I will keep in touch.

Helen [Helen Botham, La Trobe's Cottage Management Team](#)

Cottage Management Team

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Liaison | Helen Botham | 0400 543097 | Maintenance | Colin Mickleburgh | 0423 114619 |
| Volunteers | Colin Mickleburgh | 0447 018224 | Funds/Statistics | Helen Botham | 0407 814008 |
| Housekeeping | Vacant | 0419 519763 | Publicity | Helen Armstrong | 9592 5616 |
| Garden | Helen Botham | 0447 01824 | Curatorial | Sheetal Deshpande | 0413 035501 |

Working Bee - 19 January



Neville removing soil heaps



Helen dead-heading daisies



Carolyn weeding rose bed, and cutting back
Crosswort



Ellen weeding crescent bed, and trimming
dianthus



Graham planting *Grevillea latrobeis*,
Glycine latrobeana, *Abutilon striatum*



John pruning *Iris unguicularis* to ground level



Newsletter No.33

3 January 2021

Dear Volunteers,

Happy New Year!

We hope you have had a pleasant few days and that your celebrations weren't impeded by the Sydney outbreak.

I am sorry to tell you that Alison Pearson has stepped down from our Management Team. She has done a wonderful job for us as our link between the National Trust and the Management Team and her professionalism, efficiency and wisdom will be much missed. She will remain as a guide, so we'll be seeing her at the Cottage when restrictions are lifted and tours resume. We thank her for all her great work and wish her all the best – she is currently helping at Rippon Lea, where she began her volunteering for the National Trust and has kept up a regular commitment. I'll be taking on her duties for the time being.

You may have noticed in an email from the National Trust that many properties have a date for opening, but that La Trobe's Cottage didn't feature in the list. I'm afraid the very small spaces in the Cottage would make the required distancing difficult and so tours would not be possible. However, just before Christmas, the National Trust approved a plan to open the Cottage Garden from 12 noon till 4pm on Tuesday 26 January. Government House is not having its Open Day, but there is likely to be a number of people in Kings Domain coming and going to the Botanic Gardens. We'd need two or three volunteers in the garden to be on hand to chat to passers-by, giving information about La Trobe and the Cottage. There would be no charge, no entry to the interior of the Cottage buildings, and there'd be a limit set on numbers entering the garden so that social distancing would be kept. However, I think we need to wait now and see how the latest Covid outbreak in Melbourne develops before we confirm this. If it is controlled, I'll be asking if you could please let me know if you'd be able to help out for one of the two-hour shifts: 12 noon-2pm or 2-4pm, or for a shorter time during the afternoon if that suits you better.

You'd need to have completed the Trust online training modules – if you haven't managed this yet, and would like to do so, please do try again. Please let me know and I'll ask Christian Muzzi, the NT People & Culture Coordinator, to ensure your intranet account is set up so you have access. If you'd prefer to run through it with me and complete it with pen and paper, I can arrange to meet you and do it that way.

We plan a Garden Working Bee on Tuesday morning 19th and I'll be in touch with the gardeners about this.

I hope you'll all keep well – I'll be in touch, I hope, to confirm the arrangements for 26 January.

Best wishes

Helen

Helen Botham
La Trobe's Cottage Management Team
0447 018224

Cottage Management Team

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Liaison | Helen Botham | 0400 543097 | Maintenance | Colin Mickleburgh | 0423 114619 |
| Volunteers | Colin Mickleburgh | 0447 018224 | Funds/Statistics | Helen Botham | 0407 814008 |
| Housekeeping | Vacant | 0419 519763 | Publicity | Helen Armstrong | 9592 5616 |
| Garden | Helen Botham | 0447 01824 | Curatorial | Sheetal Deshpande | 0413 035501 |