

Newsletter No.39

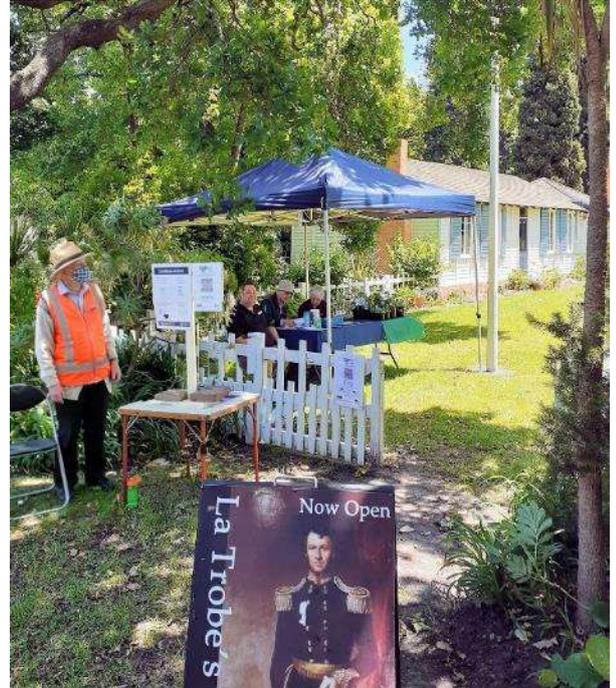
21 November 2021

Dear Volunteers,

It's great that the Cottage is now open on Sundays, 1-4pm. We launched the season on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> with a Garden Day. Thanks to the National Trust Marketing and Bookings teams, forty people had booked in advance, of whom thirty arrived on the day – a surprising number given the forecast was for rain, wind and hail. Although we had to shelter from a couple of brief hail storms, the afternoon went very well – many thanks to the volunteers who helped.

The Cottage and garden had been prepared for our opening with a Working Bee both in the garden and in the interior on Tuesday 9 November. Neville Jarvis, whom we now welcome to our Cottage Management Team as Curatorial Coordinator, and Alexis Jarvis, who is taking the role of Housekeeper, did a wonderful job, with the assistance of Helen Armstrong, removing the Tyvec sheeting from all the furniture and cleaning and polishing all the interior. A good team of gardeners weeded, raked and tidied, and the garden did indeed look very pretty.

Neville supervised the placing of four new items in the Cottage: in the dining room a pair of chairs donated in 2018 by Mr Geoffrey Fiske and re-covered by the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage, and a silver spoon given to Charlotte Pellet by La Trobe when he left Victoria in 1854, donated in 2019 by Mrs Joy Harley, descendent of Charlotte Pellet. In the bedroom, an oak cradle, circa 1820, and facing the central door in the servants' block, a painting, *Residence of Governor Charles La Trobe, Jolimont 1937*, by Albert Thomas Mockridge. We thank Katie Potter, NTAV Senior Collections Coordinator, for facilitating these additions to the Cottage collection.



New dining chairs in place

The Cottage will be open every Sunday now from 1-4pm. Helen Armstrong has been in touch with NTAV Marketing and these Sunday openings (together with Australia Day on 26 January) are now available to book on Eventbrite, see <https://open-day-la-trobes-cottage.eventbrite.com.au> I will be sending out the request for volunteers for December soon. The requirement for a Covid Marshal, to check visitors' vaccination certificates, means an extra volunteer is needed every Sunday and therefore we might call upon some volunteers to offer two Sundays in the month if you are available.

We are glad to report that Government House has agreed to the National Trust taking a small group for tours once a month. A maximum of ten people has been set, but we hope that we may not only increase the size of the groups on these tours, but also their frequency as we move into 2022.

**Cottage Management Team**

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

Thanks to everyone for attending the workshop for guides and receptionists on 20 September; it was good to see everyone and be updated on procedures and other matters relating to the Cottage.

A recording of the presentation, 'C J La Trobe: Jolimont plantsman', the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage Annual Lecture on 22 September, is now on the web, see <https://www.latrobesociety.org.au/jolimont-plantsman>. On the night, we had two participants in Switzerland: Professor Jason Grant, Director of the Herbarium at the Biological Institute at the University of Neuchâtel, explained the significance of his collection of La Trobe's botanical specimens. At the end of the talk he 'took' us outside to see the shores of Lake Neuchâtel. Rolf Jordi, from Schloss Oberhofen, talked about the Guest Books they hold, which record many visits to that estate by La Trobe and his family.

Only one of our new roses (two varieties on the 1851 list from Camden Nursery, sourced from South Australia) bloomed this year – 'Baronne Prevost'. I spotted the same variety in the rose garden at Como recently - it was quite a large bush and flowering well, so if our four new roses grow as well as this one, that bed will provide quite a show in coming years. Gardeners please note that I'll be suggesting we meet on Tuesday 14 December as the third Tuesday (21<sup>st</sup>) is a little close to Christmas.



Baronne Prevost at La Trobe's Cottage



Baronne Prevost at Como

#### Future events:

We plan an end-of-year get-together for volunteers next month. We have booked the large table at KereKere café in the Fitzroy Gardens (where we were last year) for 12 noon on 3 December. I hope this will suit you all - it would be good to see you; can you please let me know if you're able to come along.

The annual 'La Trobe Service' will be held at St Peter's Eastern Hill on Sunday 5 December, commencing at 10.30am. The service is to be followed by a light lunch in the parish hall to say farewell to the retiring Vicar of St Peter's, Reverend Dr Hugh Kempster. Dr Kempster has always been interested in the links between La Trobe and St Peter's, and it would be nice if some of our Cottage volunteers are there at the lunch. You need to book at <https://www.trybooking.com/BVOVY> by 30 November if you'd like to attend. Charles Joseph La Trobe will also, as always, be remembered at a service on the same day at St Michael the Archangel, Litlington, Sussex, where he is buried. A bunch of Australian flowers will be sent to the parish.

The Christmas Tree is now in place in the Drawing Room, and we are proposing to promote the two Sundays leading up to Christmas, 12 and 19 December, as a celebration of Sophie's Christmas. We'd like to have a small group of singers on site, outside, for part of those afternoons to provide some carols in the background. If you know any singers who would be happy to come along, we'd be pleased to hear from you. We're not looking for professional singers – there would be no accompaniment unless they provided it themselves.

We thank you all for your support during the past two years, and let's hope for a successful 2022.

With best wishes from the Cottage Management Team for a happy festive season,

Helen

