



Newsletter No.41

8 March 2022

We continue to see good numbers at the Sunday openings – thank you to the volunteers who assist with this. During March we will focus on La Trobe’s art, and in April will encourage visitors to enjoy Autumn in the Garden. Monthly Government House tours also continue, on the first Monday of each month, for ten visitors only.

We welcome our new volunteer, Catherine Gay. Catherine is a PhD candidate at the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Melbourne University. She is researching the lives of First Nations and settler girls in nineteenth-century Australia with a focus on the colony of Victoria, particularly in the years 1835 – 1851 and particularly with regard to needlework, intimate writing, art, craft and schoolwork. She is interested in the lives of the La Trobe daughters and the samplers we hold – her thesis will be of great interest to us! She is interested in becoming a guide, and is currently shadowing tours on Sundays. Welcome Catherine!

Our next Working Bee is on Tuesday 15 March, 1 – 3.30pm. This is very timely as the following weekend we have the Springvale Garden Club coming for a garden tour on Saturday 19th, and the La Trobe Society is celebrating La Trobe’s 221st birthday on Sunday 20th, 4.30- 6.30pm – you should have received the invitation (if you’d like to attend, do please book at <https://www.latrobesociety.org.au/la-trobes-birthday-celebration-2>). I will be talking about La Trobe’s deep interest in botany, and will lead a tour of the garden focusing on the special plants we have. I have prepared a plan of the garden, showing the significant plants and providing details of where each of these plants was sourced. Sparkling wine and cake will be served.

At the Working Bee we will be concentrating on weeding and neatening the garden. I think also we could do some de-cobwebbing on the weatherboards. If any non-gardener would like to come along that day to help with the cleaning of the exterior, you would be very welcome. Could you let me know if you are able to come along – I will very much look forward to seeing you.

The photos taken at the Fashion Shoot on 21 January now appear on Gorman’s web site, see <https://www.gormanshop.com.au/collections> After opening the link, click on the photo 'Tonee Messiah x Gorman', and then on the arrow at the right of the 'AW22 Collection Notes' to view photos taken at the Cottage. The crew enjoyed the day and commented on the lovely setting; they were surprised that we’ve never had a film shoot like this before. Here are some pictures we took of them at work.



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

The Cottage Management Team held a Zoom meeting on 14 February. We discussed various matters concerning the Cottage. We were reminded that for the first time for some years, the Cottage will open on Grand Prix Sunday 10 April; the last opening of the season on 24 April will be part of the Heritage Festival. We asked Sherredan for clarification of the latest relaxing of restrictions and she has told us:

masks will no longer be required indoors at our properties. We are fully supportive of staff and volunteers wearing them if they are more comfortable doing so, but it will not be a requirement for our visitors to do so. QR codes remain for check in and vaccination proof purposes.

We will be holding an End-of-Season Volunteers' Meeting at 10am on Friday 29 April. We'll aim to hold the meeting outdoors. I hope you can all come along – it will be good to see you; I'll be in touch about this again, closer to the date.

In the meantime I hope you all keep well and enjoy this snippet about La Trobe as botanist:



Eremophila latrobei

Named by Ferdinand Mueller, who wrote in 1859:

'A noble species, well worthy of bearing the name of the excellent Charl. Jos. La Trobe, a great patron of Botany, and to whose love for science the botanical department under my administration owes its origin'.