



Newsletter No. 8

31 May 2010

Funded Works

The Cottage is looking wonderful since its repainting, and the blue shutters really give it a lift – we all congratulate Max Joffe on the excellent job he has done. There is enough money left to replace a significant portion of the fence, and this work will begin soon. This leaves the roof to be replaced. We are supporting the Trust in efforts to raise funds for this work and we will be actively supporting them apply for grants and other donations.

The City of Melbourne turned down the Trust's application for a Heritage Trail. They will, however, permit four signs – one in the parkland and three within the Cottage boundaries.



Mothers Day

Visitors on Mothers Day listened to Sophie La Trobe, seated in the drawing room, reading letters she wrote to Agnes, while Agnes's younger sister Nelly looked on. This provided a charming tableau, and our visitors were fascinated to listen in to the news from Jolimont, often imparting interesting tit-bits of life in early Melbourne. Sophie's affectionate letters were a poignant reminder of the long years they spent here. We hope to repeat this vignette in the future. Thanks to our actors, Frederique Fouche and Cassandra Collier.



Cottage Openings

Winter Openings At a meeting of the guides at Tasma Terrace on 27 April, although it had initially been decided that the Cottage would be closed on Sundays during the winter, they indicated that they were keen to open the Cottage one day a month. So it has been agreed that the Cottage will be open from 2-4pm on the last Sunday of June, July, August and September. This decision was warmly welcomed by the Committee and also by the La Trobe Society.

June/July School Holiday program La Trobe's Cottage is to be part of the National Trust's School Holiday program, and it will be open from 1-4pm on Mondays and Wednesdays during the coming school holidays. Children will discover how Charles and Sophie La Trobe and their four young children Agnes, Nelly, Cecile and Charley lived in early Melbourne. They can also enter the competition for the best drawing of the Cottage. Perhaps this would be a good opportunity to bring the grandchildren along for a visit to the Cottage, with a picnic and a blanket if it's fine.

Melbourne Open House La Trobe's Cottage, along with Tasma Terrace, is to be part of the Melbourne Open House program on 24/25 July, an event which has proved extremely popular during the two years it has been in operation. This will be a great opportunity to raise the profile of the Cottage - it will feature in the event program, and although house entry will be free, the publicity and coverage will be worth a lot. The Guide team have generously agreed to support this program – we will be open from 10am–4pm on both days.

Melbourne Day: Monday 30 August. We are to contribute to the City of Melbourne's celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Melbourne. Details later.

Sunday 3 October Looking ahead to next spring, we are planning Mr La Trobe's return to his newly renovated Cottage. J P Fawkner will be there, leading the celebrations, along with other identities of La Trobe's time – keep the date in your diary.

Committee

Chair	Helen Botham	9583 1114	Vice Chair	John Botham	9583 1114	Secretary	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776	Master Plan	John Botham	9583 1114	Fund Raising	Cecily Adams	
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363	Events	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Education	Loreen Chambers	0419364570	Treasurer	John Drury	9646 2112	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	9592 5616
NT Rep	Martin Green	9656 9822	A Treasurer	John Botham	9583 1114			

La Trobe's Garden

We are pleased to announce that Neil Robertson, former CEO of the Open Garden Scheme, has agreed to be our garden ambassador. He will support the work that the Garden group is doing and will promote the garden. The garden is approaching winter and we are preparing the site for our heritage apples to be planted in June or July and the heritage roses will be planted under the drawing room and bedroom windows. We will be also dotting some New Zealand flax through the garden as in Edward La Trobe Batman's paintings.

I have also made contact with the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV), of which La Trobe was first patron, and have invited them to a visit our cottage.

We are hoping to organise a propagation workshop with Friends of Burnley Gardens. We need help to locate some succulents and shrubs to propagate: *Aloe plicatilis* (Fan aloe); *Aloe arborescens* (Krantz aloe); *Kalanchoe pinnata* (Air plant); *Agave Americana* (Century plant); *Hibiscus syriacus* (Hibiscus); *Prostanthera sp.* (Native mint). If you are able to help, please contact Catherine Knight at: cknight@stonnington.vic.gov.au.

Bunnings have generously donated a set of tools for our gardening group, and Kuranga Native Nursery are donating an *Acacia acinacea* syn. *Acacia latrobei* (Gold-dust wattle) and a *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* subs *rosmarinifolia* syn. *G. Latrobei* Rosemary grevillea. We are very grateful to Bunnings and Kuranga.

Sandi Pullman, Garden Co-ordinator

Winter Visits

We have planned a program of Winter visits to other properties:

June: Portable Iron Houses – South Melbourne. Pauline Reid and her team have agreed to a special opening to allow us to tour the property on Friday 11 June at 10am. We are keen to establish links with this other 'portable house' property and we will be offering a return visit to the Cottage in August. Pauline will provide a cup of coffee. Donation: \$5.00. Please phone or email me if you would like to attend by Monday 7 June. helenbotham@gmail.com, 9583 1114.

July: Cooks Cottage Peter Morgan, Volunteer Co-Ordinator of Cooks Cottage, will provide a special tour for us on Sunday 18 July at 11.00am. We all know how successful a tourist site this property is, and we hope to learn much from this visit. After the tour, we could repair to the Pavilion Café, in the Fitzroy Gardens, for lunch. We will be offering a reciprocal tour later in the year. Donation: \$5.00.

Please phone or email me if you would like to attend by Sunday 11 July. helenbotham@gmail.com, 9583 1114.

August: Toorak House. The Swedish Church has kindly agreed to allow us to tour the property on Sunday 8 August starting at 2pm. Built in the late 1840s, this was Victoria's Government House after La Trobe left, until 1874, from when the Governor lived at Bishops Court until Government House was completed in 1876. Marguerite Hancock and Robyn Riddett will lead the tour. \$20 members, \$25 non-members, to include coffee and cake. Please phone or email me if you would like to attend. helenbotham@gmail.com, 9583 1114.

September. To be arranged

Web Site

The new La Trobe Society web site is active and we are currently working on the Friends web site.

Changes inside the Cottage

Tours over the last few weeks have led off from our new Reception area in the Servants' Quarters. Visitors are directed to this reception area to be greeted by guides, and then taken for their tour. This is a big improvement, both for visitors and guides, and we hope to develop this area further with better facilities and conditions.

The small bedroom adjoining this area has been furnished, providing an immediate insight for visitors into life at La Trobe's Cottage.

We are grateful to Katie Symons, National Trust Curator, for arranging for a display cabinet, which is now sited in the first closet of the Cottage and houses La Trobe's medicine chest and a copy of *The Pedestrian*, open showing La Trobe's inscription. This greatly improves the display of these items, and is a point of focus for the tours.



Annual General Meeting

We are planning an AGM on Tuesday 3 August at East Melbourne Library – 7 for 7.30pm. Our speaker is to be Bishop James Grant. More details later.

Thanks to those who are working to support us in all our activities – I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, or at the events before that.

Helen Botham
Chair, FOLTC