

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

September 2021

Our *Maurandya barclayana* or as we call it 'Mrs Perry's Creeper', which has been hanging gracefully over the lattice near the front entrance, is dead. It appears that an animal has jumped onto the netting supporting its stem, and caused it to break off. Fertilizer was applied to its stump, in the hope that it may shoot, and seeds were collected from the dead in the hope that we may get a few small plants next spring. As Sandi Pullman had pointed out, Mrs. Perry - the wife of Melbourne's first Anglican Bishop who lived in La Trobe's Upper Cottage - mentioned seeing the creeper growing at Jolimont.



Maurandya barclayana November 2020



Maurandya barclayana September 2021

The four heritage roses (2 x Coupe' d'Hébé and 2 x Baronne Prévost) arrived just in time to get them planted before the lockdown which started on 5 August. They are just starting to shoot.

August 2021

Garden Volunteer Ellen took some photos of the (nearly) Spring garden as she walked past La Trobe's Cottage in lockdown.



Melianthus and *cordyline*



Chaenomeles (Flowering Quince)



Ipheion (Spring Starflower)



Architectural succulents

Grevillea rosmarinifolia



Acacia latrobei (truly 'Gold Dust Wattle')

Now take a seat under the
watchful eye of the perky aloe

June 2021

The garden Working Bee on 18 May enabled us to get the garden looking its best for the opening on 23 May. Our National Trust gardener Eliasha Muldowney attended with two colleagues and they cut back some large boughs of the *Correa*, *Prunus* and *Viburnum* behind the Cottage. Then the Working Bee on 22 June was dedicated to pruning roses, apples and spireas. We were most grateful to heritage rose expert Geoff Crowhurst for attending and demonstrating how to prune these heritage plants. We lifted some Arthur de Sansal roses to make room for the *Coupe d'Hebe* and *Baronne Prevost* roses soon to arrive from South Australia. These were on the list of plants sent to La Trobe from Camden Nursery near Sydney in 1851. The Arthur de Sansal



Geoff pruning with Graham and Carolyn

roses, which have bloomed with their deep maroon flowers for many years, are now grouped slightly closer together, in order to provide a good show.

We found that the ground cover *Crucianella* (now *Phuopsis stylosa*) (Crosswort), which had been growing in between the roses, had been suffocating the roses with its thick matted roots. This was on the list of plants sent to La Trobe by his friend Ronald Gunn in Van Diemen's Land, in April 1844. It flowered beautifully last summer, and we wondered why it isn't a more popular garden plant today. Now we know - we've had to remove it.



Tim preparing ground for new roses.



Kathy pruning spireas.



Angela raking leaves



The list of plants sent to La Trobe from Camden Nursery near Sydney in 1851 includes four varieties of begonia. Marilyn Watson of the Melbourne Begonia Society grows these four varieties at her begonia garden in Upper Ferntree Gully and has kindly donated a plant of each variety; she planted these with Helen in late April. One of them originates from Mexico – perhaps seeds of this plant were included in those he sent from Mexico to Mme de Pourtales in 1834. We are most grateful to Marilyn; we will treasure these and look forward to seeing them develop in their new home.