

Newsletter No. 10

8 October 2010

The Governor's Return: 3 October

Melbourne's first day of summer weather greeted the arrival of Governor and Mrs La Trobe back to their refurbished Cottage. The ceremony which was enacted on 3 October last year, the 170th Anniversary of La Trobe's arrival in Melbourne, was repeated, with the McCrae family, Captain Lonsdale, Collector of Customs Robert Webb, and the militia in attendance. The flag was raised as the National Anthem played, and Mr La Trobe then walked with his party to the Cottage where Martin Purslow, National Trust CEO, welcomed him back, pointing out the changes that have been taking place over the past year. It was timely that Mrs Georgiana McCrae was in attendance, as an olive tree, grown from a cutting from a tree originally grown by her at McCrae, was planted by the Governor. As last year, J P Fawkner led the welcoming crowd.



We are grateful to Justin Smith of Rippon Lea who provided an authentic characterisation of Mr La Trobe, Sharon Bowen and her team from McCrae (Mr and Mrs Andrew McCrae, and Mrs Thomas Anne Ward Cole), members of the Victorian Re-enactment Society, the Darebin City Brass Band and the Newport Bush Orchestra.

Thanks to all our members who helped with set-up, garden, teas, shop, reception duties and guiding in the Cottage. Dianne Reilly did a roaring trade at her tea stand. Cakes were donated by Woolworths South Yarra and Coles Melbourne CBD and South Melbourne. The guides, led by Lorraine Finlay, had a long and busy day in the Cottage, and the gardeners had ensured the garden was looking at its best. The pretty violas were kindly donated by Gills Nursery Cheltenham.

A small profit was made on the day through entry sales and donations, and this will be deposited in the National Trust Cottage Account. Funds in the Friends bank account will be topped up by John Drury's sale of books and Sandi Pullman's \$100 profit at her clivea stall.

Candlelit Carols at La Trobe's Cottage 21 December 2010, 7pm – 9pm

We are thrilled that the nationally renowned Trinity College Choir (University of Melbourne) will sing at our Christmas Event at the Cottage on Tuesday 21 December. Dianne Reilly is convening the committee organising this event, which will celebrate Melbourne's first Christmas tree - Sophie La Trobe introduced the European idea of the Christmas tree to the Antipodes in the early 1840s. Please see the invitation attached.



Cottage Openings

Melbourne Day: Monday 30 August A total of 43 visitors came to the Cottage on 29 and 30 August as part of the City of Melbourne's celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Melbourne.

School Holiday program Apart from a cold wet day on 27 September, our school holiday openings were busy, and with a hectic 'last Sunday' on 26th, 71 visitors came to the Cottage during September.

Seniors Festival Visitor numbers were disappointingly low on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday openings, possibly due to inclement weather. However, many Seniors took advantage of their special offer for the Governor's Return.

Summer Season The Cottage is now open for our Summer Season regular Sunday Openings 2-4 pm

History Week Sunday, Monday, Wednesday – 24, 25, 27 & 31 October 2010. Cottage open 1-4pm

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 | Publicity | Helen Armstrong | 9592 5616 |
| Guides | Lorraine Finlay | 9563 6363 | Building | Max Joffe | 9563 6363 | Web Master | John Botham | 9583 1114 |
| Education | Loreen Chambers | 0419364570 | Treasurer | John Botham | 9583 1114 | | | |
| NT Rep | Martin Green | 9656 9822 | A Treasurer | John Drury | 9646 2112 | | | |

Funded Works

After many months of negotiation and planning, three of the interpretative signs have now been installed around the Cottage, one on the path to the Cottage, one before the gate into the courtyard and one by the dining room. The position of the sign in the park has yet to be agreed. We are grateful to the National Trust's Katie Symons and Phil Tulk for overseeing this project.

A trial section of fence has been installed next to the dining room. However, the proportions are not right and it is a little too large. Modifications to the design are being considered.



Winter Visit. September: Bishopscourt

The last of our Winter Visits was held on Saturday 11 September when Archbishop and Mrs Freier kindly invited us to visit Bishopscourt. We were given a truly warm and hospitable welcome. The Archbishop took us on a tour of the garden, and then he and Mrs Freier provided afternoon tea. They chatted about their home – its history and heritage, and invited us to tour the rooms with them. Mrs Elizabeth Woods, daughter-in-law of Archbishop Woods, played the drawing room piano, providing a delightful accompaniment to our tour.

Mrs Freier is working towards providing permanent furnishings for the house, and our donation will go towards that appeal.



Winter Visit. August: Toorak House

Professor Miles Lewis has advised, following my report of our visit to Toorak House, that although most of the published record indicates that Samuel Jackson was the architect of the property, it was probably James Blackburn.

La Trobe's Garden

With the warmer spring weather, the roses and apples are shooting, and hopefully there will be some colour around the base of the apples from the nasturtiums planted around their base to protect them from pests.

Nicki Zanen, a member of the Australian Plants Society, has kindly donated an *Eremophila latrobei*, pictured below, which I have planted on the east side of the garden, facing the shrine. I have bulked up the succulent bed with some succulents donated by Ian Ames.



Catherine Knight has drawn up a planting plan on Cad Cam, and we will soon be planting up the beds in front of the bedroom and drawing room. Thanks to McCrae Homestead, and Phil Tulk, for giving us the olive which was planted last Sunday. And thanks to all the volunteers who come when called and help make our garden look fantastic
Sandi, FOLTC Garden Co-ordinator.



Treasurer

John Botham has taken over from John Drury as Treasurer. He has set up a new bank account and FOLTC now has its own cheque book.

Web Site

Helen Armstrong and John Botham keep our web site regularly updated, so if you have any queries about our activities, go to www.foltc.latrobesociety.org.au

Thanks to all our members for their ongoing support – it would be lovely to see you at Candlelit Christmas.

Helen Botham
Chair, FOLTC

9583 1114.

foltc@latrobesociety.org.au.

CANDLELIT CAROLS AT LA TROBE'S COTTAGE



**Celebrate Melbourne's first Christmas Tree
with the
Trinity College Choir (University of Melbourne)**



The La Trobe Society, the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) invite you to a special Christmas event at La Trobe's Cottage

On

Tuesday 21 December 2010 at 7.00 pm

with the internationally renowned Trinity College Choir (University of Melbourne) under the direction of Michael Leighton Jones.

Celebrate the introduction by Sophie La Trobe of Melbourne's first Christmas tree in the early 1840s, and see the Cottage illuminated and decorated in the traditional European style.

This will be an opportunity for adults and children alike to experience the spirit of Christmas in a truly delightful way.

No need to book – just come along and pay at the door.

Refreshments with a festive flavour will be served.

Date: Tuesday 21 December 2010

Time: 7.00 to 9.00 pm

Venue La Trobe's Cottage,
cnr. Birdwood Avenue
& Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne
(Melway Map 2L, A1)

Donation: \$10 individuals; \$20 families



Photo: Gazi 2009