



Newsletter No. 11

1 December 2010

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

Preparations are well advanced for this event, with Dianne Reilly convening the organising committee. We 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. The internationally renowned Choir of Trinity College, University of Melbourne, will be singing Christmas carols, the Cottage will be beautifully decorated and tasty festive refreshments will be served. This is our opportunity to get together for a Christmas celebration, and also for us to invite sponsors and others who have been of assistance during the year and show them our appreciation.



Australia Day, Wednesday 26 January

There are large crowds out and about in the Domain on Australia Day – many drawn to the annual Government House Open Day. This marks the general re-opening of that building after the severe damage it suffered from the storm on 7 March this year. Many of our Guides will be on duty there, and we hope this will signal the re-introduction of our joint tours (our visitation at the Cottage has been severely reduced due to the lack of availability of Government House for most of this year).

We hope to attract many of these visitors to the Cottage. We will be celebrating Australia Day by repeating the events of this year, which proved to be successful - the Rupertswood Battery will return to fire their muskets in salute to the flag at 2pm and 3pm, the Cottage will be open from 1 – 4pm, and refreshments will be served. The Victorian Folk Music Club will provide colonial music and old-time games will be available for the children, so bring the family. Dianne Reilly will be manning her refreshments stand and Lorraine Finlay will organise a roster of guides for the Open House. I would be pleased to hear from anyone happy to help as needed – 9583 1114, or email me: foltc@latrobesociety.org.au

Cottage Openings

Costumes

We have been advised, particularly by our friends at McCrae Homestead, Black Rock House and Cooks' Cottage, that we must move towards dressing in costume during our Cottage Openings. They have found that it increases visitor numbers. Joan Macdermid has helped us kick this off by making some mob caps and aprons for use by the guides. We have certainly found, as we stand out in the courtyard in our costume, that passers-by take a second look and it encourages them to come in. We are often asked to pose for pictures with visitors, and it generally seems to be a positive move. I believe we need to gradually add to our wardrobe of costumes for both genders, and I am therefore seeking a 'Costume Coordinator' – someone who can liaise with the guide team and with the National Trust's representative and make contact with possible sources of costumes. This process will be a gradual one – guides won't be asked to 'dress up' if they prefer not to – we just need to move slowly towards having perhaps one of the guides or receptionists on duty providing this extra 'colour' to our Openings. If any member would be interested in taking on the role of Costume Coordinator please let me know.



Beverley Joyce takes a tour in her 'Charlotte Pellet' costume.

Committee

Chair	Helen Botham	9583 1114	Vice Chair	John Botham	9583 1114	Secretary	Dianne Reilly	9546 2112
Curatorial	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Master Plan	John Botham	9583 1114	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	9592 5616
Education	Loreen Chambers	0419364570	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363	Web Master	John Botham	9583 1114
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776	Treasurer	John Botham	9583 1114			
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	A Treasurer	John Drury	9646 2112			

Cottage reception area

Following negotiations with Tasma Terrace, Max Joffe has secured for us a desk for the Reception area that was surplus to requirements at Tasma. It will be a great asset to us – it is of a suitable style, and Max has painted it to freshen it up. Its drawers provide much-needed storage space.



Summer School Holidays

We are involved in a National Trust program to attract vacation care groups to National Trust properties. The Cottage will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout January for group bookings for children's tours. Children will discover how Charles and Sophie La Trobe and their four young children Agnes, Nelly, Cecile and Charley lived in early Melbourne. Old-time games will be available to play and drawing materials will be provided; groups are encouraged to bring a picnic. Bookings essential on 8663 7260. Please draw this activity to the attention of your families.

Development Proposal

John Botham has completed the Development Proposal for the Cottage, and it has been signed off by the Committee. A copy has been delivered to Martin Purslow, National Trust CEO, and we hope to circulate it to other National Trust staff members. If any member would like to see the Development Proposal, please let me know, and I can give you the password to access the 60-page document on our web site.

La Trobe's Garden

With all this lovely rain the garden is looking good. The day lilies are about to flower and the roses have flowered. The apples are growing, but waiting for their support. There is a working bee on 15 December from 9.30 to 12.30 to tidy up before our Christmas carols event on 21 December. We are working hard at finding plants from La Trobe's period and have found the plants he may have used for his red geranium hedge. We have planted a *Prostanthera lasianthos* and *Acacia acinacea* syn. *A. latrobei*.

Next time you are at the Cottage, walk around and enjoy the garden. Happy Gardening everyone.

Sandi Pullman, Friends of La Trobe's Cottage, Garden Co-ordinator



Web site

A recent addition to the web site is the La Trobe Family Tree. Go to www.latrobesociety.org.au then <La Trobe> then <Early Life>. - the link is at the bottom of the page.

Future Events:

La Trobe's Birthday: Saturday 19 March

We will celebrate La Trobe's birthday in the traditional way with a gathering at La Trobe's Cottage.

General Meeting Domain House: Wednesday 27 April

Following the meeting, our guest speaker will be Dr Linda Young, Course Director, Cultural Heritage & Museum Studies, School of History, Heritage and Society, Deakin University. Her topic will be 'Welcome to our House: Managing the Historic House Museum'.

Christmas events at other properties.

Black Rock House

Christmas Carols. Wednesday 8 December, 7pm – 8.30pm. Enjoy a relaxed occasion at this historic property. Entry is free. BYO chair/rug. See www.blackrockhouse.org.au

McCrae Homestead

Christmas at Arthurs Seat. Saturday 11 December, 7pm - 9pm. Tour the homestead and galleries and enjoy a Christmas supper. Phone 5981 2866 for bookings.

Very best wishes for a Happy Christmas season, and thank you for your ongoing support – it would be lovely to see you at Candlelit Christmas.

Helen Botham

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