

FRIENDS OF LA TROBE'S COTTAGE

Newsletter No. 14
November 2013

Cottage Update

Trellis has been reinstated along the raised brick work and front steps of the Cottage. A craftsman at the firm of Australian Lattice Timber recreated the trellis/balustrade using as a reference the pastel drawing by George Alexander Gilbert of 1843-44, which illustrated detailed exterior features of the Cottage. The trellis not only looks very attractive, but it will provide improved safety for visitors on their arrival at the Cottage. Members' subscriptions were used for the purchase and installation of the trellis. Max Joffe kindly painted it.



The refurbishment of the four-poster bed in La Trobe's bedroom was undertaken earlier in the year. The bed now has a new white cotton bedspread and crisp white calico canopy and curtains top and bottom. New white sheer curtains will also be installed in the bedroom very shortly to further enhance the appearance of the room.



Garden Update

Many more species of plants associated with the original *Jolimont* estate have been established and are flourishing. A great number of them are flowering at present, and 'Mrs Perry's creeper' (*Maurandya barclayana* Angels trumpet) is starting to grow again and will appreciate the new trellis to climb on. The endangered Clover glycine *Glycine latrobei*, which was donated to us from the Euroa Arboretum and is nationally listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, is also growing well.

The garden has been endowed with a garden bench donated by craftsman Alastair Boell. Alastair recreated a bench based upon a sketch by artist Edward La Trobe Bateman of the garden at *Jolimont* in 1853. The wood came from a Monterey cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa* that had fallen in one of Melbourne's heavy storms in the King's Domain.



Committee

Chairman	John Drury	9646 2112	Secretary	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112	
Cottage	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Treasurer	John Drury	9646 2112	Publicity Helen Armstrong 9592 5616
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363	<Webmaster John Botham 9583 1114>
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Education	Loreen Chambers	9830 0332	

Candlelit Carols at the La Trobe's Cottage – Monday 16 December 2013, 6.30 to 8.30pm

You are invited to celebrate Melbourne's first Christmas tree with the distinguished soprano Merlyn Quaife AM who will be accompanied by a delightful choir. Swiss-born Sophie La Trobe introduced the European idea of the Christmas tree to the antipodes in the early 1840s. On this special musical evening the Cottage will be illuminated and decorated in the traditional way. Refreshments with a festive flavour will also be served. You are most welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy beforehand in the Cottage grounds that will be open from 6pm. This event will raise funds to replace the existing roof of the kitchen and servants' quarters, following the replacement of the Cottage roof shingles two years ago. Admission: \$15, family \$30. No bookings are required.

Bishopscourt Open Garden – Saturday & Sunday 9 and 10 November

Bishopscourt, the home of the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne and one of the oldest properties in East Melbourne, was open on 9th and 10th November, when Dr and Mrs Philip Freier hosted Open Gardens Australia. Charles La Trobe, as Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, oversaw the grant of land on Clarendon Street in 1849 and supported Mrs Perry, the wife of the first Anglican Bishop of Melbourne, as she developed her new garden, growing seeds for her, procuring shrubs and trees, and offering advice about appropriate plantings. Visitors had the opportunity to see some original tree plantings in the garden and stroll through the delightful grounds, maintained by a dedicated volunteer group, as at La Trobe's Cottage. The Plant Stall featured a 'Mr La Trobe's Garden' section, in which plants growing at Bishopscourt that have a link with La Trobe or his Cottage were sold. (Information supplied by member Helen Botham who propagated the very popular 'La Trobe' plants.)



Subscriptions

Thank you for your support for the past twelve months and we trust you will be renewing your membership for the coming year. Renewal may be by a cheque, made out for **\$20** to the 'Friends of La Trobe's Cottage', and mailed to 401 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000. Alternatively, payment may be made by EFT to the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage, BSB 033-060, Account No. 327591 (ensure your name is on the EFT). If you have joined recently or already paid your renewal please ignore this request.

Cottage Openings

The Combined tours of La Trobe's Cottage and Government House on Monday and Thursday mornings for booked groups have continued to be very popular. Weekly Sunday afternoon openings, from 2pm to 4pm, have recommenced for walk-up visitors until the end of April; they too are popular when the weather is fine and pleasant. Come and see all our new improvements and enjoy a guided tour through the Cottage if you have not visited for some time. You will even be able to sit on our handsome new garden bench and enjoy the tranquillity of spring.

