

Newsletter No. 17

March 2016

Current Cottage Season

Our summer season at the Cottage has gone well. Thanks to all the volunteers for their helpful and quick responses when requested to fill the monthly rosters, and for their cooperation through the season. Lorraine reports that we have had 370 paying visitors since the first Sunday in October up to last Sunday 13 March. This includes the Australia Day visitors. Overall visitors for Monday and Thursday booked tours and Sunday afternoons since 1 July to the present were 881. An impressive number of visitors.

We planned to organise a meeting of the volunteer group towards the end of this season, but because of absences overseas, we unfortunately haven't been able to find a day during the season. We are keen to get together however, so we will arrange a meeting for late July/early August.

From the Property Manager

An initiative by the Committee of the FOLTC and approved and funded by the National Trust was the recent installation of an upgrade to the alarm system at the Cottage. The new 'wireless' system not only protects the main cottage but also provides two sensors for the outbuildings. (The outbuildings were not protected by the old system.) Further repairs to the Cottage and outbuildings are to be made shortly: new sets of hinges for all of the shutters and new locks for the gates and few new weatherboards.

From the FOLTC Chair

There have been major changes at the National Trust. There is a new chairman, Kristin Stegley, and new members on the Board. The CEO Martin Purslow has resigned and Paul Roser is acting CEO until a replacement is appointed.

From the Garden Coordinator

The garden has held up well to the summer, our pride and joy this year being our heritage apple trees producing six apples. The dahlias also put on a very colourful show. Recently the volunteers pruned the lavender which has been put in muslin bags to be used throughout the cottage.

At the end of last year, a digitised landscape plan of the garden was completed and this has now been loaded onto the Friends website <http://www.foltc.latrobesociety.org.au/garden-plan.html>. It provides a snap shot of the garden as of February 2016.

The Friends also received an unusual present of an old c. 1850 hand pump from Bishops Court (the Anglican Archbishop's home in East Melbourne). It will eventually be mounted on one of our recently acquired wine barrels which would have been used to cart water in La Trobe's time.

La Trobe's Cottage garden is to be included in a book, funded by Gary Morgan, about Melbourne gardens. I met author David Wilkinson and photographer Kim Baker just before Christmas, and showed them around the garden.



Cottage Apples

From the Publicity Officer

Our long-awaited social media activity is poised to get off the ground through the assistance of two volunteers, Andy Steeds and Meg Treeby, who visited the Cottage recently and have the necessary expertise and a passion for history and heritage. Andy has identified an existing unofficial Facebook page for La Trobe's Cottage, which he hopes to be able to work with and further develop <https://www.facebook.com/pages/La-Trobes-Cottage/119645518081006>



Meg Treeby and Andy Steeds at La Trobe's Cottage

Committee

Chairman	John Drury	9646 2112	Secretary	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Cottage	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Treasurer	John Drury	9646 2112
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	9592 5616
			Webmaster	John Botham	9583 1114
			Sunday Roster	Helen Botham	9583 1114

Don't forget to look at Heritage at your Touch, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/educationprograms/heritage-at-your-touch/> . As part of the overall package there is now an education kit available at http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/HAYT_LaTrobescottage_EducationKit.pdf

Past Events:

Australia Day

Four members of the Victorian Colonial Infantry Association provided a colourful spectacle during Australia Day at the Cottage. Dressed in authentic colonial costumes they entertained visitors throughout the afternoon with flag raising ceremonies; firing of vintage rifles and mortar fire. Volunteer guides took tours on demand and we recorded 74 visitors. The fund raising refreshment stall sold fresh lamingtons, tea and coffee.



Victorian Colonial Infantry Association

Visit of Australian Garden History Society National Management Committee

Richard Heathcote, Chair of the Australian Garden History Society National Management Committee, brought his committee to visit the Cottage on 24 February. It was Richard who, during 2004-2005 when he was at the National Trust, encouraged research into La Trobe's garden which led to the publication of *La Trobe's Jolimont, A walk round my garden* in 2006. The AGHS and the La Trobe Society shared the costs for the production of the book. Sandi Pullman and Helen Botham were delighted to show the committee around the Cottage. Sandi reported on the Historical Interpretation Award, which was awarded to the La Trobe's Cottage site in 2014. She told the members of the committee about the garden plants, the history of them, and her plans.



Sandi Pullman addresses the
AGHS NMC

Future Events:

Friends of La Trobe's Cottage Annual Lecture:

Tuesday 12 April 'La Trobe's First Immigrants - the 1839 Voyage of the David Clark': 6.30-8pm. Speaker: Irene Kearsey, Friends volunteer and dedicated historian. Venue: Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne 3004. Cost: \$15 members, guests \$20. Bookings essential – email: info@latrobesociety.org.au ; phone 9592 5616 (please leave a message).

National Trust 60th Anniversary Celebrations: Saturday 21 May

As part of the celebrations of the National Trust 60th Anniversary, the Cottage will be open on Saturday 21 May from 1 – 4pm. We will be seeking volunteers closer to that date to assist with this special opening.

Members talks: Winter months

The La Trobe Society Committee has approved a series of talks for members and guests to be held in Domain House on three winter Sunday afternoons: 31 July, 28 August and 25 September. These talks will be conducted as a social gathering for members of the Society and the Friends of the Cottage. A simple, informal format of an audio visual address on a subject related to Charles La Trobe's life will be given by one of our own knowledgeable members, with the opportunity to participate in a question time. This would continue over a simple afternoon tea or perhaps a glass of wine. A small charge of \$5, payable on entry will cover that cost. The talks will be arranged by Daryl Ross. Some of our guides and receptionists have kindly volunteered to assist with the arrangements. We hope to make this an annual activity. Further details will be provided in due course.

Friends who are not members of the La Trobe Society, and their guests, are most welcome to attend all the Society's events. Details of events are posted at <http://www.latrobesociety.org.au/events.html>