



Newsletter No. 19

June 2017

Cottage Management

Lorraine Finlay's resignation as Volunteer Property Manager of the Cottage took effect on 1 May. At a meeting of the Cottage volunteers on 28 April, Lorraine was thanked for her dedicated work over the last seven years, managing the day-to-day running of the Cottage, liaising with the Trust, and managing the openings, tours and events. She was presented with a framed print of a La Trobe sketch of the Cottage. Max Joffe's contribution to the Cottage during that time was also acknowledged, and he was thanked in his absence.

A proposal that a management team of the volunteers administer the Cottage was put to the meeting of Cottage volunteers.

The proposed Management Team positions are as follows:

- Liaison Coordinator - Neville Jarvis
- Roster/Volunteer Coordinator - Helen Botham
- Funds Coordinator - Neville Jarvis
- Maintenance Coordinator - Colin Mickleburgh
- Garden Coordinator - Sandra Pullman
- Housekeeping Coordinator - Alexis Jarvis
- Publicity Coordinator - Helen Armstrong
- Chairman - John Drury, Chair FOLTC



Lorraine Finlay

John Drury had met with National Trust CEO Simon Ambrose who agreed with the proposal in principle. The National Trust subsequently provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding for discussion by the Management Team, who suggested some amendments. The final document is to be signed by Simon Ambrose and John Drury soon.

The Management Team will meet quarterly, and, in addition to routine contact between individual Team Members and their appropriate National Trust staff members, there will be six-monthly meetings between the team and the National Trust representative.

Cottage Visitors

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have contributed to our season of Sunday Openings from October 2016 to April 2017 and booked tours of the Cottage and Government House. A total of 440 people visited the Cottage on Sundays during this time. This figure includes 87 visitors at the Australia Day event. The total number of visitors including booked tours on Mondays and Thursdays between 1 July and 31 May was 814. Our next season of Sunday openings commences on 1 October 2017, with an emphasis on the garden being planned for the Spring Opening.



Cottage volunteers

Cottage Management Team

Chair	John Drury	9646 2112	Maintenance	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114 619
Liaison	Neville Jarvis	8555 9116	Housekeeping	Alexis Jarvis	8555 9116
Roster	Helen Botham	9583 1114	Funding	Neville Jarvis	8555 9116
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	9592 5616

Cottage Wedding

We were pleased to hold the first wedding at the Cottage on Sunday 7 May. Fourteen guests were present and they all enjoyed the pretty setting provided by the Cottage. Sandi Pullman ensured that the garden looked its best, having arranged for the grass to be mowed on the Friday, and volunteers Tim and Ellen to help with last-minute tidying on the morning of the wedding. Another wedding has been booked for next Summer, with a further booking pending.

Garden Report

Sandi Pullman is back tending to the Cottage garden, now being employed by the National Trust. She reports: Our garden is still very floriferous with the dahlias and zinnias still flowering; when they have finished, I will plant pansies for winter colour. Looking towards spring, the jonquils are starting to come up, as well as anemones.

We had our best apple crop this year, picking over 3kg from our trees, which were made into an apple slice served for morning tea at the volunteers meeting on 28 April. The *Correa alba* and *Spirea* have been pruned back, and the autumn leaves have been raked and added to our compost heap for use as mulch later.

With the help of Sam Davis of Serco, some garden hoops have been installed in the front beds under the drawing room and bed room. Although La Trobe did not have garden hoops they give the front an attractive presence. It is always difficult to balance the past with what is practical for the present and future.

I am working towards a Spring garden festival to celebrate the start of our summer season on 1 October. It may be a small event this year, but hopefully we will be able to build it up to be more impressive for next year.

Maintenance Report

In his role of Maintenance Coordinator Colin Mickleburgh was off to an early start dealing with the many issues connected with building maintenance: emergency alarm going off overnight, clarification of the cleaning contract, evidence of rats entering the cottage - from the roof through the services cupboard in the dining room, and the condition of the heating and cooling system that is now being investigated.

Volunteer Honours

Congratulations are extended to Ann Baker, Joan Daw, Dee Farthing, Tim Gatehouse, Peter Oram and Susan Ross who were honoured recently by the National Trust for their long years of volunteer service to, or membership of, the Trust.

Future Events

Members talk to Members and Friends program:

After its successful first season in 2016, this series continues on winter Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm in Mueller Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens. FOLTC volunteers are again helping to serve the afternoon tea after the talks. The program commenced last Sunday with a fascinating presentation about Early Melbourne: Dr Fay Woodhouse: Surveying the Landscape: Robert Russell, Robert Hoddle and the First Plan of Melbourne. The remaining presentations are:

Sunday 9 July: Pioneer Public Health Practitioners in the Port Phillip District – Dr Walter Heale

Sunday 13 August: Captain 'Old King' Cole: from Port Phillip Pioneer to Victorian Patriarch – John Botham.

Sunday 10 September: La Trobe and the Cape Otway Lighthouse – Tim Gatehouse.

For more details about the content of the talks, please go to www.latrobesociety.org.au/talks2.html

From the Publicity Coordinator:

La Trobe biography

Professor John Barnes' new biography of La Trobe, *La Trobe: Traveller, Writer, Governor* will be essential reading for anyone with an interest in the La Trobe story or Victoria's wider colonial history. It will be published at the end of the month by Halstead Press, with copies initially available from the associated publishers, State Library Victoria and La Trobe University. On **Thursday 29 June**, the State Library will host an Author in-Conversation event from 11am – 12.15pm, free admission but bookings are essential. Email: inquiries@slv.vic.gov.au, or phone 8644 7099.

Details of other events may be viewed at www.latrobesociety.org.au/events.html

With best wishes to all, and thanks for your continued support of La Trobe's Cottage and its volunteers.

Helen Botham