



**Newsletter No. 24**

**August 2019**

Things have been fairly quiet at the Cottage, as usual over the Winter months, but some booked tours continue, as do garden working bees, Cottage cleaning and a successful Open House Melbourne event. There's been a change to the Cottage Management Team since our last newsletter: Colin Mickelburgh has taken over the role of Volunteer Coordinator and now manages the Volunteer roster. Helen Botham will continue to look after volunteer recruitment, training and welfare, and continues as Statistics Coordinator.

Other positions remain the same, with all members working for the Cottage over the Winter. Alison, as Liaison Coordinator, is required to submit a monthly report to the National Trust which she compiles from the reports each CMT member provides to her at the end of every month. Helen Armstrong is continually updating notices to the National Trust, which are required well in advance of Cottage events. Ellen continues her relentless tending of the Cottage interior, and Colin continues to coordinate regular fire and security checks. Colin is also in constant contact with the National Trust Bookings Team about tour bookings and arranging the volunteer roster to man these tours. Judy arranges regular garden working bees, as well as liaising with the City of Melbourne garden contractor and other bodies over matters which affect the Cottage garden. At our last working bee in July, we moved the roses forward in their beds to give them more room to grow, and us more room to open the shutters!

Ellen was concerned last month to note some damage to the fabric of some items caused by rats. Colin liaised with Adams Pest Control over this matter. John has requested that the National Trust Curator examine this damage and advise on how it should be repaired.

Combined Tours continue to run, thanks to the volunteer guides. Although bookings are less than previous years, the National Trust Booking Office has worked with Colin to ensure that dates are available for individuals to book tours through Trybookings, and these continue at a rate of 2 per month.



Cottage Garden Working Bee 16 July 2019



Rats in the Cottage

**Cottage Management Team**

Liaison	Alison Pearson	0400 543097	Maintenance	Colin Mickelburgh	0423 114619
Volunteers	Colin Mickelburgh	0423 114619	Statistics/Funding	Helen Botham	0447 018224
Housekeeping	Ellen Walters	0419 519763	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	9592 5616
Garden	Judy Rigg	0412 141343	Curatorial	John Botham	0407 814008

### Annual National Volunteer Week.

The National Trust celebrated the work of its volunteers at a Morning Tea event at Old Melbourne Gaol, on 1 May 2019. David Woods (10 years) and Bunty Evans (5 years) were awarded a framed certificate acknowledging their work for La Trobe's Cottage. We thank them and congratulate them on these awards.



National Volunteer Week

### Meetings with the National Trust

The CMT met with representatives of the National Trust in March and May, and both meetings were positive. It is clear that we are all working towards the same goals of presenting the Cottage in the best way possible – our recommendations for improvements at the Cottage have been agreed to, and we are hopeful that work will commence before too long. National Trust Asset Manager, Sherredan Maher, has again expressed her appreciation for the way things are running at the Cottage.

### From the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage Chair, John Botham

I have been very pleased to receive generous donations from La Trobe Society members towards the Cottage Improvement Project. We now have sufficient funds for Stage 1 which includes repairs to the shutters and re-doing locks, alarms and lights. I am now waiting on the National Trust to make arrangements for contractors to meet with me at the Cottage to arrange quotes for these jobs.

### Events

#### Open House Melbourne

National Trust staff members Sherredan Maher and Alyce McCue managed this event, with the Cottage open from 10am – 4pm on Saturday 27 July. We thank them and Cottage volunteers Irene Kearsey and Susan Ross who assisted in manning this event, along with rostered Open House Melbourne volunteers. 555 people attended the Cottage during the day.

#### Future Events:

**La Trobe Society Talks for Members and Friends, Sunday 15 September 2019.** The presenter at the last of this series will be Carolyn Brown OAM, President, Black Rock House Inc., who will speak about Charles Ebdon, a contemporary of La Trobe's whose house is now looked after by an enthusiastic volunteer group running tours and events. Ebdon purchased a plot of La Trobe's Jolimont estate after it was subdivided following La Trobe's departure. Please book at <http://www.latrobesociety.org.au/booking19-9.html>

**Spring Opening and Garden Day, Sunday 6 October 1 – 4pm.** Our opening Sunday of the season will repeat our now-regular event, celebrating La Trobe's garden. Tours of the garden will be held at 1.15, 2.15 and 3.15pm. We will also celebrate the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the La Trobe family's arrival in early Melbourne.

**La Trobe's Music.** Sunday 1 December. Tours at the regular Sunday opening on will focus on La Trobe's music. Details are to be finalised.

**La Trobe Service St Peter's Eastern Hill Sunday 1 December.** The annual service celebrating the life of Charles Joseph La Trobe will take place at St Peter's Eastern Hill on Sunday 1 December, at 11 am. As always, the parishioners at St Michael the Archangel, Litlington, Sussex, will celebrate his life on this day.

The Management Team thanks all the volunteers for their continued support for the Cottage. A volunteers meeting has been tentatively arranged for **Thursday 19 September at 2pm**, and we look forward to seeing you there. Please Save the Date!