



Friends of La Trobe's Cottage



Newsletter No. 5

16 December 2009

Christmas Cocktails

We were grateful to The National Trust for their hospitality on 14 December. The Christmas Cocktails were a happy occasion for members to get together and celebrate the festive season. We received particularly good news from the Trust's Project Manager, Scott Strachan, who reported that work will start on the repairing and replacing rotten timber and window frames early next year.

Thanks to Martin Purslow, Martin Green and Kirsty for organising this event.

Australia Day, Tuesday 26 January

We are planning to celebrate Australia Day by opening the Cottage to the public, raising the flag and serving teas. The Rupertswood Battery will fire their muskets in salute to the flag as it is raised at 2pm and 3pm. The Victorian Folk Music Club will provide music and dancing and teas will be on sale. There are large crowds out and about in the park on Australia Day and we hope to attract many in to the Cottage. We would be grateful for your help with this. Would members happy to help with the teas please contact Dianne Reilly, 9646 2112. Lorraine Finlay has organised 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 helenbotham@gmail.com.

Sunday Cottage Openings

During November 60 visitors toured the Cottage on Sundays. Thanks to the guides and receptionists, who have turned out on some either very hot days, or some very cold and wintry days, during last month. Numbers in December have been down a little, but for every person who steps inside the Cottage, there are two or three times that number who walk past while we are there, who get a little information about La Trobe and his Cottage, who say they will come back another time, and some of whom say they will organise a group to do a full Monday or Wednesday tour. So our presence there is significant.

We are keen to increase our pool of Sunday guides, so I plan to organise our New Guide Orientation programme during February/March - we will therefore have some new, fully-fledged guides during the autumn. Some of you are already acting as Receptionists on Sundays, but if anyone else would be interested in undertaking these sessions, I would be pleased to hear from you. The provisional dates for the sessions (the three sessions make up the complete programme) are:

Thursday 18 February – 2.00pm

Friday 26 March – 10.00am

Thursday 18 March – 2.00pm

They will cover information about the National Trust, Trust procedures and Cottage procedures, as well as lectures from Dianne Reilly about aspects of La Trobe.

The guides have no fixed days in the month – Lorraine sends out requests for dates, and then completes the roster depending on your availability. We would hope to roster guides on no more than one Sunday per month.

Please let me know if you would be interested in participating in this.

Committee

Chair	Helen Botham	9583 1114	Vice Chair	John Botham	9583 1114	Secretary	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Garden	Sandi Pullman		Master Plan	John Botham	9583 1114	Fund Raising	Cecily Adams	
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363	Events	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Education	Loreen Chambers	0419364570	Treasurer	John Drury	9646 2112	Publicity	Vacant	
NT Rep	Martin Green	9656 9822	A Treasurer	John Botham	9583 1114			

Other Friends Groups:

Black Rock House

We are keen to establish a link with this 1856 property, now owned by Bayside City Council. It was first built as a holiday residence for Victoria's first Auditor-General Charles Ebdon. Governor Sir Henry Barkly used the house as a vice-regal retreat between 1861 and 1863. Black Rock House is included in the Victorian Heritage Register, the register of the national estate and is classified by the National Trust. The House is currently managed by the Friends of Black Rock House, who have invited us to a special



tour on Saturday 20 February at 2pm (the house is normally open only on Sundays between 2 & 4pm), followed by a cup of tea. I have suggested a donation of \$5.00 per person would be appropriate. We plan to reciprocate by giving the Friends of Black Rock House a tour of La Trobe's Cottage and Government House on Monday 22nd February.

I will be asking for names of those interested in attending closer to the time, but please note this date in your diary.

McCrae Homestead is 'Celebrating Robbie Burns' on 25 January. Experience the tradition of piping in the haggis, a stroll through the home and readings of Robbie Burns. Followed by light refreshments. 7.30 – 9.30pm. Adults \$15.00, Child \$5, Family \$45, Trust Members \$13. To book phone 5981 2866 and leave your details.

Newsletter

I hope to improve the presentation and standard of the Newsletter next year, and formalise its timings to produce it four times a year in, say, February, May, September and November. I hope to include news from other Friends groups, and other items of interest. It would be helpful also to have a nominated 'photographer' who would be happy to take photos at all events. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would consider helping in any way they feel able.

Publicity

Unfortunately it is often difficult to bring our events to public notice, as publicity can be hard to come by. If any member feels able to assist with this task, I would be grateful to hear from you. Just some help with notifying daily/weekly publications about our events or updating the many tourist web sites that currently give information about the Cottage would be appreciated.

Subscriptions

Treasurer, John Drury, would be glad to receive the subscriptions of those who have not yet paid. Please complete the Application form attached with the last Newsletter.

Publicity Photos

John Botham would like to take some photos of a family enjoying the Cottage for promotional and marketing purposes. If any members have a family of children and grandchildren who would be happy to be photographed around the Cottage, please phone John on 9583 1114 or email johnbotham@gmail.com. The parents of any children participating will be asked to complete a form giving permission for the photos to be used in promotional material by the National Trust.

With best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas.
We look forward to seeing you all in 2010.

Helen Botham,
Chair