



Newsletter No 53

19 February 2025

There are quite a few things to report since the last Newsletter last October. Our annual End-of-Year gathering on Thursday 12 December was a great chance to get together with the

volunteer team – thanks to all who came along and brought some delicious food. We were sorry on that day to farewell long-time guide David Woods. David had been a Cottage and Government House guide for fifteen years – we wish him all the best.



We are sorry also now to say good-bye to Ellen Walters. Over the fifteen years Ellen has been a volunteer, she spent time as Cottage Housekeeper and as Garden Coordinator on the Cottage Management Team. Thank you Ellen for your years of dedicated work.



Good-bye also to Coline Canterford, our very competent receptionist, whom we've always enjoyed working with on Sundays. Thank you Coline for being part of our team.

And we have a new volunteer to welcome. Anne Kennedy will be training to be a guide over coming weeks – welcome Anne!

We had some special visitors to the Cottage last November: John La Trobe Bateman is a descendant of a first cousin of C.J. La Trobe. He lives in England, and was on a visit to Melbourne. He came to the Cottage with his nephew, Tim La Trobe Bateman, who lives in Melbourne. They were shown around the Cottage by Helen Armstrong.



Kate Drummond arranged some lovely events at the end of the year – a volunteers lunch at Como on 22 November, and a visit to Werribee Park Mansion on 5 December. Several of our volunteers joined that visit, and they voiced their appreciation to Kate and the Werribee Park volunteers for making it such an enjoyable day.

And Neville and Alexis decorated the Cottage beautifully for Christmas.

Alexis's Cornucopias and Gingerbreads



Cottage Management Team

Liaison	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Maintenance	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619
Curatorial	Neville Jarvis	0490 494009	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	0427 925616
Education /Events	Lindy Golding	0423 034632	Statistics	Neville Jarvis	0490 494009
Garden	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Volunteers	Helen Botham	0447 018224



The recent hot weather has caused two Sunday openings to be cancelled – it is NTAV policy not to open the Cottage on days when the maximum temperature is forecast to be over 35°. Visitor numbers on Sundays have otherwise been reasonable.

The garden is just surviving the heat. We've had our best crop of apples for some years, thanks to Chris England's expert pruning during the winter, and the fact that the possums seem to have held off! The Ribston Pippins have been harvested, stewed and frozen, ready for use in Apple Slice for Volunteers' Morning Teas. The Snow Apples are still on the trees, but will be picked soon. They make a lovely display.

We and NTAV are always looking for ways to promote the Cottage to the public. Madi Ali, NTAV's Digital Content Advisor, recently came to the Cottage to record interviews with Helens A & B for use on social media. She is keen for us to supply her with photos and short tag lines for posting on social media platforms, and we would be very pleased if the volunteers could bear this in mind. If you see any interesting items to photo – an unusual/catching event at the Cottage, etc., please forward these pictures to Helen Armstrong who will then forward them to Madi.

And recently a group of City of Melbourne volunteers, 'Red Coat Ambassadors' (those who advise visitors on places to go in Melbourne), visited the Cottage and were taken on a tour by Davydd and Helen B. Late last year Davydd had asked one of the 'red coats' in the city if they were referring visitors to the Cottage, and she asked where it was! The group really enjoyed learning about La Trobe and his Cottage, and we can be sure that they will be telling visitors to Melbourne about us.

You will have all been aware of the National Trust's new volunteer system, Better Impact, thanks to the updates provided by NTAV Volunteer Manager Kate Drummond, who is gently guiding us through the roll-out of this program. Kate visited the Cottage this week to meet volunteers and chat about Better Impact and any other issues we wished to discuss. We were pleased to see her and appreciated her visit.

There is to be a new bookings system as well – Anchor. Neville and Helen B have been attending some training sessions, and we'll keep receptionists informed about the opportunity we hope will soon be given to us all to have some 'hands-on' experience with the new program.

NTAV is currently reviewing the safety of our workplaces through visits to sites to check on our workplace practices. Colin is working with Sherredan on these matters.

Coming Events:

La Trobe's birthday: The tradition of celebrating La Trobe's birthday on the Sunday closest to his birthday, 20 March, continues this year – the La Trobe Society will be celebrating his 224th Birthday after the opening on Sunday 23 March. The event will be of particular interest to La Trobe's Cottage volunteers, as Tim Gatehouse will be speaking about his recent finding, reported in the last newsletter, that La Trobe's bed is likely to have been imported into Sydney from India, and purchased by La Trobe during his stay there in 1839 prior to his arrival in Port Phillip. You'll be receiving an invitation to the event, and you'll need to book in, see <https://www.latrobesociety.org.au/la-trobes-birthday-celebration-4> We'd be pleased to see you.

Volunteers End of Season meeting: We have scheduled our End-of-Season meeting for Thursday 1 May at 10am. This will be a Zoom meeting so I hope most will be able to attend, as we review the season, update you all on various issues, and discuss any matters you wish to raise.

Open House: Lindy will be getting touch with volunteers about Open House Melbourne this coming July. She will be coordinating our participation in the event.

With thanks from NTAV and the Cottage Management Team to all the volunteers for your continuing support.

