FRIENDS OF LA TROBE'S COTTAGE

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Newsletter No 61

2 November 2026



There's been quite a lot happening at La Trobe's Cottage since our last Newsletter.

We are very pleased to welcome Katharine Timms as our NTV Operations Manager. Kat is currently Property Manager of Como and Labassa, and she has now added oversight of La Trobe's Cottage and the Portable Iron Houses to her portfolio. She will act as our liaison with NTV and she will report on our operations. The Management Team will continue to hold our portfolios but Kat will be involved in decisions that are made.

Cottage Management Team



Kuba using the Light Box with help from Elizabeth.

Karen Stewart is stepping down from the Team; we thank her for her significant contribution over the last eighteen months. Caroline Whiteside, with her experience in volunteer management, is joining the Team with a view to assisting with the volunteer roster. And we have two new Curatorial Coordinators: Kuba Lecki has a Masters Degree in Arts and Cultural Management and is progressing with his project to photograph items in the Collection, and Sarah Rosen, who has a PhD in Anthropology and has worked at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and at Durham Castle in the UK, developing tours of the Castle and the surrounding historic city – she brings a wealth of experience to our Management Team.

And we have two new Sunday receptionists: Fannie Rae and Keyne Ieong, who already feature on the November roster. They both have skills in managing people and activities, and I know we'll all enjoy working with them.

Logging Hours.

Kat has facilitated the use of QR codes to log our hours on site at La Trobe's Cottage. While some of us currently log our hours on the Better Impact App, either while on site or after our session is over, those who are not keen to use their mobile phones in this way can now use the Cottage phone dedicated to logging hours. All volunteers have a QR code on their page in the folder on reception. Just turn on the Cottage phone, photo your QR code, and click on 'Start the Clock'. At the end of your shift, go to your QR code again, and click on 'Stop the Clock'. These instructions are given on your individual QR code page. Please note we must still log our hours on the Volunteer Log Sheet in reception – this is a H&S requirement for NTV, whereas the QR code log is an internal NTV audit of volunteer hours.



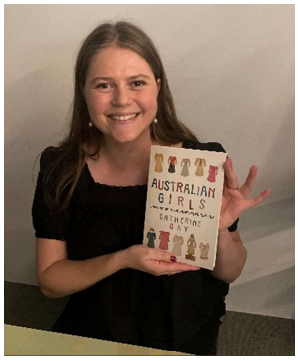
Working Bee

Thanks to all who attended the Pre-Season Working Bee in September –Sarah assisted Elizabeth with the interior, and the gardeners made a great job outside, with mulch brought by NTV's Darren from Rippon Lea. We thank Bunnings Port Melbourne for their donation of garden supplies. Activities Officer Imo, who facilitated the donation, visited the Cottage with colleague Ben the following week, and they were happy with what they saw! The Cottage looked great inside and out.

Cottage Management Team

Liaison	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Volunteers	Helen Botham, Caroline Whiteside	0447 018224
Education /Events	Lindy Golding	0423 034632	Curatorial	Kuba Lecki	
Garden	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Curatorial	Sarah Rosen	
Housekeeping	Elizabeth Lee	0410 195 035	Maintenance	Vacant	
Publicity	Helen Armstrong	0427 925616	(Statistics	John Botham	0407 814008)

Catherine Gay



Many of us will remember Catherine Gay who was a volunteer guide from 2022 -24, and who came to us when Neville Jarvis showed her our samplers, in which she was interested. She was then working on her PhD: *Girls in Nineteenth-Century Victoria.* When that was completed, she moved to Canberra where she taught at ANU and she is now working in Cambridge! The exhibition she co-curated at Como with the National Trust, *Traces of Girlhood*, won an award in the Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards, and her book *Australian Girls* has now been published: the launch was at the Melbourne Museum on 8 October. The La Trobe girls are mentioned on pp.213-214, and Rose Pellet on p.66, with a coloured picture of her sampler later in the book.

Liatris



I was very pleased to see in Bunnings some Liatris seedlings. While travelling in Missouri in 1832 La Trobe wrote:

'…and everywhere among the long grass, the *Liatr*is … shoots up and displays its spike of red flowers'.



Here is the specimen, which he collected as he wrote about it, of *Liatris pycnostachya,* held at the University of Neuchâtel.

At left are the seedlings – the 'spike of red [actually it will be mauve] flowers' will shoot up as Spring progresses.



Future Events:

Cottage Working bee: Tuesday 17 November, 9.30 – 12.15.

End-of-Year gathering: Tuesday 1 December, 12.30: End-of-Year gathering: lunch in the Cottage garden. We ask everyone to bring a little something to contribute to the table. The Friends will provide liquid refreshments.

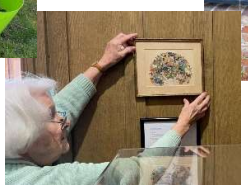
Kate Drummond's coming events:

Friday 27 November: NTV End of Year Celebration at Como 12-2.30. Please email Kate to notify your attendance volunteers@nattrust.com.au

Saturday 5 December: International Volunteers Day excursion to Waller House in Ivanhoe.











Scenes from the September Working Bee

We look forward to seeing you in coming weeks, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

The Cottage Management Team