



## Newsletter No. 9

14 August 2010

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage was held on Tuesday 3 August at East Melbourne Library. Twenty members attended, plus several La Trobe Society members. The group was informed about the developments that have occurred at the Cottage during the year and four months since the group was formed, and, although at times developments can seem slow and hard to come by, looking back over the year, our achievements seem significant. The committee will remain in place, except for John and Cecily Adams, who, due to other commitments, will not remain on the committee. We are grateful to them for their interest in the Cottage during the past year. We therefore have a vacancy on the committee. I would like to thank the members of the committee for their passionate dedication to our cause, and their continuing involvement and hard work.

Our speaker, Bishop James Grant, spoke on "Soulmates - Superintendent Charles La Trobe and Bishop Charles Perry". Bishop Grant has written on the links between Bishop Perry and Governor La Trobe in the past, and he provided us with some interesting insights. This provided a timely lead-in to our visit to Bishopscourt in September.

### Funded Works

The design of the fence has been agreed and the contract is being negotiated. The dowelled picket fence design, as drawn by Edward La Trobe Bateman in the Courtyard drawing, will be more expensive to replicate than a regular picket fence, but we feel that this will be a positive feature of the Cottage. We may be some thousands of dollars short, so some of the old fence may remain until those funds are available.

The directional and interpretative signs are currently in production, and should be installed during the next few weeks.

Friends and C. J. La Trobe Society members will have received information about the Roof Appeal, and we are most grateful for the donations which have been made. There is a long way to go, and we are hoping to raise substantial funds.

### Cottage Openings

School Holiday program Very few children visited during the four days the Cottage was open – most of the few visitors were 'just passing by'. The volunteers found it very cold in the Cottage, and it has been decided that we won't repeat this event next June/July. We will, however, be opening for the coming September School Holidays and again look forward to the assistance of the volunteer guides and Friends for the four sessions.

Melbourne Open House La Trobe's Cottage took part in the Melbourne Open House week-end on 24/25 July. The Cottage was open from 10am–4pm on both days. 301 visitors took guided tours. Many visitors were generous with their donations and we raised nearly \$400. La Trobe Society publications were also sold, raising money, and Dianne Reilly sold delicious coffee and muffins at her refreshment stand. This was a great opportunity to inform visitors about La Trobe and his Cottage, and all were pleased with their tour. The guides and other volunteers were kept busy on both days and we are very grateful for their support of this event, which provides us with much publicity. We hope to be part of the event next year.



### Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Helen Botham	9583 1114	<b>Vice Chair</b>	John Botham	9583 1114	<b>Secretary</b>	Dianne Reilly	9646 2112
Garden	Sandi Pullman	9646 9776	Master Plan	John Botham	9583 1114	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	9592 5616
Guides	Lorraine Finlay	9563 6363	Building	Max Joffe	9563 6363	Web Master	John Botham	9583 1114
Education	Loreen Chambers	0419364570	<b>Treasurer</b>	John Drury	9646 2112			
<b>NT Rep</b>	Martin Green	9656 9822	A Treasurer	John Botham	9583 1114			

Melbourne Day: Monday 30 August. We are to contribute to the City of Melbourne's celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Melbourne. The Cottage will be open from 1-4pm on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August. The City of Melbourne organises and promotes this event so, again, a great opportunity for La Trobe's Cottage.

Sunday 3 October Governor La Trobe's return to his newly refurbished Cottage on 3 October is approaching. J P Fawkner will be there, leading the celebrations, along with other identities of La Trobe's time. The Cottage will be open from 1 – 4pm, with Governor and Mrs La Trobe arriving at 2pm. His commission will be read by Mr Webb, Collector of Customs, and he will respond with his proclamation to the citizens of Melbourne. We see this as our main event, and are hoping to secure good publicity and big crowds. If you would like to volunteer to help with guiding, book and plant stalls, refreshments, and other tasks, please let me know.

### New A-Frame

We are grateful to Martin Green and Caroline Holmes at the National Trust for a new A-Frame to be placed outside the Cottage during openings. The Grant portrait provides a striking sign!



### Winter Visits

June: Portable Iron Houses – South Melbourne. Pauline Reid gave us an interesting tour of the property, which was followed by morning tea provided by Pauline and Thea. It was helpful to discuss issues which effect us both, being small National Trust properties, and we exchanged some useful information. We plan to keep in touch.

July: Cooks' Cottage Peter Morgan, Volunteer Co-Ordinator of Cooks' Cottage, provided a special tour for us on Sunday 18 July, and we followed this with lunch at the Pavilion Café, in the Fitzroy Gardens. It was interesting to hear Peter's views on promoting Cooks' Cottage, and his approach with different groups of visitors.



August: Toorak House. Our visit to Toorak House, the Swedish Church, on Sunday 8 August was a delightful event. Robyn Riddett gave a fascinating history of the architect, Samuel Jackson, and pointed out the interesting features of the architecture and building. Marguerite Hancock provided snapshots of the governors who lived at Toorak House between 1854 and 1874. We were fascinated to hear tales of society, balls, rumour and intrigue. We couldn't help but note the contrast between this residence and the home of our first governor!



Per Anders Sandgren and his wife Deacon Kristina Furberg invited us to tour the downstairs rooms, and the gardens. We then enjoyed a tasty Swedish afternoon tea. We were impressed not only with the history and heritage of the building, but also with their hospitality, and the warmth of the welcome they provided. The Scandinavian Christmas Bazaar will be held on 4 and 5 December – another opportunity to visit Toorak House.



September: Bishops court Archbishop and Mrs Freier have kindly invited us to visit Bishops court on Saturday 11 September. This will be a private visit for members only. Mrs Joy Freier will be expecting us at 2.30. She will guide us through some public rooms, and also tour the garden. Afternoon tea will be included. We will depart by 4.30pm. We will be making a contribution towards the maintenance of the grounds. Donation \$20. Please phone or email me by 6 September if you would like to attend.

See [http://www.nattrust.com.au/trust\\_register/search\\_the\\_register/bishops court](http://www.nattrust.com.au/trust_register/search_the_register/bishops court) , and for some nice pictures of the Bishops court garden go to [http://emhs.org.au/gallery/bishops court\\_garden/141\\_7\\_january\\_2009](http://emhs.org.au/gallery/bishops court_garden/141_7_january_2009)

### La Trobe's Garden

With the help of Neil Robertson, we are working on developing a short and long term plan for the garden. I am at the moment researching what plants we could use to improve the front garden for our spring/summer opening.

The garden volunteers at La Trobe's cottage have been busy over winter. The apples still look like sticks, but are healthy - we are waiting to install the trellis. With the help of Max Joffe, we removed some of the plants in the front of the cottage, putting them in other places in the garden, so that we could plant six heritages roses. The colours of the roses are a mixture of white and pink and are going to look gorgeous against the blue shutters. We have also been very lucky and found some brilliant New Zealand flax which we have planted in the front garden.

If you would like to buy some clivias from the garden, please phone me on 9646-9776. The money will go towards the new fence fund.  
Sandi Pullman, Garden Co-ordinator

### Web Site

Our Friends of La Trobe's Cottage web site is now online – [www.foltc.latrobesociety.org.au](http://www.foltc.latrobesociety.org.au) . Webmaster John Botham keeps this updated regularly, often on the advice of Publicity member Helen Armstrong. This is now the major source of information on the Cottage, its history, its current development, FOLTC and events.

### Education program

Loreen Chambers has been working hard in recent weeks on developing resources for school groups wishing to visit La Trobe's Cottage. The Education page on the Friends web site provides information and advice for teachers, and work sheets for students. Loreen has also developed an Incursion program - a visit to a school in anticipation of their visit to the Cottage, which she introduced with a visit to Narre Warren North Primary School. Her plan is to enable the current guide group to undertake this program in schools, prior to their visit to the Cottage. She is providing a training session for the guides and receptionists on 18 August .

### Changes inside the Cottage

A beautiful addition to the Cottage are the prints of La Trobe's drawings and water-colours now hanging in the entrance hall. Dianne Reilly initiated discussions with the State Library of Victoria to secure these prints, with Katie Symons, National Trust Curator, assisting. The framing, organised by Max Joffe, was funded jointly by the National Trust and the FOLTC.

Now on display, next to La Trobe's medicine chest, is a copy of the Fifth Edition (1856) of Savory's Companion to the Medicine Chest (1836). This book provides information about the potions contained in the chest, and their uses. Dr John Dwyer has donated this book to the National Trust. We are most grateful for this generous donation which makes an interesting discussion point on tours.

### Annual Subscription.

We are very grateful for the support of our members – last year's subscriptions helped to fund events, garden items, social functions, meetings and administration costs. Already in this financial year, the Friends have made a significant contribution to the framing of the La Trobe prints now hanging in the hall. Subscriptions are now due. If you would like to renew your membership please complete the Renewal form attached.

We are now looking forward to our summer season – many thanks to all who continue to support us.

Helen Botham

Chair, FOLTC

9583 1114.

[foltc@latrobesociety.org.au](mailto:foltc@latrobesociety.org.au).