



Newsletter No 56

3 October 2025

Thanks to everyone for attending one of our pre-season meetings. We enjoyed meeting onsite, for a change, and it worked well to have separate sessions for guides and receptionists. John took receptionists through the new Anchor bookings and ticketing program which Louise and Kathy had already put into use at our Open House Melbourne event. We're confident that it will work well for us and we'll be interested to see how it goes on our Sunday openings. We enjoyed the Guides' meetings where a few interesting facts were revealed as we went through the Cottage and Kitchen, noting some special items in the collection, see below!

And thanks to those who helped at the Working Bee on 16th September to prepare the Cottage and garden for the coming season. Alexis had already delivered beautifully laundered linens to the bedrooms and, as well as doing a great job with Housekeeper Elizabeth cleaning the interior, Shana took some videos which she edited into a terrific post for social media. NTAV posted it on Instagram, see <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DPQlbV-ARjD/?igsh=MXdnbm9vdjB1NXRvbW==>

We expect a busy day on 5 October and we'll be hoping that the following Sundays will also be busy. During the coming season we will be very glad to have the involvement of our four new volunteers, but we are sorry to farewell Magid, who has been a wonderful Sunday guide. We thank her very much for her dedication to her role as a guide, and we wish her all the best for the future.



Shana and Elizabeth at work

We hope that you're all happy with Better Impact. John ran through the program with you at our meetings, but he is happy to arrange to meet with you individually if you need any help with accessing the App, or your profile page on your laptop. We'd be pleased if you feel able to log your volunteer hours, but he can do that for you at the end of the month. When you log on and select 'hours' and then our property, you need to select the activity you are logging hours for. You should have a choice of Open Day Guide, Receptionist, Gardening, or Cleaning, depending on your role at the Cottage. Then all volunteers have an 'Admin' option. Here you should log hours spent at meetings. Please get in touch with John if you need any help. And of course, Kate Drummond at the National Trust is also keen to help.

Something which was raised during the Guides meeting is the blackened chimney in the kitchen. Could there ever have been a real fire in that fireplace? Well, the answer is Yes! In 2003, it was announced that on La Trobe's birthday...

The cottage will be open for viewing and a special attraction will be the cooking demonstrations over the open fire in the kitchen building. Cook will be baking and stirring up all sorts of birthday treats as the kitchen building hearth is brought to life with culinary activities. Cook and her assistant will tell you all about the many implements and pieces of simple technology used to operate this nineteenth century facility.
(*La Trobeana*, vol.1, no.3, February 2003)



Cottage Management Team

Liaison	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Maintenance	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619
Curatorial	Karen Stewart	0406 501991	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	0427 925616
Education /Events	Lindy Golding	0423 034632	Volunteers	Helen Botham	0447 018224
Garden	Helen Botham	0447 018224	(Statistics)	John Botham	0407 814008)
Housekeeping	Elizabeth Lee	0401 073107			

I mentioned in the last Newsletter the set of four prints of Louis Kahan sketches of La Trobe's Cottage that have been donated by the family of Margret Grenfell, late La Trobe's Cottage and Government House guide (1986-2001). The archive donated by Margaret's family also includes photographs and correspondence which she collected during her time guiding at Government House. Some of the photographs have been given to Government House, and the rest of the archive will be stored at La Trobe's Cottage.

We are most grateful to Bunnings who donated garden supplies which came in very handy at the Working Bee. Pamela worked very hard to save the daphne, which it seems had dried out at the end of the winter. Unfortunately all her efforts were in vain – she's now planted a replacement.

Mrs Perry's Creeper (*Maurandya barclayana*) which Mrs Perry, wife of the first Bishop of Melbourne, saw growing at Jolimont, was doing very well over the front lattice, but over the winter it has died off. Kathy carried out the delicate job of removing the dead growth while keeping the new green shoots.

Darren and Jai from the NTAV Horticulture team delivered and spread some mulch, and did some heavy pruning.



Bunnings donation



Trying to save the daphne



Tending Mrs Perry



Darren, Jai and Graham

As always, Morning
Tea: an important part
of the day's activity



Thanks to Shana for photos

Coming Events:

Our End-of-Year lunch has been provisionally set for Wednesday **10 December**. Please note this in your diary now. This is our traditional get-together: it will take the form of a lunch at 12.30pm., when we have a chance to meet other volunteers and the NTAV staff we work with. We ask you to bring a plate of something savoury or sweet to share; the Friends will provide a little something to celebrate and soft drink.

You will have read in Kate Drummond's last Newsy Catch-Up that there is to be an End-of-Year gathering for all volunteers on Friday **28 November** at 1pm at Old Melbourne Gaol Court House. A light lunch and refreshments will be served and plus a tour of the complex for those that have not visited before – you are asked to RSVP to Kate: Kate.drummond@nattrust.com.au

Kate is also planning to celebrate International Volunteers Day on **5 December**; details of this event have not yet been fixed.

With thanks to you all for your ongoing support, and best wishes from the Cottage Management Team.