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A Word from the President

As our summer drifted into winter this year I was reminded of the wonderful legacy La Trobe left Melbourne, indeed Victoria – the circle of gardens around the city. A recent article in the National Trust’s newsletter referred to it as ‘Melbourne’s Emerald Necklace’. That vivid phrase truly captures the beauty of our gardens. I am fortunate to work next to the Treasury Gardens that flank two sides of the Government buildings on Treasury Reserve. I observe how office workers pack the lawns during fine weather, sitting under the trees, enjoying a lunch time respite from work. Of all Melbourne’s glorious gardens the Botanic Gardens are probably La Trobe’s most important garden legacy. When you consider all the problems facing La Trobe in establishing a new city yet he had the foresight to put land aside by the river for what is now one of the great botanic gardens of the world. The gardens are an integral part of our lives and millions of people walk and relax there all year round. The gardens have now developed an intricate system of water conservation measures to help maintain this ‘emerald gem’. I am sure La Trobe would have been impressed with these conservation schemes.

Indeed, water was another area where La Trobe showed forward thinking. He realised that if the city was to grow and prosper it required a regular water supply. Tim Gatehouse’s article researchers Melbourne’s first water supply. In fact, part of Melbourne’s original water system, the Melbourne Water Works Tank, was located on the edge of the then town behind St Patrick’s Cathedral. This ‘pressure tank’ was initially filled with water from the Yarra, and later from the Yan Yean Reserve. I understand that it has been preserved and relocated to Werribee Sewage Park. The remarkable nineteenth century government photographer Charles Nettleton recorded the tank and the building of Yan Yean. Beautiful albums of his photographs still remain at Public Record Office Victoria and at the State Library.

Also in this issue, Associate Professor Peter W Sale from La Trobe University, whose interest as a scientist is in pasture and crop agronomy, considers how the District/Colony fed itself in the earlier days of settlement when others struggled, as was the case in Sydney, and posits a view that will intrigue readers.

Two important articles in this issue provide us with further insights into Charles Joseph La Trobe in our ever-expanding understanding of the extraordinary founder of Victoria. Emeritus Professor John Barnes, who has a deep knowledge of the life of Charles Joseph La Trobe, examines the formative years of the young La Trobe, firstly through his father, Christian Ignatius La Trobe, and later, through his education at Fulneck and in another sense in the wider world of Switzerland. These were to shape the spiritual and psychological wellspring of his vision for a new society.

Dr Dianne Reilly has contributed yet another interesting study of Charles Joseph La Trobe which exemplifies the breadth of his vision for the establishment of a cultured and learned society, one in which an educated man like Redmond Barry might himself flourish. The meeting of minds of two such men was to be of major significance to the cultural life of Melbourne.

As always, I would like to thank the many contributors to La Trobena. Our journal continues to offer an amazing variety and wealth of information on La Trobe and his times.

Diane Gardiner
Hon. President C J La Trobe Society

The Chancellor’s Column

Charles Joseph La Trobe was a keen botanist. Thanks to his love of botany and his vision, we enjoy today the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens, an internationally renowned landscaped garden with a mix of native and exotic vegetation and over 10,000 individual species. Charles Joseph La Trobe must have stood upon the site of the Botanic Gardens in 1846 and seen beyond the uninspiring marshland and swamp before him. He saw not just the beauty but the value in bringing botany to the people.

It is the ability to see things beyond the immediate and to imagine what might be possible that characterises the work of researchers. Today researchers at La Trobe University address the major challenges of our time with similar vision and open-mindedness by looking beyond what is known. Often this means looking in unlikely places and sometimes to unlikely plants to find answers.

The La Trobe Institute of Molecular Sciences (LIMS) scientists recently identified a molecule in the flower of one such unlikely plant, the tobacco plant that fights off fungi and bacteria, and surprisingly has the ability to identify and destroy cancer cells. The defence molecule called NaD1, works by forming a pincer-like structure that grips onto lipids present in the membranes of cancer cells and rips them open, causing the cells to expel their contents and explode. The lead investigator in this research, Dr Mark Hulett, believes that this discovery has potential for use in cancer treatment. Dr Hulett is aware that ‘there is some irony in the fact that a powerful defence mechanism against cancer is found in the flower of a species of ornamental tobacco plant,’ but he says this is a welcome discovery, whatever the origin.

Dr Hulett is confident that there is potential for this discovery to translate to therapeutic use in humans. As anyone who has had an up-close experience of cancer will know, one of the biggest issues with current cancer therapies is that the effect of the treatment is indiscriminate. The remarkable difference with NaD1 is that it can target cancerous cells and have little or no effect on those that are healthy. This discovery has huge potential for other therapeutic applications as well.

One could imagine that Charles Joseph La Trobe, the ‘man of a thousand occupations’ as Washington Irving described him, would be delighted to think that today in the University named after him the discipline of botany is held in such high regard, and that scientists have the necessary vision to make such amazing discoveries.

Adrienne E Clarke AC
Chancellor, La Trobe University
La Trobe: a prologue to his Melbourne years

By John Barnes

When Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived in Melbourne in October 1839 to become Superintendent of the new settlement, his life was more than half over. As many people will know, he was born on 20 March 1801 and died on 4 December 1875. Reflecting the patriarchal values of the time, his father, Christian Ignatius, had been converted to the Moravian faith while still a young man in Ireland and who had quickly become the leader of the church in England. The career of Christian Ignatius in the Moravian Church was an unusual one. He was ordained, and was for a time the minister of the Fetter Lane congregation, but the elders decided that he ‘did not have a predilection for the Christian ministry’ – that is, he was not suited to pastoral work. He occasionally preached when invited by other ministers, and often played the organ for services. His particular talent was for administration. Following his father’s early death in 1786, he succeeded him as Secretary of the Church of the United Brethren, a position he held for nearly fifty years. When he retired in 1836, his eldest son Peter took up the post in which he remained until his sudden death in 1863. Altogether, the tenure of the three La Trobes who occupied the post added up to eighty-nine years, a remarkable record. Christian Ignatius is remembered especially for having set up and edited Pioneers’ Accounts Relating to the Missions of the Church of the United Brethren, which reported on the work of Moravian missionaries in various parts of the world.

Of the four sons of the Rev. Christian Ignatius La Trobe, Charles Joseph was the only one who did not prepare himself for a career. His two older brothers both studied theology – Peter, the eldest, followed his father into the Moravian Church, and John chose to be ordained in the Anglican Church – and his younger brother, Frederic, qualified as a doctor. However, although he was a deeply sincere Christian, whose understanding of the world was shaped by his Moravian education, he never made that commitment to the religious life which would have restricted his ability to pursue other interests.

His father, Christian Ignatius, had managed to reconcile his sense of religious vocation with his passion for music, as did his brother John. Incidentally, one can say almost nothing about La Trobe’s mother, except that she was a clergyman’s daughter whose family came from Yorkshire. Christian Ignatius was the eldest son of Benjamin La Trobe, who had been converted to the Moravian faith while still a young man in Ireland and who had quickly become the leader of the church in England. The career of Christian Ignatius in the Moravian Church was an unusual one. He was ordained, and was for a time the minister of the Fetter Lane congregation, but the elders decided that he ‘did not have a predilection for the Christian ministry’ – that is, he was not suited to pastoral work. He occasionally preached when invited by other ministers, and often played the organ for services. His particular talent was for administration. Following his father’s early death in 1786, he succeeded him as Secretary of the Church of the United Brethren, a position he held for nearly fifty years. When he retired in 1836, his eldest son Peter took up the post in which he remained until his sudden death in 1863. Altogether, the tenure of the three La Trobes who occupied the post added up to eighty-nine years, a remarkable record. Christian Ignatius is remembered especially for having set up and edited Pioneers’ Accounts Relating to the Missions of the Church of the United Brethren, which reported on the work of Moravian missionaries in various parts of the world.

John Barnes is Emeritus Professor of English at La Trobe University. His interest in La Trobe has a personal aspect, as his great-grandmother came from a Swiss family which emigrated to Victoria from Neuchâtel in 1834. John is a long-time member of the La Trobe Society, and was formerly on its Committee. In this article, he discusses the period before Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived in Port Phillip in 1839, based on his newly completed manuscript of a biography of La Trobe.

This address was given on the occasion of La Trobe’s 213th Birthday that was celebrated on 30 March 2014 at Domain House.
‘From my childhood’, Charles Joseph writes in The Rambler in North America. ‘I had been accustomed to hear of missionary labour, missionary trials, and missionary joy and sorrow, and to see those who had spent their lives freely in the service of God among the heathens’. No doubt when his children were young Christian Ignatius had stories to tell them of those foreign parts – Greenland, North America, the West Indies, South Africa and Surinam – in which there were Moravian missions. Christian Ignatius seems to have had a flair for the dramatic: in the official records of the Moravian settlement of Fairfield there is a report of his interrupting a conference of the elders to read them a letter just received which reported ‘the painful and dangerous encounter of Bro Smith of Grünkloof with a tyger’. Charles Joseph could not help but be influenced by this missionary background and it fundamentally affected his view of the situation of the local Aborigines when he came to Melbourne. He had been brought up to think of the indigenous people as ‘heathens’ in need of the Christian gospel, and he accepted without question the current view that they would become ‘civilised’ only if they were Christianised.

Ignatius was a very affable man, and much of his success came from his ability to get on with all sorts of people, not only missionaries and the people in the missions – the Hottentots liked him so much that they wanted him to stay with them – but with officialdom. He was tactful, had a great deal of political nous, and was very adept at finding his way through the thicket of bureaucracy in Whitehall. By the time Charles Joseph was seeking government patronage, the name ‘La Trobe’ had long been identified with Moravian missionary activities, which were highly regarded in government circles, an association that was undoubtedly in the young man’s favour when eventually the colonial officials considered him for a post.

However, whilst Christian Ignatius devoted himself most conscientiously to carrying out the responsibilities of his office, he managed to live what was almost another life as a musician. His role in introducing German music to England and its changing English taste is only now being fully appreciated. Dr Charles Burney, who did not have German, relied upon the young man’s help in writing about German music in his landmark four-volume General History of Music, published between 1776 and 1789. Music played a central role in the worship of the Moravians, and soon after his ordination Christian Ignatius was helping to prepare the first English edition of the Moravian hymn-book. As a clergyman he continued not only to play music (he could play a range of instruments, and modestly said that he played the clarinet ‘tolerably well’) and to compose (his compositions include three piano sonatas dedicated to Haydn, with whom he became friendly) but also to prepare Selections of Sacred Music from the Works of some of the most eminent Composers of Germany & Italy, a work that ran to six volumes, published between 1806 and 1825. So, as he was growing up Charles Joseph heard from his father about musicians as well as missionaries. He learnt to play the pianoforte and sang in a deep bass, like his father, who rejoiced that, as he put it, ‘all my children have musical souls’.

Apart from the enjoyment of musicCharles Joseph shared his father’s liking for sketching and for travel, and his keen interest in natural history, especially botany, and in architecture. And in temperament he seems to have been very like his father. A contemporary who knew Christian Ignatius well describes him as a congenial companion: at dinner he ‘seasoned his morsels with pleasantries and poignant as instructed. But I believe it will be best to reserve such for conversation, when we next meet on Settle Scar, or at the Ebbe and Flowing Well, near Giggleswick’. Perhaps it is not always easy for a father and perhaps would best like some merry story, by which you might be amused as well as instructed. But I believe it will be best to reserve such for conversation, when we next meet on Settle Scar, or at the Ebbe and Flowing Well, near Giggleswick.'

My dear Joseph,

My tune for these several days past, has been very pleasantly occupied in writing letters to my dear children on various subjects connected with the history of my life, and it is your turn now. But I have been rather at a loss to know what subject would suit or please you best. You are of a lively, cheerful disposition, and perhaps would best like some merry story, by which you might be amused as well as instructed. But I believe it will be best to reserve such for conversation, when we next meet on Settle Scar, or at the Ebbe and Flowing Well, near Giggleswick.

Perhaps it is not always easy for a father to ‘prove his disposition’ to get the measure of a son with a ‘lively, cheerful disposition’. There may be a hint here that Christian Ignatius found this son to be something of a challenge, but in the reference to an excursion in the Yorkshire dales there is certainly an indication of shared enjoyment.

Charles Joseph was born in London, ‘within the sound of Bow bells’, but most of his formative years were spent in the north of England. Like his father he was sent to the boys’ boarding school at Fulneck, near Pudsey, and later to Farfield in Dryston, near Manchester. The whole of his early life – until he went to Switzerland in 1824 – was spent in these two Moravian communities or his father’s close to the Moravian chapel in Fetter Lane, London.
Both the communities were in the countryside, so it is not surprising that Charles Joseph grew up to prefer the country to the city. Fulneck, at which a highly regarded school still flourishes, is set on the hillside of a beautiful valley, and in spite of the growth of suburbia it still has a feeling of rural tranquillity. It was founded in the 1740s, when the Moravian organisation was barely twenty years old. The eighteenth century church, which was the creation of the German aristocrat, Count Zinzendorf, renewed a medieval religious tradition that originated in what is now the Czech Republic. The count, a Lutheran, had sheltered on his estate Herrnhut in Saxony remnants of the anti-papal congregations of the Unity of the Brethren (Unitas Fratrum) which had come into being in the fifteenth century in Bohemia and had been dispersed during the Counter-Reformation.11

The Moravians put great stress upon education, and their schools attracted non-Moravians by the quality of the curriculum and the teaching. There is no doubt that Charles Joseph received a good academic education. But the influence of a school is not confined to what is learnt in the classroom. The child is father to the man, as Wordsworth wrote. Charles Joseph’s early years at Fulneck shaped the sensibility and outlook on life of the man who came to Port Phillip. By the time he was sent to Fulneck, the atmosphere and the way in which the boys were handled was more liberal and less puritanical than it had been. Cricket was not yet played at the school, but the boys had a field for use as a playground, and skating was no longer deemed to be a ‘carnal pleasure’ that should be denied to them on moral grounds. From the early years of the school the main recreation of the boys appears to have been walking. A favourite walk of Charles Joseph and his companions was to the ruined Kirkstall Abbey, an experience that could only have stimulated his interest in the landscape, architecture and history. It is perhaps relevant here to remind ourselves that Charles Joseph’s uncle, Benjamin Henry Latrobe, was acknowledged as ‘the father of American architecture’. Architecture remained an interest throughout Charles Joseph’s life, but even stronger was his love of exploring landscapes, climbing hills and descending into caverns, and running ‘every kind of risk for the love of mischief & vain glory’, as he himself said.12 His aesthetic enjoyment of the natural world went along with an enjoyment of physical adventure, and it is not surprising that he became such an intrepid traveller.

From its beginnings in the 1740s there was an emphasis at Fulneck upon discipline and, most of all, upon self-discipline. The boys were under constant supervision, and I have wondered whether Charles Joseph’s liking for going off on his own in the countryside was, in some degree, a reaction to the sort of control that was exercised. That control extended to the actual reading of literature, which was censored, and one nineteenth century commentators has remarked: ‘The Moravians had their “Index”’.13 Most significant of all was the kind of introspection which the Moravians encouraged, and which became second nature to Charles Joseph. ‘I have been taught from my Childhood to bend my spirit to the will of God’, he was to acknowledge, as he struggled to settle on his future course.14 Throughout his life, including his years at Port Phillip, his characteristic response to whatever confronted him was to try to discover the “will of God” and act accordingly. To unsympathetic colonists this habit often made him appear to be weak and indecisive.

We know comparatively little about Charles Joseph’s life before he went to Neuchâtel in October 1824, by which time he was 23 years old but still unsure of what sort of life he wanted to pursue. Years later he was to confide in a correspondent in Switzerland:

Switzerland has twice been an asylum to me—once ten years ago this very autumn. When after my mother’s death I paid a first visit, & secondly in 1829, when disgusted with having lost a year in awaiting a tardy fulfilment of a promise of patronage by Lord Godrich [sic], then prime minister, I returned to my native home among your mountains like a bird escaped from its cage.15

There is no doubt that the experience was liberating for the young man, who portrays himself in The Alpenstock as melancholy and depressed on his arrival. Among the families of the bourgeoisie in this closely knit Protestant society he found congenial companions, who shared his cultural interests and became lifelong friends. By the end of his first visit, March 1827, Switzerland ‘had long ceased to be a foreign land’ to him, and by the end of his second visit in 1833 he may already have fallen in love with Sophie de Montmollin, a member of a leading Neuchâtel family.

Why did he choose to go to Switzerland? In the opening pages of The Alpenstock he describes the feelings of ‘wonder and awe’ as he gazed upon the ‘magnificent scene’, looking across Lake Neuchâtel to the Alps. Like an increasing number of English people he shared the Romantic fascination with mountain scenery. And why Neuchâtel? The most likely explanation is that there was a Moravian girls’ boarding school at Montmirail, a few miles outside the town, and that the La Trobe family had personal contact with the principal and his wife – the wife was, in fact, a niece of La Trobe’s uncle by marriage. For the first time in his life he was living outside a Moravian community, but at Montmirail, which he visited every Sunday, he was again in a familiar atmosphere. It was a link that he maintained throughout his life. In The Alpenstock he says that Montmirail means so much to him that he must ‘bide’ his feelings.

At the beginning of his first summer expedition La Trobe called at the village of Erlenbach in the valley of the Aarntal. He had an introduction to the clergyman and his family, with whom he immediately formed a close and lasting relationship. The parsonage became a ‘home’, where he stayed often, ‘one of those spots to which my heart clings with an
affection which is interwoven with the thread of my being,’ he wrote in *The Alpenstock*, where he describes his delight in the people and the setting. There have been changes since La Trobe’s time, but I discovered on a brief visit last year that the place retains much of the idyllic character that it possessed for him.

Charles Joseph is not effusive in print but, reticent as he is about his private feelings, what he writes about Montmirail and Erlenbach and the people there leaves no doubt of their importance in his emotional and imaginative life. He was probably fortunate that he did not gain the patronage back in England that he sought after his first visit to Switzerland. The second stay in Switzerland deepened his attachment, and the setting. There have been changes since La Trobe’s time, but I discovered on a brief visit last year that the place retains much of the idyllic character that it possessed for him.

Charles Joseph accepted the sacrifices he had to make and did his duty to the point of exhaustion. His achievements as Superintendent and later Lieutenant-Governor, particularly during the near-crisis of the gold rushes, seem to me to have been under-rated. They are all the more impressive when one considers how little prepared he was for the responsibilities of his office. He had never held any executive position, he was probably unfortunate that he did not gain the patronage back in England that he sought after his first visit to Switzerland. The second stay in Switzerland deepened his attachment, and the setting. There have been changes since La Trobe’s time, but I discovered on a brief visit last year that the place retains much of the idyllic character that it possessed for him.

Charles Joseph’s capable handling of that assignment led to the offer of the sub-governatorial post at Port Phillip, in which for the first time in his life he had authority over the lives of others. This appointment was far from ideal for him and Sophie; they missed the culture of Europe, and felt keenly the separation from family and friends. He did have opportunities to travel in Victoria and Tasmania, but under the burdens of office he was increasingly unable to pursue the intellectual pleasures that he had known in his early life.

1 La Trobe to John Murray, 22 October 1835. John Murray Archive, MS40672, National Library of Scotland.
9 Ibid., p.66.
10 The name ‘Moravian’ was originally a kind of nickname, referring to the origins of the Renewed Unity of the Brethren in a part of Bohemia.
13 La Trobe to Madame de Pourtalès, 30 June 1833. MS13354/44 State Library of Victoria.
14 La Trobe to Madame de Pourtalès, 31 August 1834. MS13354/43 State Library of Victoria.
16 Quarterly Review, September 1835, George Grey to Peter La Trobe, 31 March 1843. MS13354/5 State Library of Victoria.
17 La Trobe to Madame de Pourtalès, 30 November 1833. MS13354/44 State Library of Victoria.
from Sydney. Both were full of the excitement of Redmond Barry, 26 years old, arrived by ship on 13 November, a young lawyer by the name of New South Wales. The first of them to set foot on the soil of the colony on 1 October 1837, he was the centre of the Port Phillip District that the residents of creating a community of cultured visionaries could impose order in the colony, and the mammoth efforts of some of those early embryonic centre in a new and little understood land. What were their first impressions?

Melbourne in 1839, only four years after the first white settlement, must have presented a shock to these well travelled men who were used to the sophistication of London and Dublin, and who had each spent time exploring what our home town was like 175 years ago. These are all phrases we accept as apt descriptions of the capital city of Victoria. But how did this elevated cultural status arrive? If we reflect on what our home town was like 175 years ago, and the mammoth efforts of some of those early visionary settlers to impose order in the colony, we will gain an idea of how it all came about.

Towards the end of 1839, two gentlemen arrived, just over a month apart, in Melbourne, then the centre of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales. The first of them to set foot on the soil of the colony on 1 October was Charles Joseph La Trobe, at 38 years of age, the first white settlement, must have presented a shock to these well travelled men who were used to the sophistication of London and Dublin, and who had each spent time exploring what European cities had to offer. Added to this, La Trobe had already travelled widely in the New World.

They came to what was more or less a frontier town, and those who lived there had just one major preoccupation: to improve their material lot in life. There was no thought about creating a community of cultured colonists with benefits for all. Melbourne — named in 1837 for the British Prime Minister Lord Melbourne — was a staging post for these British settlers, as they headed to the hinterland, seeking a better life than the one they had left behind. In contrast, their new leader La Trobe’s approach to his public duties was based essentially on his personal views on religion and morality which he considered should be central pillars in the success of the new community. He was certain about his civilising mission in this outpost of empire.

It will not be by individual aggrandizement, by the possession of numerous flocks and herds, or of costly acres, that we shall secure for the country enduring prosperity and happiness, but by the acquisition and maintenance of sound religious and moral institutions, without which no country can become truly great.

The Melbourne that greeted La Trobe and Barry was physically less than picturesque. It is true that Robert Hoddle had surveyed the settlement and laid out the grid system of its streets. But as they soon discovered, Collin Street was the only street worthy of the name, while Elizabeth Street followed a frequently‑flooded creek bed, and Flinders Street was little better than a bog. The locality of the block — that section of Collins Street between Elizabeth and Swanston Streets, later to become Melbourne’s most fashionable promenade — was swampy and unpleasant. The water supply for Melbourne was increasingly inadequate and polluted from the discharge of slaughterhouses and cesspits into the Yarra River. There was no town council before 1842 to take care of local affairs. All revenue for developments in Port Phillip was allocated by the government in far‑off Sydney. La Trobe had to obtain permission from Governor Gipps for every improvement he wished to make in Melbourne. As historian ‘Garyonow’ later described it, Melbourne was then, physically, in a basic stage of its existence:

It was a kind of big ‘settlement’ … with houses, sheds and tents in clusters, or scattered in ones and twos. There were streets marked out, but … so dispersed that after dark residents incurred not only trouble but danger in moving about … the majority of the business or residential tenements were made up of colonial ‘wattle‑and‑daub’, roofed with sheets of bark or coarse shingle …

Such was the metropolis of the domain La Trobe had come to administer, and to which Barry hoped to contribute as a practitioner of the law. In addition, there was a vast area of pastoral land to manage and a mere few thousand inhabitants. Melbourne in 1839 had a European population of about 3,000, a figure that was to jump to 11,700 in the census of March 1841, and thereafter, to multiply in leaps and bounds.

The legal system in Melbourne was in a very rudimentary state, with the Court of Quarter Sessions having only just been established under the guise of Requests. No development could take place without finance being allotted by the government in far‑off Sydney. La Trobe had to obtain permission from Governor Gipps for every improvement he wished to make in Melbourne. As historian ‘Garyonow’ later described it, Melbourne was then, physically, in a basic stage of its existence:

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to reach 77,345 for the whole of Port Phillip in 1851.\(^1\) However, despite the town’s promise, La Trobe realized when he arrived to take up his post, how unprepared he was for the task ahead.

Even so, the townspople of Melbourne were enormously proud of what had been achieved in such a short time-span, and of what the settlement had to offer newcomers, including La Trobe. A week after his arrival, a local newspaper praised itself at the settlement’s amazing growth.

Already Melbourne, which eight months ago possessed only three brick houses, is a flourishing town, with a population of between two and three thousand souls, and containing most of the appendages of an advanced civilization. It has five places of worship of different denominations of Christians, a Court of Justice, two Schools, two Banks, one Club with fifty members, a Fire and Police Station, and proceeding eastwards to Swanston-street, there were a good sprinkling of brick-built offices, stores, and shops, offering every house and garden and on the opposite side, ‘The Reverend Alexander Morrison’s Independent Church and adjacent manse. The Scots Church, lower down, of which the Reverend James Forbes was minister, was then being built. Not till the next year was the creditably large Mechanics’ Institute begun ... [and] the first Customs House was being erected’.\(^2\)

However, the squatter Charles Griffith, in his 1845 book Present State and Prospect of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, warned that time was running out to provide better living conditions. ‘The weather was so bad that passengers were unable to go ashore. However, on the following day, he noted in his diary: ‘Landed with family, 1 p.m. Land Sale, 3 p.m. Received and answered address of inhabitants’.\(^3\) After being rowed up the Yarra River from the port on 3 October 1839 – 175 years ago this year – in poor weather, La Trobe was eagerly anticipated by the local population who expected him to act quickly on their desire for separation from the colony’s third sale of town and country land.

Westgarth took his readers on a walking tour of Melbourne as it looked in 1840: ‘Taking central Collins-street, which was then... the chief seat of business, and beginning with “The Shakespeare”, at the market corner, where originally Fawkes opened the first public-house, and proceeding eastwards to Swanston-street, there was a good sprinkling of brick-built offices, stores, and shops, offering every house and garden ...’ and on the opposite side, ‘The Reverend Alexander Morrison’s Independent Church and adjacent manse. The Scots Church, lower down, of which the Reverend James Forbes was minister, was then being built. Not till the next year was the creditably large Mechanics’ Institute begun ... [and] the first Customs House was being erected’.\(^2\)

It was evident on the day of his arrival in Melbourne that La Trobe was eagerly anticipated by the local population who expected him to act quickly on their desire for separation from the controlling powers in Sydney. He was hailed as ‘the patriotic founder of a new State’, but what they did not recognize was that La Trobe would, at all costs, do his duty by the Governor in Sydney and the Colonial Office in London.

The La Trobes had arrived in Melbourne after a two-week voyage from Sydney on board a hague, the Pyramus, on 30 September 1839, having encountered ferocious gales in Bass Strait. On the following morning, the Superintendent was removed ashore to Lurder’s Beach, now Port Melbourne.\(^5\) Despite the incessant heavy rain, he had walked into town for a first unofficial view of his new domain. The next day, 2 October, the weather was so bad that passengers were unable to go ashore. However, on the following day, he noted in his diary: ‘Landed with family, 1 p.m. Land Sale, 3 p.m. Received and answered address of inhabitants’.\(^3\) After being rowed up the Yarra River from the port on 3 October 1839 – 175 years ago this year – in poor weather to a makeshift landing stage, the Superintendent and his family were warmly welcomed by hundreds of Melburnians in a sales room where a land auction was being conducted.\(^6\) La Trobe was hastily sworn in during an interval in the colony’s third sale of town and country land. He was then accompanied to the first home of the ten-month-old Melbourne Club which, at that time, occupied the former hotel building of founding colonist John Pascoe Fawkner on the south-eastern corner of Collins and Market Streets.\(^7\)

The La Trobe family stayed with Captain William Lonsdale, the Police Magistrate, on their arrival, in his cottage between Spencer and King Streets, east of Batman’s Hill. The image on the previous page depicts the Commandant’s prefabricated cottage which was erected not far from where the Melbourne Cricket Ground is situated today. They later moved to the house Barry had built in 1842 and lived there until 1852.

The La Trobe family stayed with Captain William Lonsdale, the Police Magistrate, on their arrival, in his cottage between Spencer and King Streets, east of Batman’s Hill. The image on the previous page depicts the Commandant’s prefabricated cottage which was erected not far from where the Melbourne Cricket Ground is situated today. They later moved to the house Barry had built in 1842 and lived there until 1852.

It was evident on the day of his arrival in Melbourne that La Trobe was eagerly anticipated by the local population who expected him to act quickly on their desire for separation from the controlling powers in Sydney. He was hailed as ‘the patriotic founder of a new State’, but what they did not recognize was that La Trobe would, at all costs, do his duty by the Governor in Sydney and the Colonial Office in London.

Soon after his first glimpse of Melbourne, the new Superintendent wrote to his friend the publisher, John Murray in London:

You, my dear Sir, have I believe never been transported 16,000 miles from civilization, & cannot imagine what it is to be cast so far beyond the reach of the thousand daily means of improvement & enjoyment which they possess who breathe the air of Europe ... I have called our present position Exile, & so it is to all intents and purposes. Society is, of
Many of us are familiar with the main events in La Trobe’s life, and especially realise the importance of his vision and his strenuous efforts on behalf of the fledgling colony of Port Phillip, later to become Victoria but it is worth recounting the following points:

- La Trobe was born on 20 March 1801 in London, the fifth child and third son of Christian Ignatius La Trobe and his wife Hannah, both of Huguenot descent.

- Charles Joseph’s education from the age of six until he was eighteen and his religious upbringing were in the Moravian faith, a protestant, non-conformist and evangelical denomination which traces its history to the fifteenth-century Bohemian Brethren in Moravia, a part of what is now the Czech Republic. Generations of the La Trobe family were prominent in the Moravian church.

- From eighteen to twenty-three, Charles Joseph was a teacher in another Moravian school at Fairfield.

- He was engaged as tutor for three years from 1824 to the young Swiss Comte Albert de Poursat in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, and took advantage of the location to indulge his passion for hiking and climbing in the Alps. His first book, The Alpenstock, was published in 1829, and The Pedestrian in 1830.

- From the spring of 1832, he went on a tour of three years to North America and Mexico with his former student, after which he published his third book The Rambler in Mexico in 1834, and The Rambler in North America appeared the next year.

- La Trobe and Poursat’s return to Switzerland in 1835. That same year, La Trobe proposed marriage to Sophie de Montmollin, a cousin of his protégé, and the ninth of thirteen children of a wealthy Swiss aristocrat Frédéric Auguste de Montmollin.

- Charles Joseph and Sophie were married at the Nonconformist church in Berne in September 1835.

- La Trobe was then sent to the British West India by the Colonial Office to inspect the schools which had been provided for the children of nearly 800,000 recently emancipated slaves.

- Following the success of this mission and the high regard by the Colonial Office for his three volumes of reports, he was offered the post of Superintendent of the Port Phillip District.

- La Trobe had many obstacles to overcome throughout his time in Victoria.

- He had recognized soon after his arrival what a handicap being part of the greater New South Wales was for progress in Port Phillip, but many of the unruly populations he had to govern were impatient and considered he was doing nothing to promote separation. He, in the meantime, was pursuing it cautiously but vigorously, setting in place the appropriate and necessary requirements such as Port Phillip representation on the Legislative Council in Sydney (1842), a sound basis for economic viability, and orderly management and institutions in Melbourne, such as the Melbourne Town Council (1842) and the City of Melbourne (1847), believing constantly that the timing of separation was an all-important matter. When it eventually came in 1851, separation was a great achievement for La Trobe and cause for universal celebration in the new colony of Victoria.

- La Trobe had been instructed when taking on the role of Superintendent to ensure the well-being of the Aboriginal people of Port Phillip. In spite of, or perhaps, because of his tragic experience of witnessing the North American Indian tribes ‘melting like snow from before the steady march of the white’,20 he supported the then current Colonial Office policy of assimilation of Native populations. He saw his direction as attempting to bring Christianity to the indigenous people of Port Phillip, but all attempts to urge them to give up their freedom and to conform to European requirements failed, due to their own well-established belief systems and lifestyle. The Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate under Chief Protector George Augustus Robinson was already in place when he arrived in Melbourne. He soon realized that it was a dismal failure and closed it down on 31 December 1849.

- La Trobe had used his artistic talent in his previous travels to describe the places he visited and the scenery about him. It is fortunate that 437 of his images are still in existence today in the Pictures Collection of the State Library of Victoria. Of these landscapes and sketches, 168 watercolours and drawings record his years in Victoria, touring Victoria and visiting Tasmania and Sydney. In Victoria, his sketches on these tours documented the landscape in the earliest period of European settlement and, as such, provide rare and valuable first-hand evidence of the topography at this time.

- No sooner had the advance news of separation been received, and at the same time the new bridge – the second bridge – over the Yarra River officially opened, than the single most revolutionary and momentous event in the history of the colony occurred. Gold in enormous quantities was discovered, creating the dominant and most far-reaching issue of La Trobe’s many years in Victoria. Not only did he have to manage the needs of a huge influx of miners, but he also tried to ensure that the infrastructure in Melbourne and on the goldfield was adequate. Despite La Trobe’s misgivings of the goldfields administration, the historian Geoffrey Serle, in his definitive study of the gold rush, came to the conclusion that, when faced with the appalling difficulties of the times, La Trobe had tried to ‘govern chaos on his arrival in Melbourne’.21 In his years as administrator of the colony, La Trobe made nineteen major horse-back rides through country Victoria, as far afield as Mt Gambier in the west and deep into Gippsland in the east, which he carefully documented in his private diary, and sketched the scenery wherever he went. La Trobe did not receive the support he needed to manage this difficult colony from either Governor FitzRoy in Sydney, or from the Colonial Office in London. In addition to his official burdens, he was caring for his young children, and for Sophie who was in failing health. Today, it would be called a ‘hardship posting’!

- In February 1853, Sophie, and the children returned to Switzerland where she died a year later. La Trobe was to read of her death in its infancy. The arts and sciences are uniform...19

- In his years as administrator of the colony, La Trobe made nineteen major horse-back rides through country Victoria, as far afield as Mt Gambier in the west and deep into Gippsland in the east, which he carefully documented in his private diary, and sketched the scenery wherever he went. La Trobe did not receive the support he needed to manage this difficult colony from either Governor FitzRoy in Sydney, or from the Colonial Office in London. In addition to his official burdens, he was caring for his young children, and for Sophie who was in failing health. Today, it would be called a ‘hardship posting’!

- In February 1853, Sophie, and the children returned to Switzerland where she died a year later. La Trobe was to read of her death...20
in a newspaper from London, delivered to him before he received the sad news by letter from the family. He had resigned at the end of 1852, and finally departed for England in 1854. He had spent nearly fifteen years in the colony, administrating it during the most formative and most turbulent period in its history. He returned to England and went directly to Nescafé to reclaim his children who were being cared for by their aunt and grandmother.

And how did Redmond Barry view his new home?

As his biographer, Dr Ann Galbally has recorded, his capacity was small24 and he needed to be proud that he ‘could trace his ancestry back to Redmond Barry was born at Ballyclough, County Cork, Ireland on 7 June 1813. He was the third son and fifth of the thirteen children of Henry Greene Barry, a soldier elevated to Major-General after the Napoleonic Wars, and his wife Phoebe, who had died before he was born. His father succeeded to the Barry estates and title of the ‘MacAdam Barry’, and inherited in 1821 the substantial timberframe seat of Ballysadra House where Redmond lived as a child. Redmond Barry was proud that he ‘could trace his ancestry back to

Photographer unknown

Redmond Barry, 1813-1860, c, 1880
Private Collection, with permission

Redmond Barry was brought up as an Anglican, and educated firstly in Cork, and then at a boarding school in Bexley, Kent, which specialized in preparing boys for the army.25 Due to the relative peace after the Napoleonic Wars, no commission was available to him and he became an undergraduate at Trinity College, Dublin, studying Latin, Greek, Hebrew and English Literature, and graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1837. At more or less the same time, he undertook studies at Kings Inns in Dublin and at Lincoln’s Inn in London, and he was called to the Irish Bar in 1838.

As with many younger sons of Irish Ascendancy families, Redmond began to think of emigration to the colonies for careers and advancement seemed a more attractive alternative to remaining in Ireland.

After a quick visit to Paris and some Belgian cities,26 he packed his belongings, catalogued his book collection, had his portrait painted, and set sail from Plymouth on board the Calcutta, bound for Sydney. The scene was set for events which changed the course of his future ambitions on the first day out of port when his eye was caught by the attractive Mrs Scott and he loaned her his copy of Lord Byron’s poems. It was only a matter of days before he had entered into a very public affair with her. At one stage, he offered an ‘Explanation to Mr Scott’, but unfortunately the wronged Mrs Scott ‘took a liking to Barry and invited him to his cabin’.27 The liaison with Mrs Scott continued in a very indiscreet fashion, so much so that, having been found by Mr Scott in elegant diletté – in the act, so to speak – Barry was freely denied access to the dining saloon, and then confined to his cabin by the Captain for the rest of the voyage.

On reaching Sydney on 1 September 1839, Barry went ashore with the young Irish lawyers Edward Sewell and James Crooke, who later in Melbourne were to become his close friends. While Sewell and Crooke and the ship’s Captain Mrs Scott ashore. Although he did meet Governor

Photographer unknown

Louisa Bridget Baron, 1823-1864, c, 1860
Private Collection, with permission

Gipps, very few Government briefs came his way during the whole of Gipps’ term as Governor. Despite his passion for Mrs Scott, Barry came to the conclusion that his future lay in Port Phillip. He left her, hysterically bewailing her abandonment, with gifts of ‘a ring and a pen’, noting that they had cost £1 7s 6d’.30 He sailed for Melbourne on the Pitfield on 30 October, in search of a secure and fruitful position in the law, arriving on 13 November 1839.

One of the first activities for this qualified but inexperienced barrister was to renew his acquaintance with Edward J. Brewster, Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions in Melbourne, who had been called to the Irish Bar at King’s Inn the year before Barry. The Quarter Sessions had only been established in Port Phillip that year, and the Magistrate’s Court and a Court of Requests, which had been only been established in Port Phillip that year, and the Magistrate’s Court and a Court of Requests, which had been on the Bench for five years, during which Barry had been Acting Chief Justice for two years. However, due to some political machinations, William Stawell was appointed Chief Justice by the then Governor Sir Henry Barkly, based on his ‘unexceptionable record of legal service to the Crown...and a reconstructed and now...totally blameless personal life to go with it’,31 following a shock religious conversion in 1848. Barry thought that his hard work ensured him the position32 and that his unconventional personal life would be an inconvenience in business, which he never recover.

In 1846, he had made the acquaintance of a young married woman with limited education from Cork, Mrs Louisa Bridget Barrow, the wife of Patrick Barrow, a labourer and stonemason, who lived very near to Barry’s residence in Bourke Street East. Barry had continued his liaisons with various women, each of whom bore him children. Gradually, the listing of his conquests lessened and, in August 1847, he noted: ‘Barrow confined of a son’,33 the first of his four children with his name. Though they never married, they were devoted to one another until the end of Barry’s life. Mrs Barrow and Barry both owned and inhabited in High Street Road, Sydney, and they lived in separate city residences. Barry now at Carlton Gardens near the Royal Exhibition Buildings, where he entertained ‘on a scale of some splendour’,34 and Mrs Barrow at 82 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, in a house built for her by Barry.
From 1841, Barry became Standing Counsel for Aboriginal people brought before the law. He argued that nothing in the establishment of British sovereignty in the colonies had given the law authority over them for aggressive acts between themselves, nor had they willingly relinquished their right to the land. Logically they retained sovereignty over their own country. In addition, once they were not Christians, they could not take the required Oath before the Court. His interest in and unprejudiced approach to the Aboriginal people lasted all his life. He took his appointment as Standing Counsel ‘very seriously, fighting hard for his client and saving a number from the gallows’. 49

Barry had the reputation of being a harsh judge, but that was not always the case. The late Chief Justice John Harber Phillips described Barry as ‘a black-letter lawyer with strict regard for precedent’, one who based his opinions on well-established legal rules. Justice Phillips’ position was ‘that Barry was an ideal judge for his times’, 50 that is, a hard-working lawyer devoted to the establishment of sound legal practices in the fledgling colony.

Barry was intimately involved in the trial of thirteen Eureka rebels who had been arraigned on the difficult-to-prove charge of high treason. With Barry’s persuasive defence, they were all acquitted. At Beechworth in 1876, he sentenced Ellen Kelly to three years’ goal for aiding and abetting the attempted murder of a police officer. Two years later in Melbourne, he presided over what was his most famous trial, that of her son, Ned Kelly. His aim was to deactivate the growing perception of Kelly as a hero, making the point that ‘... there is a class which disregards the evil consequences of crime...’ and that a stop had to be put to lawlessness in the community. 51

Barry then directed the jury to rule out the possibility of a conviction on the lesser charge of manslaughter for Kelly’s role in the Strangbark Creek police killings years before, and a guilty verdict was handed down after just over half an hour. Barry sentenced Kelly to death by hanging. He had made his first call on La Trobe and Redmond Barry first were among these high achievers.

They were well educated, handsome young men when they arrived, sharing a deep knowledge and love of music, gardening and all things cultural. Barry’s social circle revolved around the Melbourne Club, of which he was the President three times in 1844, 1846 and 1858, and his close association with La Trobe, who was elected a member of the club in 1844. They shared many interests, but their guiding force was a passion for what Barry constantly called ‘our adopted Country’. 52

Any less committed, less committed individuals than La Trobe and Barry might have found two daunting the task of establishing and enhancing those institutions necessary to a developing and independent colony. Together, they laboured over the establishment of the University of Melbourne and of the Melbourne Public Library, now the State Library of Victoria. Barry continued their joint work alone after La Trobe’s departure in 1854, undertaking the role of Chancellor of the University and Chairman of Library Trustees from 1853 until his death in 1880.

Two high achievers

It is an extraordinary fact that so few really great people built most of the cultural institutions Victorians take for granted today. Charles Joseph La Trobe and Redmond Barry were first among these high achievers.

La Trobe can be credited with planting the institutions of government in Melbourne. He was in many cases the prime mover for the establishment of many valuable and necessary institutions, including the Melbourne Hospital, now the Royal Melbourne Hospital; the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum; the Philosophical Society of Victoria, now the Royal Society of Victoria; and the Melbourne Mechanics’ Institute, now the Melbourne Athenaeum.

He was personally responsible for selecting the site of that ‘veritable Garden of Eden’, the Royal Botanic Gardens, and for setting aside huge tracts of land on the periphery of Hoddle’s city grid, for recreational purposes. These included: the FitzRoy Gardens, the Flagstaff and the Treasury Gardens, as well as the vast expanses of Royal Park. La Trobe was appointed as a Commissioner of the Order of the Bath in 1858, an award made by the Sovereign to a small number of civil servants.

As Sir Ninian Stephen once remarked, Redmond Barry ‘opened everything in Melbourne worth opening’. 53 He was certainly the driving force behind a litany of cultural societies and community organisations, including among many others, the Horticultural Society (Vice-President with La Trobe as patron), and the Philharmonic Society (President 1853 with La Trobe as patron).

Barry presided over the International Exhibition in Melbourne in 1866. He was also passionate about representing Victoria on the world stage as Commissioner for Victoria at the international exhibitions in Paris (1855), in London (1862) and in Philadelphia (1876).

Despite his busy schedule representing Victoria in London in 1862, he made the time to escort two of La Trobe’s daughters, probably Eleanor and Mary Cecilia, on a special viewing of the International Exhibition in South Kensington, on a site now occupied by the Natural History Museum. La Trobe, writing from his residence in Woolloomooloo in 1861, thanked Barry for his kindness in a letter dated 20 June 1862, saying ‘that the two lassies never forget the advantage they had in your kind countenance and escort to the Exhibition’, and he invited Barry to visit them at their home. 54

For his extraordinary input to Victoria, Barry was created a Knight Bachelor (Kt) in 1860 and a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCtMG) in 1877.

La Trobe and Barry had a strong life-long friendship based on mutual respect and shared experience. Barry had made his first call on La Trobe six days after his arrival in the hope of promoting his chances for a government position in the law. They were to remain close friends for the whole of La Trobe’s administration, and this was a factor in encouraging Barry to remain at Port Phillip. Barry’s Day Books list his regular calls upon La Trobe in his office, and the infrequent but enjoyable dinners he had at La Trobe’s residence. In their shared professional lives in Melbourne, it may be said that there was ‘strange and mutual sympathy between the two’. 55

To slightly misquote, the historian ‘Garryowen’: ‘La Trobe and Barry were the most remarkable personages in the annals of Port Phillip, for they threw in their lot with the destiny of the Province when it was a weak struggling settlement in 1839, and identified themselves with every stage of its wonderful progress until they left it a bright and brilliant colony. 56


1 Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser, 7 October 1839, p.4.
4 Henry Glynes Turner, A History of the Colony of Victoria, from its Discovery to its Annexation to the Commonwealth of Australia, Melbourne: Longman, Green, 1904, p.244.
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The La Trobe Song: a research report

By Helen Armstrong

As described in the last issue of La Trobeana, the centenary of La Trobe’s death on 4 December 1875 was commemorated with a two-week program of events during December 1975. A total of forty-three events included historical re-enactments, exhibitions, presentations by eminent historians, church services, sporting events, unveiling of commemorative plaques, a book launch at Government House and a tree planting in the Royal Botanic Gardens; notably also, a La Trobe song was composed for the commemoration.1

The La Trobe Centenary Commemoration Committee, formed within the Department of the Premier to organise the celebrations, had as one of its members Robert King Crawford, Melbourne City Council Arts Officer (Parks and Gardens Department). Described on his website as Superintendent of the Arts for the City of Melbourne from 1972 to 1987, he organised the re-enactments in central Melbourne, which included La Trobe’s landing on the Yarra Bank followed by a procession to the Flagstaff Gardens where a land auction was enacted, a changing of the guard at La Trobe’s Cottage prior to the opening of an exhibition of La Trobe’s watercolours and drawings, and La Trobe reading the document of the Foundation of Victoria. He also composed The La Trobe Song performed by Shirley Jacobs at these re-enactments.4

From the Report of Activities:

A special La Trobe song was written by Mr Bob Crawford and sung by Shirley Jacobs. It had a catchy tune and was very well received. The song was recorded on tape and distributed to radio stations for playing during the commemoration.5

Unfortunately, the tape recording of the La Trobe Song did not arrive in time for the church service at Neuchâtel in Switzerland.6

Shirley Jacobs was well known in the Melbourne music scene, and in prison reform circles, during the 1970s and 1980s. Her fine,

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strong voice was well suited to the folk songs of that period. Another of her specialties was composing and singing songs for children. Unfortunately, no recording of her singing The La Trobe Song can be located.

However, the song was later included in Crawford’s Eureka Stockade opera of 1984, when it was sung by baritone John Lidgerwood. A recording may be heard on the Society’s website, through a link provided under Works About La Trobe.

Members and others may enjoy listening to a song that so successfully captures the essence of Charles Joseph La Trobe.

The La Trobe Song
Words and music Robert King Crawford

Who sought the fight of down-tooled and needly – Charles La Trobe
Against the power of the great and greedy – Charles La Trobe

Who battled for the Blacks and ill and retarded – Charles La Trobe
And among the poor was well regarded – Charles La Trobe

Chorus
He was a poet, painter, explorer mild
Astonishment, writer, sportsman untired
Botanist, Governor and again and again
La Trobe was a gentleman
La Trobe was a gentleman.

He was a man of great mental stature – Charles La Trobe
Loved traditions, God and nature – Charles La Trobe
Stopped the convicts landing in his city – Charles La Trobe
Though a man of love and a man of pity – Charles La Trobe

Repeat chorus
Who kept his beliefs in the depression – Charles La Trobe
Goldrush, landboom and recession – Charles La Trobe
And without training and without backing – Charles La Trobe
Made Victoria great where others were lacking – Charles La Trobe

Oh la la La Trobe the gentleman
Oh la la La Trobe the gentleman
Oh la la La Trobe the gentleman.

Introduction
When I was asked by the Dean of our Faculty to address the C J La Trobe Society and talk about agriculture in the very early days of Victoria, I thought why not? I have always been impressed by the agriculture in this favoured corner of our continent, but I always wondered what it was like in the early days. I agreed but soon realised that I had to immerse myself in the early history of the State of Victoria. In particular, I needed to understand the role that the first Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, Charles Joseph La Trobe, had to play (or not play) in developing a secure food supply for the early settlers. I have to say that it has been a captivating and rewarding experience, and very useful for a lecturer who teaches undergraduates about the science of agricultural production.

My first impressions of Charles Joseph La Trobe were that he had a pretty rough time in developing a secure food supply for the early settlers. He had to say that it has been a captivating and rewarding experience, and very useful for a lecturer who teaches undergraduates about the science of agricultural production.
as the District (and later Colony) underwent a fifty-fold increase in population between 1839 and 1854 during the La Trobe years, did the local population experience any food shortages?

To answer the question about food shortages in the district, I had to read widely. My readings included letters from the early settler, Robert Hoddle, and his friends, and also reports by historians. Not once did I see any mention of problems with food supply. Or, at least, there were no such problems in reports by historians. The staple food was based around wheat, flour and potatoes — and yes, there were deficits in local wheat production. However, the local merchants were able to import wheat or flour without difficulty. I concluded there were no problems with food supply. Clearly the issue of having to feed the residents of the Port Phillip District was not on La Trobe’s ‘radar’.

It seemed to me that there were more pressing issues for La Trobe to deal with than being concerned about the local agriculture and the food supply. I will touch on these later. But first, one has to question why the early settlers at Port Phillip fared so much better than the earlier arrivals at Port Jackson when it came to feeding themselves.

**Early agriculture in Australia:**

**Port Phillip vs Port Jackson**

So why did the early settlers at Port Phillip cope better than their counterparts at Port Jackson, forty years earlier? Well, I think there were three reasons. The first two relate to the fact that ‘mother nature’ has been, and hopefully will continue to be, kind to the Victorian landscape. First is the issue of rainfall, and this little corner of the continent, around Port Phillip Bay and its hinterland, receives a very handy 600–700mm of annual rainfall that falls mainly in the winter and spring, just when it is needed by wheat and autumn-sown potatoes.

The second reason relates to the soils of the local district. These were described very favourably by Robert Hoddle, the senior surveyor in the Port Phillip District when he began surveying the land to the east of the settlement on the Yarra River. He wrote about the potential of the excellent agricultural country of adjoining parishes of Bulleen, Warrandyte and Yering particularly along the river’s south bank.

The third reason is the quality of the early farmers who settled the land. To my mind, they were ‘real goers’. Now it was very hard to find out much about the early settlers who grew food crops for sale, until I came across the La Trobe University PhD thesis by Dmytro Ostapenko titled ‘Land-cultivators of the Colony of Victoria in the late 1830s–1860s’.

In his thesis, Dmytro challenged the view of many historians, who reported that the early crop growers in the district struggled with poor markets, low prices and unknown environmental conditions. He argued convincingly that many of the early European settlers were able to turn their predominantly small/middle-sized farming ventures into quite profitable enterprises.

To understand why Dmytro reached these conclusions, you need to understand the conditions encountered by a new settler who arrived by ship and aspired to own and farm land in the new colony. Imagine that you are a new settler, arriving by ship in Melbourne town, on an assisted passage with a large family and little money. You arrive in 1839–1840 (before the financial conditions turned nasty in the depression in the early 1840s) to find that all the good land around Melbourne has been purchased: there is a land boom under way, and the prices have ‘gone through the roof’. You soon realise there is no good land available, and it was too expensive anyway.

So how could you become a successful farmer? Well, Dmytro pointed out that if you were smart you would realise that there were plenty of opportunities. Now I contend that many of our immigrant forebears were smart for the most part, as they had the initiative to make the trip to the Australian colonies to search for a new, more rewarding life. These smart arrivals would realise that labour was scarce, so it meant that there were plenty of jobs. The larger landholders, who had bought up the land, could not afford the labour to farm their land close to town and the markets, so good land could be leased. The lease could be paid in kind with produce, so you did not need a lot of cash to get started.

The large families meant that you did not need to pay labour as the family could provide the workers, even though some might be a little under aged! Some of the older children could get a job to provide the essentials for the family. You grew what was in demand by the expanding population: wheat, potatoes or hay for the horses. You needed to learn how to grow crops successfully, and fast. In short, you could seize the opportunities and become an early entrepreneur.

Dymtro tells the story of a John McMillan, a poor family man from the western highlands of Scotland, who received a free passage to Port Phillip in the early 1840s. He arrived with his wife, nine sons and a daughter, and nothing in his pocket. He was able to get a job on the second day as a stonemason’s labourer. The older records, I had the good fortune to meet with a senior lecturer in History at this university, who made the statement that: ‘Governor La Trobe was my hero!’ He was referring to all the reserves and townships that La Trobe had set aside to retain for future generations of Victorians. Since that day I have come to learn about all the good things that La Trobe has done for us. In December 2012, my son was married in the City of Melbourne Art and Heritage Collection

one is perfect, and the first Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria had his failings. I think he must have made the statement that: ‘Governor La Trobe was my hero!’ He was referring to all the reserves and townships that La Trobe had set aside to retain for future generations of Victorians. Since that day I have come to learn about all the good things that La Trobe has done for us. In December 2012, my son was married in the City of Melbourne Art and Heritage Collection.
boys also got jobs to earn money. John then bought a milking cow, and the young children grazed the cow on nearby crown land. Then they were able to increase cow numbers, and lease a small squatting station for the herd. Next, they purchased forty-two acres at Brighton, and cleared the timber with family labour. The land was fertile and the first crop of wheat yielded three-quarters of a tonne per acre. In 1843, they harvested twenty-two tonnes of wheat and seventy tonnes of oats hay, and their total assets exceeded £1,000. Now the John McMillan story was not uncommon. It goes to explain how the new settlers, with hard work and large families could seize their opportunities, and grow basic foodstuff for an expanding market. So, if it was not the food security for the expanding settler population of the Port Phillip District, then what were the contentious issues that made life difficult for the Superintendent of the District? Let me now discuss just a few of the difficult ones.

The battle with the squatters

On a more positive note, La Trobe took the battle right up to the squatters. He arrived in 1839 when one of the biggest ‘land grabs’ in our history was in full swing. It all started with Edward Henty who took over country in the Port Phillip District and encountered the most attractive grassland. The grasslands were in a pristine condition thanks to the fire-stick farming methods employed by the indigenous tribes. This made the grassland so suitable for sheep and cattle that Mitchell called it ‘Australia Felix’. The word was out – there was grazing land to be had in the western district of Port Phillip. Wonderful grazing land was available, there was money to be made, there was wealth to be accumulated – and of course, there was a big demand for Australian wool from the English woollen mills.

The ‘squatter invasion’ of the Port Phillip District began soon after the reports surfaced about Major Mitchell’s discoveries. They came from all directions. First the ‘over-straters’ brought their sheep over by boat from Van Diemen’s Land. The ‘overlanders’ drove their stock down from the north. And when the word got to England then another group of ‘cashed-up’ immigrants arrived, bought stock and moved in.

Governor Bourke in Sydney had said that it was illegal to take up grazing land, as it was Crown Land, and its occupation needed to be controlled in an orderly manner. However, the Governor soon realised that there was no way that his decree would be followed, so he said that for an annual licence fee of £20 graziers could squat on Crown Land. And there had been worse still: they must know that his very name stinks in the nostrils of every man in the neighbourhood. It must have been so difficult for La Trobe to be on the receiving end of such unrelenting criticism to which he did not, or could not, respond.

The collision with the indigenous people

La Trobe was instructed to take care of the indigenous inhabitants in the Port Phillip District. Now it was on this issue that I think he got the job of Superintendent of Port Phillip in the first place. His family had been active in the movement to abolish slavery, he had seen first hand the problems with the indigenous tribes in North America, he had been working with the emancipated slaves in the West Indies, and he displayed empathy with the plight of oppressed people. Unfortunately, as much as he might have tried, La Trobe could not stop the collision between the indigenous people in Port Phillip and the European settlers. And so he witnessed the demise of the indigenous tribes, and this I would imagine, caused him a great deal of anguish. He had seen the same thing happen in North America.

The Convicts Prevention Act

This was a very unpleasant piece of legislation enacted by the Legislative Council in Victoria. It effectively barred ex-convicts from Van Diemen’s Land from coming to Victoria. They were not wanted in the ‘non-convict’ colony of Victoria. The Colonial Office in London was upset by this Act and said it did not agree: the convicts had served their time in penal servitude, so they should no longer be discriminated against and should be free to move to Her Majesty’s colony of Victoria. La Trobe was ordered to disallow the Act. However, the Act was made even more discriminating. La Trobe was in a real bind. He ended up not doing anything and so earned much displeasure with the authorities in England.

Food production today in the State of Victoria

So here I must leave La Trobe and his difficulties, and fast forward 160 years to the present. And today we find, like the early settlers before us, that our corner of the Australian continent is an agricultural sector. Although the state occupies only three per cent of the land area of the continent, it produces twenty-five per cent of the agricultural products and twenty-eight per cent of the agricultural exports. In 2011 we generated over eleven billion dollars of farm gate value. We rank first among Australian states in the production of dairy products, apples and pears, and some vegetables, second in poultry products, barley and oats production, and third in the production of fruits.
for wheat, canola, beef, sheep products, pork and potatoes. To use the cliché, when it comes to agriculture – then ‘Victoria punches above her weight’.

Our current political leaders in the state hold high hopes for the sector. Minister Walsh, from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, has set Victorian farmers the goal of doubling agricultural production by 2030 to meet the growing demand for food. Now the Minister knows quite a lot about our local agriculture, as he has been in irrigated horticulture and is a past-president of the Victorian Farmers’ Federation. Perhaps we should take note when he makes the point that ‘over the next twenty years, agriculture could be for Victoria what mining was for Western Australia’. So the expectations are very high for Victorian agriculture.

Feeding the world

The final part of this address refers to ‘Feeding the World’. In this respect, we have all heard about the growing world population that will reach nine billion people by 2050, and the need for extra food to feed these extra people. Predictions are that we will have to increase world food grain production reached 1.8 billion tonnes in 2000, but that will need to rise to around 3.8 billion tonnes per annum by 2050, to feed not only the extra humans, but, importantly, the extra animals that will be needed to meet the demand for animal protein.

The question is whether the world can provide the extra food for its people, and feed grain for its domesticated animals. Or will we suffer the fate of the Mayans, who according to Jared Diamond, reached their population limits and suffered the fate of the Mayans, who according to

and were then hit with a cruel series of dry years? Well, there are those who talk about the warming climate, the declining agricultural land, the lack of water, the uncertainty with energy and phosphate rock, and so on. In contrast, I am an optimist who believes in human ingenuity, and that invention is the ‘daughter of necessity’.

My basic premise is that if we are going to improve our agricultural production – as our Minister requires us to do, and humanity will plead for us to do – then our agricultural scientists and our farmers will need to be very innovative and develop more efficient production practices, which will deliver continuing productivity gains. Our society will have to become more committed to research and development. And this is where the new building that we are in, the Agrillo – the Centre for AgriScience here on the La Trobe University campus – will play a part.

The Agrillo is the largest, best-equipped ‘state-of-the-art’ research facility in Agricultural Biosciences in Australia. There will be up to 400 scientists, including over 60 PhD students, who will work in this place. I am quietly confident that the Agrillo will play its part in the discovery of knowledge and understanding to underpin the innovation which will be desperately needed in the future. Certainly you will see that the research infrastructure is here, but of course the building alone is not enough. It will be up to the scientists in this place and the funding community that supports them to ‘deliver the goods’.

So ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, let me ask you to ponder, as you walk through this brand new research facility, what the Lieutenant-Governor would have thought about the Agrillo. Well, of course we will never know. My thoughts are that he would be immensely proud of this place, in the grounds of the university that bears his name – as we are, who work here. La Trobe was an enthusiast in the sciences, particularly in the life sciences. His special area of interest was in botany and the plant kingdom. There is much interest here in the Agrillo in the quest for knowledge and understanding of plants, particularly those that are consumed by humans and animals. I think Charles Joseph La Trobe would have approved of this quest!

Acknowledgements

I would very much like to thank the following people for their generous assistance in helping me understand the context for this paper: Dianne Reilly, Jenny Morrison, Charles Fahey, Dysart Ostapenko and Nick Alessi.

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Endnotes


2. The Argus, 20 October 1852, p.5.


Melbourne’s first Water Supply: the La Trobe Family’s contribution

By Tim Gatehouse

When the water from the Yan Yean Reservoir was turned on in Melbourne on New Year’s Eve 1857, it marked the completion of the first major public work in Victoria, built at the enormous cost of £750,000. It was one of the largest and most technologically advanced water supply systems in the world, to which some of Britain’s most highly qualified hydraulic engineers had contributed.

Three members of the extended La Trobe family were involved in this enterprise. Charles Joseph La Trobe, in his official capacity as Lieutenant-Governor, helped to initiate the scheme and foster its progress. His first cousin John Frederic Bateman, an English hydraulic engineer, invented some of the major components of the system which reticulated the water throughout Melbourne. Bateman’s father-in-law, the Scottish born engineer William Fairbairn, was the agent of the Victorian government in Britain, responsible for procuring and shipping the components of the system which could not be procured locally.

One of the main reasons for choosing the site of Melbourne was the availability of fresh water. A rocky reef known as ‘the Falls’, which ran across the river near Queen Street, separated the fresh water from upstream from the salt water that penetrated from the bay.

When Charles La Trobe arrived in Melbourne in 1839, the only means of water distribution was by water carts, whose barrels were filled from pumps on the river bank above the Falls. But as the town grew, so did the water pollution of the Yarra, and demand grew for a safe and reliable water supply. Various schemes for pumping water from further upstream where water would be less polluted were proposed but foundered for practical, political and economic reasons.

Although the Melbourne Corporation, created in 1842, was given wide powers to regulate the water supply, it was not given the powers to raise the necessary money to pay for it, and the colonial government was not prepared to diminish its own powers by giving them to the council. Nor was the government prepared to give these powers to private enterprise, for the practical reasons that no local entrepreneur was large enough to raise the necessary capital locally, nor had sufficient reputation to enable it to borrow funds outside the colony. There was also a residual sentiment common to both the colonial government and the town council that the water supply was too important to be placed in the hands of private speculators. This sentiment extended to public works other than the water supply, with the result that most nineteenth-century infrastructure in Victoria was financed and managed by government instrumentalities.

In 1849 Sir Charles FitzRoy, the Governor of New South Wales, had agreed in principle to assist the Melbourne Corporation financially in the construction of a water supply. Knowing that a very strong case would have to be made before any money would become available, La Trobe directed that a thorough survey be made of all potential sources of water.

Fortunately at this time La Trobe received a request for employment from James Blackburn, an architect, engineer and surveyor who had been transported to Van Diemen’s Land for embezzlement. By 1849 he had been pardoned and received permission to leave that colony. Blackburn had designed and supervised the construction of the water supply for Launceston, designed another for Hobart, and was the architect of many notable buildings in Van Diemen’s Land. La Trobe was impressed by Blackburn’s abilities and used his influence to have him appointed surveyor to the Melbourne Corporation.

After examining all previous proposals and other alternative schemes, Blackburn reported in 1850 that the most viable scheme would be to dam the Plenty River at Yan Yean, approximately twenty miles to the north of Melbourne, from where the water could be piped by gravity to the city. This would provide sufficient water for a population of 70,000, three times the then population of Melbourne, and more than adequate before the population explosion that followed the later discovery of gold. As an additional safeguard, La Trobe obtained the opinion of Clement Hodgkinson, the widely respected future surveyor-general, who endorsed Blackburn’s proposal.

However, when separation from New South Wales was finally achieved in 1851, Governor FitzRoy’s tentative offer of financial assistance lapsed, and responsibility for provision of the water supply passed to the...
newly constituted Victorian government.16 Still opposed to increasing the powers of the council by giving it responsibility for the water supply, the government transferred these powers to a body of salaried commissioners. The revenue generated by gold removed the obstacle of obtaining the necessary finance, and in 1853 a loan of £600,000 was raised on the security of the gold revenues.17

At La Trobe’s request a bottle of Yan Yean water was sent to him in England on the completion of the work.18 Due to the magnitude of the scheme, Matthew Jackson recommended that one of the major English contractors such as Thomas Brassey be engaged, but the commissioners insisted that local contractors be employed as far as possible.19 As no local contractor was capable of carrying out the whole work, it had to be farmed out to various firms. That Jackson succeeded in coordinating their activities was evidence of his later much maligned management skills.

Many of the components of the system were available only in Britain. Amongst these were the valves for regulating the water flow, the stopcocks for cutting off the water supply to individual premises to facilitate repairs and maintenance, the fire plugs to provide high pressure water for firefighting and cleansing the gutters, the twenty-four and thirty inch diameter cast iron pipes to convey the water from Yan Yean to Melbourne and the smaller pipes for reticulating the water throughout the city.20

To coordinate the procurement and shipping of these components the Victorian government appointed as its agent the Manchester engineering firm William Fairbairn and Sons.21 Fairbairn was an eminent Scots-born engineer, who had been apprenticed to George Stephenson, credited with the invention of the steam train. In 1817, Fairbairn had established his own engine-making business in Manchester, later expanding into bridge and ship building, and civil engineering. While working on a flood control project in Ireland, he engaged as his assistant a young engineer named John Frederic Bateman, who later collaborated with him on other projects. Bateman subsequently married Fairbairn’s daughter Anne. In 1869 Fairbairn was created a baronet for his work on the modernization of Manchester, and is commemorated by his statue in the Manchester Town Hall.22

John Frederic Bateman was born in the Moravian community of Lower Wyke near Halifax, Yorkshire in 1810. His mother was Mary Agnes La Trobe, the sister of Christian Ignatius La Trobe. He was, thus, the first cousin of Charles Joseph La Trobe and brother of Edward La Trobe Bateman, the artist, architect and garden designer who lived in Victoria from 1852 until he returned to Britain in 1869.

His father was John Bateman, often disparagingly dismissed as an unsuccessful manufacturer and inventor. On his children’s baptismal certificates he is recorded as a manufacturer. Lower Wyke, like all Moravian settlements, was not only a religious community, but also a self-supporting economic unit where members were engaged in farming and small-scale manufacturing, frequently of textiles. As with John Frederic Bateman’s great-great grandfather Henry Antes, the business manager of the Moravian communities in Pennsylvania, John Bateman in all likelihood fulfilled a similar role at Lower Wyke.23

Moravians aimed at self-sufficiency, not large-scale commercial enterprises, which were not part of their ethos. Compared with some of the entrepreneurs who were making fortunes from the industrialisation of Britain at this period, Bateman may have appeared insignificant, but he would not necessarily have been regarded as such according to Moravian principles. Any activities of Bateman as an inventor do not appear to be recorded, but like many of those involved in manufacturing at all levels, he may have made attempts to improve the processes. For various reasons some inventions succeeded and others did not. But not all potential inventors could be another Arkwright.24 Considering that at this period Moravian marriages were arranged by church elders, and that Bateman’s father-in-law Benjamin La Trobe was the head of all the Moravian congregations in England, it is highly unlikely that his daughter would have been permitted to marry a husband regarded in Moravian circles as unsuccessful.

John Frederic Bateman was educated at the Moravian schools at Fairfield near Manchester and Ockbrook in Derbyshire. After being apprenticed to a surveyor and mining engineer he set up his own practice as a civil engineer in 1833. Following his work in association with William Fairbairn on flood control in Ireland, he concentrated on hydraulic engineering, and soon became recognized as an expert on dam construction at a time of increased demand for water in Britain, resulting from a rapid increase in population and industrial activity.

Bateman’s greatest work was the construction of the Manchester water supply. Taking almost thirty years to complete, it brought water to Manchester from the hills above the city by a series of dams, tunnels and aqueducts. He also built water supply systems for Glasgow and many cities in the north of England, and designed systems for places as diverse as Constantinople, Buenos Aires and many British colonies. Bateman built more
Although the Manchester water supply was placed at the top of the deepest air vent above the 2,800 meter long Mettrick tunnel in the hills near the city, on the plaque Bateman is described as ‘Pioneer water engineer extraordinaire’.25

The system of stopcocks and fire-plugs was developed by Bateman during the construction of the Manchester waterworks in the 1840s, and subsequently used at Hobart and Dunedin in 1862.27 Perhaps, there was an element of nepotism involved in the choice by Fairbairn of the system invented by his son-in-law, but the nepotism involved was cut off by world standards, and many of the difficulties that arose in the course of construction had not been foreseen during the planning. Trying to solve them in a location remote from the centre of scientific knowledge only added to the problems.

The three members of the extended La Trobe family involved with the Yan Yean scheme emerged relatively unscathed from the barrage of criticism levied at it. Although at its inception there was considerable debate over details, there was general recognition of the need for a reliable water supply, and public opinion supported Charles La Trobe’s work in initiating the scheme and fostering its progress.

The reticulation system appeared to work well at first, but was subject to two major defects which took some time to become apparent. Due to a delay in the arrival of the water pipes from Britain, the gas company whose reticulation works in England. They were initially subject to frequent ruptures, but this was due to the omission from the system, as an economy measure, of the reservoir at Preston, which had been designed to relieve the water pressure. After this reservoir was constructed, bursts rarely occurred.

Other difficulties with pollution and poor water pressure were gradually rectified over many years, but did not negate the overall effectiveness of the scheme that provided Melbourne with an ample water supply throughout the years of enormous population growth following the gold discovery. Yan Yean was later augmented by other reservoirs to meet the continuing demands of an expanding metropolis, but these did not require the pioneering initiative to construct what was one of the most ambitious water supply systems in the world, to which the La Trobe family on both sides of the globe made a vital contribution.

The cast iron pipes which conveyed the water from Yan Yean to Melbourne were procured by Fairbairn from the Cochran Engineering works in England. They were initially subject to frequent ruptures, but this was due to the omission from the system, as an economy measure, of the reservoir at Preston, which had been designed to relieve the water pressure. After this reservoir was constructed, bursts rarely occurred.

The efficacy of the fire-plugs was demonstrated on New Year’s Eve 1857, when the water was first turned on and spectators were drenched with water jets. The halving of the cost of fire insurance premiums resulting from the provision of an adequate water supply was rather more appreciated. Despite the obvious benefits it brought to Melbourne, the Yan Yean scheme was not an unmitigated success, and attracted much criticism in the years following its inauguration. There were three Parliamentary inquiries into matters which included the over-run of the estimated costs, the pollution of the water and the bursting of the pipes. Much of the blame was unfairly laid at the door of the chief engineer Matthew Jackson, especially after he was forced, by illness brought on by the stress of the criticism, to return to England.28 Many of the problems were caused by the omission of some components in an attempt to contain costs, and by the perceived need to placate local interests at the expense of efficiency. Much of the technology involved was cutting edge by world standards, and many of the difficulties that arose in the course of construction had not been foreseen during the planning. Trying to solve them in a location remote from the centre of scientific knowledge only added to the problems.

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Despite the obvious benefits it brought to Melbourne, the Yan Yean scheme was not

4 Dingle and Doyle, p.6.
5 Dumbleton, p.127.
6 Dingle and Doyle, p.7.
7 Ibid, p.4.
8 Dumbleton, p.129.
9 Dingle and Doyle, p.7.
10 Dumbleton, p.127.
12 Dingle and Doyle, p.8.
13 Ibid, p.16.
14 Dumbleton, p.127.
15 Dingle and Doyle, p.17.
16 Binnie, p.240.
19 The Arg, 1 January 1858, from Dingle and Doyle, p.2.
20 Dingle and Doyle, p.23.
21 Binnie, p.249.
Forthcoming events

JULY
Friday 18
Melbourne Rare Book Week Lecture
Time: 6.30–8.30pm
Venue: Morgan's at 401, 401 Collins Street, Melbourne
Guest Speaker: Member Dr Sue Reynolds, Senior Lecturer, School of Business IT and Logistics at RMIT University
Topic: La Trobe's other library: Charles La Trobe, Redmond Barry and the Library of the Supreme Court of Victoria
An illustrated lecture presented by The C J La Trobe Society.
Refreshments
Admission: free
RSVP essential: Phone: 9646 2112 (please leave voice message)
Email: secretary@latrobesociety.org.au

AUGUST
Tuesday 5
La Trobe Society Annual General Meeting and Dinner
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Lyceum Club, Radnor Place, Melbourne
Guest Speaker: Member Caroline Clemente, Honorary La Trobe Society Fellow, State Library of Victoria
Topic: La Trobe and the Pro-Raphaelites: launching a brilliant career in Melbourne, 1853
Cost: $85 per person
RSVP: essential by July 29 2014
Invitations have been sent out for this event

OCTOBER
Friday 3
175th Anniversary of La Trobe's Arrival in Melbourne
Venue and format of function: tbc
The Invitations will be sent out closer to the date

NOVEMBER
Sunday 9
175th Anniversary of St James' Old Cathedral
Time: 10am
Venue: St James' Old Cathedral, 15 Gisborne Street, Melbourne
Annual Pioneer Service, celebrating the laying of the foundation stone of St James' Church

Wednesday 12
La Trobe University Alumni and Advancement Lecture
Time: 6–8pm
Venue: State Library Theatre, La Trobe Street, Melbourne
Speaker: Dr Tim Flannery
Topic: Science-related theme, tbc
Invitations will be sent out closer to the date

Friday 28
Christmas Cocktails
Time: 6–8pm
Venue: Melbourne Savage Club
Speaker: tbc
Invitations will be sent out closer to the date

DECEMBER
Sunday 7
Anniversary of the Death of C J La Trobe
Time: 11am
Venue: St Peter's Eastern Hill, 15 Gisborne Street, Melbourne

Tuesday 16: tbc
Candlelit Carols at La Trobe's Cottage
Venue: La Trobe's Cottage, 9 Birdwood Avenue and Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne
Back Issues

Back issues of La Trobeana are available on the Society’s website, except for those published in the last twelve months. The back issues may be accessed at www.latrobesociety.org.au/LaTrobeana.html. They may be searched by keyword.

Contributions welcome

The Editorial Committee welcomes contributions to La Trobeana which is published three times a year. Further information about the Journal may be found at www.latrobesociety.org.au/LaTrobeana.html.

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BACK COVER
La Trobe Family coat of arms

INSIDE FRONT COVER
Charles Joseph La Trobe’s coat of arms, taken from his bookplate