



La Trobeana

The Newsletter of the La Trobe Society of Australia

Grevillea La Trobeana Engraving by Edward La Trobe Bateman - La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria

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EVENTS CALENDAR 2005-2006

OCTOBER

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 4 October 2005

Venue: National Trust, Tasma Terrace

Time: 6.00 for 6.30 pm.

Speaker: Steven Hare, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), will speak about the forthcoming **Year of La Trobe**.

RSVP: Friday 30 September 2005

Phone: 9646 2112

Talks and Exhibition

City Museum

Date: 10 October 2005

Speaker: Charles Robb, sculptor, will talk about his installation, *Landmark*, a work celebrating the life of Charles Joseph La Trobe to be installed in Gordon Reserve, adjacent Old Treasury.

\$10.00 includes Museum entry.

Speaker: 25 October Dr Dianne Reilly will discuss La Trobe's life and work.

\$10.00 includes Museum entry.

NOVEMBER

Special Event – Membership Drive

In October/November we will hold a special sponsorship and membership drive event! A booking flyer will be sent shortly.

DECEMBER

In the Footsteps of La Trobe: Historical Excursion to the Mornington Peninsula

3 December 2005

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Mornington Peninsula Branch, have invited Members and Friends of the La Trobe Society to visit some of the sites depicted by La Trobe in his excursions and journeys around this part of Victoria. This will be a one-day bus trip to the Peninsula.

See page 6 for details.

\$35 per head – Numbers limited to 22

A booking flyer will be sent in November.

9 December 2005

Christmas Cocktails

Lyceum Club, Ridgeway Place, Melbourne

Dr Marguerite Hancock will speak on 'The World of Sophie La Trobe'.

\$35 per head Members \$40 non-Members

RSVP: 5 December 2005.

2006

THE YEAR OF LA TROBE

MARCH 2006

LA TROBE'S 205TH BIRTHDAY

Special event ... watch this space ...

A Word from the President Rodney Davidson, AO, OBE



To mark the 50th birthday of the formation of the National Trust in Victoria, the Trust is going to declare 2006 as the Year of La Trobe. Our La Trobe Society will be supporting the **Year of La Trobe** and I hope there will be many exciting special events.

The La Trobe sketches (some shown throughout this Newsletter), many owned by the National Trust and on permanent loan to the State Library, will be touring regional Victoria during the year. Our Society Honorary Secretary and other Committee members will be attending many of the openings of these regional Exhibitions and speaking about the Sketches and La Trobe.

Our Society will in a few months be having a membership drive, so please think of family and friends who may join. The larger the membership the more influence our Society will have during the **Year of La Trobe** and into the future. Special publications regarding the membership drive will be sent to you in the near future.

Our Society is still working on the creation of the Statue of La Trobe for the forecourt of the State Library. It is hoped this will be achieved during the **Year of La Trobe**. It is really amazing that Melbourne does not have any statue of the person who was Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor and who did so much to plan and create our great city, State and many of our institutions.

Our Society will be holding special events during the year and our Treasurer has been appointed to the National Trust Special Committee that will be organising the National Trust events.

It should be a very exciting year!

Rodney Davidson



National Trust Announces 2006 as the Year of La Trobe

Each year the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) celebrates the life and achievements of an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development of Melbourne and Victoria. The purpose of these celebrations is to recognise achievements and inspire public interest.

In 2006, the National Trust will celebrate the life and achievements of the first Lieutenant-Governor, **Charles Joseph La Trobe**.

During the **Year of La Trobe**, the Trust plans to hold events designed to provide a greater knowledge and understanding of **Charles Joseph La Trobe** and his unique talents and achievements. Such celebrations will be programmed throughout the year and will include exhibitions, public programs, talks, lectures, and 'Open Heritage' property inspections.

In 2004, the Trust celebrated the life and work of the internationally renowned Victorian architect, Robin Boyd. This year, the Trust is celebrating Australia's greatest opera singer, Dame Nellie Melba.

As the Trust celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2006, it is fitting to profile an individual who made such a significant contribution to the development of Victoria - Charles Joseph La Trobe.

The Trust has established a **Year of La Trobe** Celebrations Committee, with representation from the **La Trobe Society**. Details of planned events will be publicised in future editions of *Trust News* and *La Trobeana*.

Steven Hare
Chief Executive Officer
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)



Figure 1 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *Eaglehawk Neck and the Dog Sentinels*



Figure 2 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *Eagle Hawk Neck*



Figure 3 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *Blow Hole at Eaglehawk Neck*



Figure 4 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *Mt Wellington*
Source: Originals from the La Trobe Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria

Landmark A SCULPTURE OF CHARLES JOSEPH LA TROBE BY CHARLES ROBB

Charles Robb is a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts and is now based in Brisbane. Robb's numerous group and solo exhibitions include *Temperature: Contemporary Queensland*, *Gulliver's Travels* and *Primavera*. Robb has been short-listed three times for the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award.

His key works in 2004 include *Surrogate*, *Landmark*, *Torso*, *Protrusion* and in 2002, *Term*. His work is generally fibre-glass, polyester Resin and Acrylic paint.

The provocative yet sympathetic statue of La Trobe, *Landmark* (**Figure 5**) will be installed in the Gordon Reserve, opposite Old Treasury on 10 October 2005. A discussion of the work will be held with the artist at 11.00 am on Monday 10 October at 11.00 am, also at the City Museum, Old Treasury, Melbourne.

As part of the *Landmark* exhibition, Dr Dianne Reilly will speak about La Trobe at the function on 25 October. The Cost of \$10.00 for each session includes Museum entry.



Figure 5 *Landmark* by Charles Robb
Source: www.diannetanzergallery.net.au/artist/Charles-Robb

Profiles of the La Trobe Society Executive Committee



PRESIDENT: RODNEY DAVIDSON AO, OBE

Rodney Disney Davidson, LLB, AO, OBE, is, by profession, a solicitor and company director. However, he has for many years been a patron of Victoria's arts and heritage. Rodney is Emeritus President and Emeritus Chairman of the National Trust and was appointed President of the La Trobe Society in 2003.

He has been Chairman of the W R Johnston Trust since 1995 and a Patron of the Friends of the Baillieu Library since 2002.

Other board chairmanships and memberships have included the Australian Opera Foundation, Exhibition Buildings Trust Melbourne, L'Oiseau-Lyre Paris, and the Historic Buildings Preservation Council. Rodney has published several works commemorating Victoria's and Australia's building heritage including *Historic Homesteads of Australia* (1969), *A Book Collector's Notes* (1970) *Australia's Historic Buildings* (1977), *Historic Places of Australia Vols 1 and 2* (1979) and *Australian Historical Buildings* (1982).

PROF. JOHN BARNES

John Barnes, M.A. (Melb), M.A. (Cantab) is Emeritus Professor of English at La Trobe University where he taught for many years before his retirement in

1996. His speciality is Australian literature, on which he has published articles and books. Since 1998 he has edited *The La Trobe Journal* for the State Library of Victoria Foundation. The Autumn 2003 number of the journal (No. 71), which was devoted to Charles Joseph La Trobe, included an article by John Barnes, 'Hunting the Buffalo with Washington Irving: La Trobe as Traveller and Writer'.

John's interest in La Trobe has a personal aspect, as his great-grandfather came from a Swiss family which migrated to Victoria from Neuchâtel in 1854. He hopes that his further research on La Trobe will lead to a book-length study.

JOHN DRURY

Co-founder of the La Trobe Society, John Drury is its Treasurer. He is a consultant designer to the museums showcase industry. He has a life-long love of history, and is currently researching the biography of Berthe Mouchette, founder of the Alliance Française in Australia.

SUSAN PRIESTLEY

Victoria's history has been a central focus in Susan Priestley's career as a freelance historian. She has written five local histories, four about Victorian organizations, one volume of *The Victorians*, a three-volume set commissioned for the State's sesquicentenary in 1984, as well as entries for the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* and the new *Dictionary of National Biography*.

As a Fellow and Councillor of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, she shares its commitment to collection, research and dissemination of knowledge about the State's history. Being a foundation member of the C.J. La Trobe Society is an endorsement of Emerson's aphorism that 'there is properly no history; only biography'.

DR DIANNE REILLY

Co-Founder of the La Trobe Society, Dianne Reilly is the Society's Secretary. She is the La Trobe Librarian at the State Library of Victoria and is a Fellow of the History Department at the University of Melbourne. Her doctoral thesis was titled 'Charles Joseph La Trobe: the Making of a Governor'.

Dianne has published extensively on La Trobe and is currently working on a biography of Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor.

PROFESSOR A G L SHAW, A.O.

Alan Shaw has degrees from The Universities of Melbourne, Oxford and Newcastle. He has taught history at Melbourne, Sydney and Monash Universities. Amongst his numerous publications, his works include *A History of the Port Phillip District*, (1996), *Gipps-La Trobe Correspondence*, (1989), *Sir George Arthur 1784-1854: A Biography*, (1980), *Convicts and the Colonies*, (1966 and 1977), *The Story of Australia* (1960), *Economic Development of Australia* (1944, 1980), and *Modern World History* (1961).

Through his ongoing study of Australian history he has been appointed to a range of historical bodies and associations including the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, the Public Records Advisory Council, and the Historical and Literary Committee, 150th Anniversary Celebrations of Victoria (1980-84).

DR FAY WOODHOUSE

Fay Woodhouse is a freelance historian with expertise in heritage, nineteenth century Melbourne and biography. She is a Fellow of the Department of History at the University of Melbourne, member of the Executive of the Professional Historians Association and Honorary Editor of *La Trobeana*.

From 2001-2005 Fay was Senior Historian with Conservation Architects,

Allom Lovell & Associates (now Lovell Chen), where she was the writer of the histories of many of Melbourne's well-known historic buildings and gardens. She has developed particular expertise researching early settlement and nineteenth century Melbourne. Histories of early Melbourne and nineteenth century buildings which she has written include Jolimont, The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Medley Hall (Benvenuta and Rosaville), Burnley Gardens, the Grainger Museum and Ormond College at the University of Melbourne.

She is currently working on a brief history of La Trobe's journeys through Gippsland.



2005 Christmas Cards



Figure 6

Herbert Moore, Jolimont 1931
Source: Private Collection

This beautiful sketch of La Trobe's Cottage, Jolimont, drawn in 1931, will be featured as our Christmas Card for 2005.

An order form and pricing will be sent out in October.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LA TROBE 3 DECEMBER 2005

A wonderful day on the Mornington Peninsula, timed to commemorate the anniversary of the death of La Trobe in 1875, is planned for members of the La Trobe Society by the local branch of the National Trust for Saturday 3 December, 2005. National Trust Mornington Peninsula Branch members Judy Walsh and Peter Holloway have arranged a fantastic tour which begins at 10.45 am. Bus transport has been arranged from the Dromana Information Centre.

Following morning tea we will board a bus to begin to follow in the Footsteps of La Trobe.

Our first stop is the McCrae Homestead for a tour which is followed by lunch.



Figure 7 McCrae Homestead
Source: Heritage Victoria Online

Following lunch we will drive to Cape Schanck to view Pulpit Rock and Bushranger's Bay and visit the sites La Trobe sketched.



Figure 8 Photograph: Pulpit Rock
Source: La Trobe Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria

A visit to the site of the first settlement at Sorrento and an address by the Royal Historical Society is then followed by a stop at the Rye Lime Kiln at White Cliffs and afternoon tea.

Back on board the bus we travel via Anthony's Nose en route to Dromana to arrive at around 5.30 pm.

Cost \$35.00 per head – numbers limited.
A booking flyer will be mailed to members late in October.



BUILDING A LA TROBE BIBLIOGRAPHY:

The following members of the Society have published works on the life and work of Charles Joseph La Trobe. Can you contribute to this bibliography?

Barnes, John, 'Hunting the Buffalo with Washington Irving: La Trobe as Traveller and Writer', *La Trobe Journal*, No. 71, Autumn 2003.

Reilly, Dianne, 'The Charles Joseph La Trobe Archive: an overview', *La Trobe Library Journal* No.58, Spring 1996.

_____ 'Charles Joseph La Trobe, A Colonial Governor', *Proceedings of the La Trobe International History Symposium*, Paris, 8-11 May, 1997.

_____ *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Landscapes and Sketches*. Notes by Victoria Hammond. Melbourne: State Library of Victoria, Tarcoola Press and National Trust of Australia (Victoria) 1999.

_____ 'Duties of No Ordinary Difficulty': Charles Joseph La Trobe and the Goldfields Administration', *Victorian Historical Journal*, Vol. 72, Nos. 1 & 2, September 2001.

_____ 'Charles Joseph La Trobe: An Appreciation', *La Trobe Journal*, No. 71, Autumn 2003.

_____ 'The Creation of a Civil Servant: La Trobe in the West Indies', *La Trobe Journal*, No. 71, Autumn 2003.

_____ 'La Trobe's Marriage with his 'Deceased Wife's Sister', *La Trobe Journal*, No.71, Autumn 2003.

_____ *Charles Joseph La Trobe: the making of a Governor*, Melbourne University Publishing, March 2006.

_____ *The Diaries of Charles Joseph La Trobe*, Tarcoola Press, due 2006.

_____ *Charles Joseph La Trobe: a Biography* – in preparation.

Shaw, A G L, (ed.) *Gipps-LaTrobe Correspondence*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, 1989.

Woodhouse, Fay, 'Jolimont: Three Side of a Square', *La Trobeana*, Vol 2, No. 2, 2004.



Tales from the Yarra Valley



From Jolimont to Yering

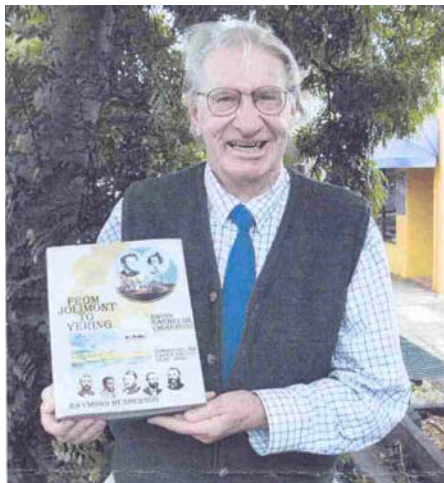


Figure 9 Ray Henderson with his book, *From Jolimont to Yering*

The story of the migration of Swiss winemakers to the Yarra Valley is told in La Trobe Society member, Ray Henderson's book, *From Jolimont to Yering*.

The book, a labour of love for Ray, is to be published later this year.

Ray spent 15 years researching, writing and editing this work which is a detailed history of the Yarra Valley wine industry and its main players from 1840 to the beginning of the 21st century. It contains over 700 historical illustrations.

The book traces the lives, achievements and family trees of a group of bachelor vigneron who immigrated to Australia from Switzerland in the 1840s.

Henderson's great grandfather, Ernest Leuba worked with the horses kept at Yering Station in the mid-1840s. His life was intertwined with the group of men who founded the Yarra Valley wine industry. Some of the early vigneron, who were also settlers from Europe, included Paul and Hubert de Castella, their brother-in-law William Anderson, school friend Adolph de Meuron; and his cousins Guillaume and Samuel de Pury. Their stories are told and illustrated in the book.

Initial research for the book took seven years and included field trips to Switzerland and France – whetting Ray's appetite for additional information and following different leads.

The book is to be published by Roundabout Publishing in Kilsyth. Editor, Sue Thompson, was amazed by Henderson's work and has commented that 'Nothing like it has ever been written before'.

However, while the book will be published, Henderson hopes that others will be inspired to record through oral histories, the history of the Yarra Valley wine industry from 2000.

The book is for sale at \$100 by phoning Ray on 9850 9347.

LA TROBEANA, AND THE LA TROBE SOCIETY

La Trobeana is the Newsletter of the La Trobe Society Inc. It appears three times per year, with news of forthcoming events, and reports of interest to the membership.

Committee:

President: Mr Rodney Davison, AO,OBE.

Vice President: Ms Susan Priestley

Treasurer: Mr John Drury

Secretary: Dr Dianne Reilly

Members: Professor John Barnes

Dr Fay Woodhouse

The La Trobe Society Inc.

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CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER, *LA TROBEANA*, ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED. THEY SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE HON. EDITOR, DR FAY WOODHOUSE:

flw@unimelb.edu.au



A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

Members are advised that the Annual Membership subscriptions for the La Trobe Society are now due. Please complete the enclosed renewal form and return it to the Honorary Treasurer with your cheque for \$25 (individual) or \$40 (families), as soon as possible to:
PO Box 65
Port Melbourne 3207.



Figure 10 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *English Landscape*
Source: La Trobe Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria

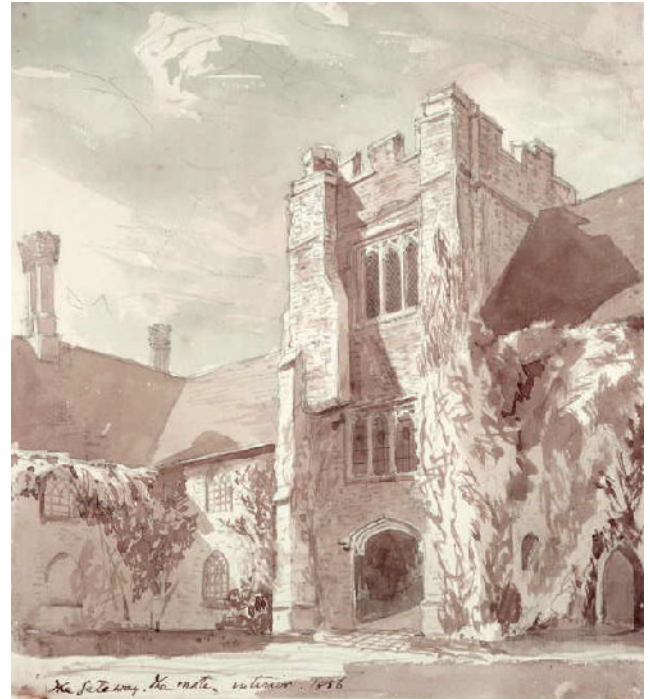


Figure 11 Charles Joseph La Trobe, *Gateway Ightham Mote*
Source: La Trobe Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria

Two more of the drawings to be exhibited throughout Victoria during 2006, the **Year of La Trobe.**

La Trobeana, the Newsletter of the La Trobe Society of Australia, is published with the kind assistance of:

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