



Dear Volunteers,

Many thanks to those who helped us with our Opening on Sunday 18 April. It proved to be a success with 42 visitors. Some of those had pre-booked – this was our first Sunday opening that had been placed on Eventbrite. We were pleased to see that the 42 people arrived well spread out over the day, which facilitated running Covid-safe tours. Because of the success, and knowing we won't be open again until October, we have agreed with the National Trust to have one more Sunday opening, before the winter – Sunday 23 May. We hope guides and a receptionist will be able to help us on this day. We're going to trial opening hours of 1-4pm which will require only one shift of volunteers, although it's a slightly longer shift: we'll ask you to be there from 12.45 till 4/4.15. So if you're able to assist please let me know and we'll come up with a roster. Please note that National Trust 'bubbles' no longer apply, so we're all free to volunteer at more than one property.

Many visitors commented on the pretty garden; it really did look its best. Many thanks to the large group of gardeners who attended the Working Bee on Friday 16 April. We achieved much: we brushed down the weatherboards and windows, power-washed the path leading to the kitchen block, weeded, pruned and trimmed. And to top it off, the Serco Lawn Mowing team came just after we'd all left and mowed the grass and trimmed the edges. Our next Working Bee will be Tuesday 18 May 9.45-12.15.



We were pleased to see one of our new *Grevillea latrobeis* flowering.



The list of plants sent to La Trobe from Camden Nursery near Sydney in 1851 includes four varieties of begonia. Marilyn Watson of the Melbourne Begonia Society grows these four varieties at her begonia garden in Upper Ferntree Gully and has kindly donated a plant of each variety; she planted these with me this week. One of them originates from Mexico – perhaps seeds of this plant were included in those he sent from Mexico to Mme de Pourtales in 1834. We are most grateful to Marilyn; we will treasure these and look forward to seeing them develop in their new home.

Cottage Management Team

Liaison	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Maintenance	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619
Volunteers	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619	Funds/Statistics	Helen Botham	0447 018224
Curatorial	Sheetal Deshpande	0413 035501	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	0427 925616
Garden	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Housekeeping	Vacant	

The National Trust has been in touch with Government House, and has been told that Government House is going to try Mr Howard's 'Community Tours' from mid-May, and when they see how that goes they may be able to arrange some dates for our tours. So we'll need to wait until Government House is happy to work with us and provide some dates.

The rotting veranda post outside the dining room has been replaced! National Trust Maintenance Coordinator, Myron, removed the old post, replaced it with a new one and painted it. The rotting timbers on the servants' block is still an issue. Colin is working with the National Trust over these matters.



During the cleaning carried out by Sheetal and Ellen before our opening, mouse droppings were found on all the furniture in the drawing room. Adams Pest Control will be calling this week with Colin to aim to find where they're getting in and set appropriate traps.

We have good number for our visit to **Bishopscourt**, the home of the Anglican Archbishop in East Melbourne, on Thursday 13 May. It will be a pleasant opportunity to see each other after not much contact over the past year. Here is La Trobe's drawing of Bishopscourt – he was a great support to Mrs Perry as she was setting up her garden there, and we'll hear more about that on 13th. I'll send an email to all those attending in a few days to confirm arrangements.



I'll be giving the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage Annual Lecture on Wednesday 26 May, 5.30 –7.30 pm at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Cnr A'Beckett and William Streets, Melbourne. Titled **CJ La Trobe: Jolimont Plantsman**, this talk will explore how La Trobe's school days and his travel experiences as a young adult fostered his interest in the natural world which led him to seek out the plants of Port Phillip and to create a beautiful garden at Jolimont. The presentation will also have a little of what many of you have heard before – the 'walk round the garden' is always popular. Admission is \$25 per person; wine and cheese will be served from 5.30pm. You can book at <https://www.latrobesociety.org.au/friends-of-la-trobes-cottage-annual-lecture-2>

Best wishes to you all, on behalf of the Cottage Management Team,
Helen
Helen Botham,
La Trobe's Cottage Management Team