



## Newsletter No 54

3 June 2025

We have some sad news from two of our busiest volunteers: Neville and Alexis Jarvis. Alexis feels it's time she 'hung up her duster', as she wrote when she informed Katie Potter; she has decided to relinquish her role as Cottage Housekeeper. But she will kindly continue until after our big working bee in September, which will enable her to oversee the preparation of the inside of the Cottage and its contents for our next summer season. She is also going to leave the Reception Desk, after many years of constant service as receptionist.

Neville has decided to leave his role as Curatorial Coordinator. As well as his careful oversight of the Cottage Collection for a number of years, we are particularly appreciative of the huge project he undertook over recent months, with Alexis's help, to audit the Collection and update the Collection guide notes. He is also going to change roles on Sundays, relinquishing the guide role but taking his place on the Reception Desk. He will leave his role as a Key Holder, but will carry on keeping the stats – no-one could fill that role as he has been doing it, so we are very pleased he has agreed to that!



We will very much miss all the input Neville and Alexis have provided over so many years in multiple roles – they have been stalwarts for the Cottage and we thank them most sincerely for their years of dedicated service. We are very glad that Neville will continue, albeit in a slightly less demanding and time-consuming role. And we will see them about at the Cottage until these changes take effect at the end of September.

We are happy to report that Cottage Guide Karen Stewart has agreed to be a Key Holder and to join the Cottage Management Team – thank you Karen! And Elizabeth Lee, who has looked after volunteers' warmth and refreshment on Open House and at other events, will be taking on the Housekeeper role, after some tuition from Katie and Alexis! Many thanks to you Elizabeth.

We are also very pleased that a new volunteer will be joining our ranks: Graham Pilkington, who currently guides at Como, will be shadowing the monthly tours over the winter, ready to be 'on the roster' for our new season in October. Welcome Graham!

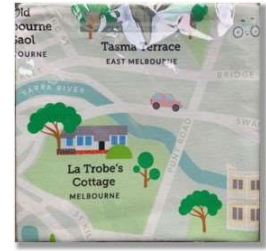
**Volunteers Pre-Season meeting:** As mentioned in our Post-Season meeting on 1 May, our Pre-Season meeting will take the form of a series of on-site gatherings at the Cottage. We will be asking all our Receptionists and Key Holders to attend one of two training sessions for Anchor – the new NTAV ticketing/payments/booking system – on either Tuesday **9 September** at 10am or Tuesday **16 September** at 1pm. This will be a 'hands-on' session where we will see how the new system will be implemented on our Sunday openings. It will be used to check-in those already booked in, take payments for those not booked in, and will record sales of our now-increased range of NTAV merchandise. And we will ask all our Guides to attend one of two training sessions focusing on the Cottage Collection on Wednesday **3 September** at 10am or Tuesday **30 September** at 10am. We will be noting some new information found by Neville as he audited the collection and we will make a close study of a few selected items, in order to update the information we provide to visitors on our tours. Volunteers will be contacted closer to the dates and asked to select the date that suits them best – but you may like to make a note of these dates now.

Cottage Management Team					
Liaison	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Maintenance	Colin Mickleburgh	0423 114619
Curatorial	Neville Jarvis	0490 494009	Publicity	Helen Armstrong	0427 925616
Education /Events	Lindy Golding	0423 034632	Statistics	Neville Jarvis	0490 494009
Garden	Helen Botham	0447 018224	Volunteers	Helen Botham	0447 018224
Team member:	Karen Stewart	0406 501991			

On the matter of NTAV merchandise, note that the NTAV Tea Towel package has La Trobe's Cottage prominent centre front! We will be encouraging our guides and receptionists to draw our visitors' attention to these and other items on our now brightly-lit merchandise shelves, aiming to do our part supporting our CEO's wish to increase income for NTAV.



**La Trobe's birthday:** La Trobe's Cottage volunteer Tim Gatehouse was the guest speaker at the celebration of La Trobe's 224<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday 23 March. He reported on the results of his recent research into the origins of La Trobe's bed, on display in the bedroom at La Trobe's Cottage. He revealed that La Trobe's bed is likely to have been imported into Sydney from India and purchased by La Trobe during his stay there in 1839 prior to his arrival in Port Phillip. Fifty-five La Trobe Society members and friends attended the event on a delightful late-summer afternoon, enjoying a glass of bubbles and a slice of birthday cake.



**Volunteer Award:** Congratulations to our long-standing guide and member of the Cottage Management Team Helen Armstrong, who was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Trust in Volunteer Week in May for her twenty-five years of service as a volunteer. Helen has not only been a dependable Cottage and Government House guide, and, as Publicity Coordinator on the Management Team, managed the promotion of Cottage Openings and events for NTAV, but her deep knowledge of La Trobe and his times means she is our authority on any questions which arise about these matters. She is currently Editor of the La Trobe Society's journal, *La Trobeana* see <https://www.latrobesociety.org.au/latrobeana>



Helen Armstrong, NTAV CEO Collette Brennan,  
NTAV Volunteer Manager Kate Drummond

**NTAV CEO:** The C J La Trobe Society was pleased to welcome NTAV CEO, Collette Brennan, to the Annual Friends of La Trobe's Cottage event at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria rooms on 19 May. Cottage volunteers and La Trobe Society members took the opportunity to meet her. We were interested to chat to her and to hear her presentation about her role; we appreciated that she took time to spend with us.

**Phyllis Murphy:** Volunteers will be sad to hear of the death of Phyllis Murphy AM who managed, with her husband John, the removal of La Trobe's Cottage in 1963 from Jolimont to a site opposite its current location near the Royal Botanic Gardens, now the Children's Garden. Heritage architects, they worked tirelessly on an honorary basis; their interest in the property continued over many years – Phyllis (right) visited the Cottage with her son Jock, NTAV board member, in 2013, with Lorraine Finlay (Volunteer Property Manager), and Dianne Reilly and John Drury, Friends of La Trobe's Cottage committee members. A celebration of her life is to be held on Tuesday 10 June – please contact me if you require details.



#### Coming Events:

**Open House Melbourne:** Lindy will be getting in touch with volunteers about Open House Melbourne. La Trobe's Cottage will be open from 11am – 4pm on Sunday 27 July.

**Pre-Season House and Garden Working Bee:** We traditionally prepare the house and garden for our new season at the scheduled Working Bee on the third Tuesday of the month – this will be Tuesday 16 September, 9.30 – 12 noon. All gardeners will be welcome, and if other volunteers are available to help with tasks such as brushing down the weatherboards, de-webbing, window cleaning, etc, and possibly assisting Alexis and Elizabeth inside, we'll be pleased to see you. You'll be contacted closer to the time.

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