



## Newsletter No. 7

21 March 2010

### Funded Works

Good progress has been made by builder Mark Lau in replacing rotting and damaged weather boards on the Storeroom/Kitchen Block. Mark has machined and installed replacement boards and is currently having the kitchen windows remade.

The recent hailstorm caused severe damage to the weather board edges, literally chipping off the existing paint. The west facing outbuilding was more affected than the Cottage and fortunately this occurred prior to re-painting.

Preparation and painting has now commenced and there is a great deal of gap filling required to seal and protect the boards from further weathering, damage and rotting. All of the surfaces are being power washed, sanded, filled and then three top coats will be applied. The most suitable paint to withstand our climate extremes has been chosen and has a 15 year UV rating guarantee.

Weather permitting the building repairs and painting of the Cottage should be completed by mid to late April.  
Max Joffe – Maintenance Co-ordinator.



New timbers installed at the Servants' Quarters. Hailstorm damage is evident on old timbers

### La Trobe's Garden

Some exciting things are about to happen in the garden. The Rippon Lea Heritage Apple group has generously subsidised our purchase of some heritage apples: two Pomme de Neige (pre 1800s) and two Ribston Pippin Yorkshire (1709). We are planning to plant them in front of the kitchen building, following the picture of Edward La Trobe Bateman (Botham, H., 2006, *La Trobe's Jolimont – a walk round my garden*, p.41).

Another exciting development is the donation from Jenny Happell of two Acacia acinaceae syn. Acacia latrobei Gold-dust Wattle. The gardening sub-group will plant them at our next working bee.

With the help of heritage rose expert Beryl Black, I am investigating what roses were available in La Trobe's time. I will keep you informed of what we choose and when we plant them.

Last night at La Trobe's birthday, the La Trobe Society held a raffle with some fantastic prizes. The Garden of Eden Nursery in Albert Park donated a beautiful camellia, Ferguson Plarre Bakehouses donated four apple pies and wine was donated by the La Trobe Society. \$300.00 was raised and the money will go towards purchasing the apples, roses and other plants for the garden. We are most grateful to the members of the La Trobe Society for their generosity.

Happy Gardening, Sandi Pullman Garden Co-ordinator.

### La Trobe's Birthday

La Trobe's 209<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated by the La Trobe Society and the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage last night. We gathered in the courtyard on a pleasant evening and admired the new timbers and paintwork. Max Joffe, who is painting the Cottage, explained how carefully the work is being carried out, with great attention to detail, and we were interested to hear how, after discussion with Scott Strachan and Phil Tulk, the blue for the shutters and doors was selected to resemble the colour in the Gilbert drawing of 1843/4. All agreed this will provide an attractive appearance for the Cottage. We toasted La Trobe in champagne, and Lorraine Finlay, who also celebrates her birthday on 20 March, cut the delicious cake which we then enjoyed. The Victorian Folk Music Club provide delightful background music to the afternoon's events.

### Committee

|               |                 |            |                   |             |           |                  |                 |           |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| <b>Chair</b>  | Helen Botham    | 9583 1114  | <b>Vice Chair</b> | John Botham | 9583 1114 | <b>Secretary</b> | Dianne Reilly   | 9646 2112 |
| Garden        | Sandi Pullman   | 9646 9776  | Master Plan       | John Botham | 9583 1114 | Fund Raising     | Cecily Adams    |           |
| Guides        | Lorraine Finlay | 9563 6363  | Building          | Max Joffe   | 9563 6363 | Events           | Dianne Reilly   | 9646 2112 |
| Education     | Loreen Chambers | 0419364570 | <b>Treasurer</b>  | John Drury  | 9646 2112 | Publicity        | Helen Armstrong | 9592 5616 |
| <b>NT Rep</b> | Martin Green    | 9656 9822  | A Treasurer       | John Botham | 9583 1114 |                  |                 |           |

### Visit to Black Rock House - 20 February

A group of FOLTC members enjoyed a visit hosted by the Friends of Black Rock House. We were given a very interesting tour of the house, and then feted with a delicious afternoon tea served in dainty Victorian cups and saucers.

We were delighted to reciprocate by providing Morning Tea for the Friends of Black Rock House during a tour of La Trobe's Cottage and Government House on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Thanks to the Guides and Tea Ladies who contributed to a special visit, much appreciated by our guests.



Visit to Black Rock House  
Photo courtesy Darvl Ross

Upcoming Dates:

### RHSV Lecture - 13 April

The annual La Trobe Society/Royal Historical Society La Trobe lecture is to be held at the RHSV on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 6 – 8pm. \$20.00 pp, includes wine and savouries.

### Anzac Day - 25 April

The Cottage will be open from 1 – 4pm

### Mothers Day Sunday 9 May

The Cottage will be open 1 - 4pm for tours focussing on Sophie La Trobe's role as wife and mother. All mothers will receive a flower.

The Guide team has continued to man the Sunday afternoon Cottage openings, which will continue, 2-4pm, until the end of May.

### Committee activities.

#### Web Site

A workshop was held earlier this month to agree the look of the La Trobe Society and the Friends' web sites and to work out the plan and content of the sites. Work is now proceeding on the La Trobe Society web site upgrade and it is planned to add pages for the Friends so that we will appear to have our own web site. The La Trobe Society web site is expected to be completed in the next week and the Friends' web site will be built as soon as the logo has been designed and agreed.

#### Masterplan

We are hoping to be able to complete this document soon. It will then be submitted to the National Trust for their advice, and it will be available to the Trust as a basis for Grant Applications, etc.

#### Education

Work continues formulating an education programme which will be available through the Friends and the National Trust web sites.

#### Curatorial

We are in discussion with the National Trust to improve the collection and the display areas in the Cottage. New curtains are to be made with fabric donated by Warwick Fabrics. If any Friends have experience in making curtains and would like to help with this, please contact Lorraine Finlay.

Exciting times certainly are ahead for the Cottage – thanks again to all the Friends for their interest and support.

Helen Botham, Chair



La Trobe's Birthday party  
Photos courtesy Max Joffe