

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Autumn Update – March 2015

Summer in Melbourne is always a hard time in the garden because of the scorching temperatures. But we were lucky this year, we did not have any 'scorchers' and summer was rather mild. We lost only one plant our Waratah camellia *Camellia japonica* 'Anemoniflora'. Luckily, we still have another one and it is thriving. With lots of help from our volunteers over the last few months our garden is looking good.



Blue Russel Lupin

The Friends of La Trobe's Cottage have been busy. Talented landscape artist Jo Reitze donated a painting of the cottage and garden to the C J La Trobe Society. It was unveiled by Gardening Australia's presenter Jane Edmanson on La Trobe's Birthday Celebration in late March. It will be on display in the Reception area soon. But meanwhile if you like to support the Cottage you can buy postcards of the painting.



Unveiling of Jo Reitze's painting



Jane Edmanson (C) with Jo Reitze (R) and Sandi Pullman

We also asked Jo and Jane if they would plant together a beautiful new *Camellia japonica* 'Welbankii' (white flowers) which we purchased from the Growing Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. It is listed as early as 1843 in the Colonial Plants Database (Caroline Simpson Library and Research Collection, Sydney Living Museums, Historic Houses Trust of NSW) as *Camellia Japonica welbankii* [*Camellia japonica* cv. *Welbankiana*], in the catalogue of plants cultivated at Camden Park. This was the property of John Macarthur who is recognised as being a pioneer of the Australian wool industry and also very interested in horticulture.

What's Happening in the Garden?

In order to add some autumn colour we had decided to try growing dahlias in our crescent moon bed. The soil was prepared with lots of organic material and to our delight they have done really well. They face north and have not so far attracted any of the mildews to which dahlias are so susceptible. Another great success was our Russel Lupins, which we had not grown in the garden before. They did brilliantly and have self-seeded which is always appreciated by gardeners. Sadly, however, we had only three apples this year – two *Malus* 'Ribston



The apples ripening

Pippin' and one *M. Pomme de Neige* variety - but that is an improvement on last year when we had none.

La Trobe's Elm

The good news about the root cuttings of the original elm that La Trobe planted in the Botanic Gardens to celebrate the Port Phillip District's separation from New South Wales is that the City of Melbourne have agreed to include it in the planting scheme of the Shrine Reserve landscape improvement plan. They decided to send off the cuttings to Metro Trees who will graft them onto *Ulmus glabra* rootstock. This will help them get a good start in life. It will probably take about two years for them to grow to a height that will be suitable to plant near the Cottage.

To watch out for this coming Spring

We know that La Trobe loved jonquils as his friend Georgiana McCrae wrote in 1844 'The boys walked ... to Jolimont with jonquil-bulbs for Mr La Trobe'. So this year we have splurged in purchasing lots of lovely bulbs to create a grand spring display. With the help of Christine at Hancock and Co. of Menzies Creek we were able to choose some very special double flowered early daffodils:

-) *Narcissus* Golden Phoenix (1777) and
-) *Narcissus* Van Sion (pre 1620).

We have also purchased a hundred *Anemone* 'De Caen' to create an absolute splash of colour to announce spring is coming and they will be planted along the path that leads into the garden to welcome you.

Bird Bath

It was decided that a permanent water source in the garden for the birds and the bees would be a good idea. The reasoning behind this idea is that once the bees know there is permanent water, they will regularly visit our garden and when the trees are flowering stop for the pollen, consequently pollinating the apples resulting in a bumper crop.

Researching the history of bird baths was challenging because there is not a lot of information about their evolution; it seems they are a modern invention and developed in the middle 19th century as a result of the industrial revolution and a middle class who had money to spend on garden ornaments. Before the 1840s, there were no such things; they were either depressions in the ground or in rocks, puddles or hollows of old trees. The firm of James Pulham and Son of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire were the first to make bird baths in the 1840s, but Melbourne at that time was fairly basic and frivolous items like bird baths would not have been available here. If La Trobe did have a bird bath it probably would have been something like an old cooking pot or maybe a log that was lying around. Besides, the original site of the cottage was on a rise, just up from the flood plains of the Yarra River, so there was probably quite a lot of water lying around and he would not have needed one. But we do as the cottage is not in its original position and the flood plains of the Yarra are no longer there.

Luckily a relative of one of our volunteers lives in the Otways – a lovely connection with La Trobe who rode down there in 1845-46 – and he was happy to make a bird bath log for us. He found a suitable yellow box stump in his wood pile and chiselled a depression about 5cm deep, just enough to hold water. It has been water proofed with glue (rather than bees wax), is positioned in the shade and gets filled by the garden sprinklers at night. The birds love it! So far we have had honey eaters and butcher birds drinking from it,



The yellow box bird bath

but as yet no bees.

If you would like to know more about early Victorian bird baths visit the Claude Hitchings site <http://pulham.org.uk> and you will be able to see *The Garden Ornament Catalogue* of James Pulham and Son.



Bird bath with a noisy butcher bird



Russel Lupin

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Summer Update – December 2014

Our biggest news is that, with the help of our volunteers, we won the Victorian Community History Award 2014 category *Historical Interpretation Award*. This was our second try and with all of our 2013 major garden projects finished (garden seat, trellis, etc) we were able to make a better submission which the judges obviously agreed with. The awards are presented by the Public Records Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Associate Professor Don Garden, president of the RHSV, chaired the selection panel and awarded the prizes.

There is a lovely connection between Charles La Trobe, Don Garden and Sandi Pullman, our volunteer garden co-ordinator. La Trobe was the patron in 1848 of the Victorian Horticultural Society, which eventually became the Burnley School of Horticulture in 1891 (currently the Burnley Campus of the Melbourne School of Land and Environment) and is where Sandi studied and graduated in 2006 and where Don has his office.

We have also been very fortunate to have talented landscape artist Jo Reitze paint a picture of the garden. She has kindly donated it to the La Trobe Society for display at La Trobe's Cottage. Her style is colourful and vibrant and she has chosen a view that we hope in time will be a valuable record of what the garden looked like in 2014. To discover what angle she has captured you will have to visit the Cottage to see her painting, which will be on display in the reception area for all to enjoy.

Earlier in the year we were delighted to receive a survey plan of the area of La Trobe's Cottage, generously donated by a member of the Trobe Society. This plan is invaluable because we will be able to use it to create a landscape plan of the garden, document all the services into the property and for any future developments. This will be one of the garden projects for 2015.



Associate Professor Don Garden with Sandi Pullman at the award ceremony

What is happening in the Garden?

With all the work over the last few months by the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage garden volunteers, the garden is looking very good. As early spring erupted, the orange calendulas, the red anemones and the yellow flowers of La Trobe's gold dust wattle (*Acacia acinacea* syn. *A. latrobei*)*



Weeping elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii')

were creating a riot of colour in the garden. [* an image is on the last page] As spring moved closer to summer the Russell lupins flowered for the first time in the crescent bed dug by Tim Gatehouse and Sandi. They still congratulate themselves on their effort considering they did not use a string line to create the shape of the bed.



Russell lupins
(*Lupinus polyphyllus*)

The stem graft on the weeping elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii') has been successful, due to the skill of our arborist John Fordham who is a member of the National Trust Victoria's Significant Tree Register, and you would never know that the tree was nearly

completely ringbarked by either a rat or a possum.

The front surrounds of the Cottage have been greatly enhanced by the removal of the old boundary paling fence at the adjoining Domain House. The formerly fenced-in area behind Domain House now runs into the Domain and provides a much improved vista from the front of the Cottage. The City of Melbourne Open Space/Urban Landscapes department are currently researching the heritage of King's Domain and when that is understood they will be able to decide how to develop the area.

Sandi's Garden Chat

It was very exciting after contacting many of the unusual-plant growers looking for the sand lily bulb (*Veltheimia capensis* syn. *A. glauca*) to finally find it at the Friends of Burnley Gardens fund-raising plant sale. It is planted in the bed where the wine barrel is located under the canopy of the English elm which is ideal as they don't die down over summer and don't like hot burning sun.

We have two gorgeous new roses *Rosa du Roi* à Fleurs Pourpres (hot pink) just near the front door steps and *Rosa du Roi* (deep red) planted in the crescent bed. Watch out for these two roses, they are stunning.



Rosa du Roi à Fleurs Pourpres

The health of our original purple clover (*Gylcine latrobeana*) planted in the weeping elm bed under the spotted emu bush (*Eremophila maculata*) has improved after we added some soil from the Heathcote area, which is where our second collection of glycine came from.

Recently it was discovered two Pomme de Neige apples are forming on our heritage apple trees. This is most gratifying, as last year there was no fruit on the espaliered apple trees. The lack of fruit forming could quite possibly be due to the lack of pollinators, bees, when the flowers are open.



Purple clover (*Gylcine latrobeana*)



Gold dust wattle
(*Acacia acinacea* syn. *A. latrobei*)



Spring - apple blossom



Summer - apples forming

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

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Another hot summer has passed and the garden has stood up to very well although there are a lot of burnt leaves on some of the plants. It is interesting, the new flax we planted in the bed along the path to the entrance did not cope well with the really hot days, but the tiny camellia did. We thought flax was tougher than that and have learnt that the cultivars are not as tough as the original species.



Leonotis leonurus Lion's ears

When you look back at the early photos of 2011 and you look at the garden now, you can see big changes. For a start, all the plants have grown and covered the ground, creating a very lush and gorgeous garden. But it is time now for some of the biennials such as the foxgloves to be removed as they are at the end of their life span, leaving quite a few holes in the Elm bed. Some of the plants are growing into each other and either need cutting back or moving. Re-jigging things is quite normal in establishing a new garden.

What's Happening in the Garden?



Our Elm at the RGB Nursery

Jenny Happell, who is a volunteer guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens, is one of our valued garden volunteers. Late last year she mentioned that the Gardens' nursery had an English elm (*Ulmus procera*) which was a descendant of one planted by La Trobe and that it needed a home. So we contacted Dermott Molloy who has helped us with other plant matters and arranged to see it with Tania MacLeod, Project Manager of Urban Forests/Urban Landscapes for the City of Melbourne. We would like to plant the elm near the Cottage and Tania agrees this is a good idea. We recently received approval to plant it and it will be included in the Planting Plan for the Shrine precinct. Tania recommended that it needs another year's growth before it can be planted.

Below is the Elm's history as provided by Jenny:

'It was planted by La Trobe in 1851 in his capacity as Governor of the new state of Victoria. He planted it just outside what is now a new toilet block near the Tea Rooms, near the Touchwood bed.

I was taking a Guided Walk in the Gardens one day in the 1990s, and one of the group said that his name was Cliff Grosvenor and that he had worked in the RBG as a gardener and propagator for 17 years (1960-1977); I later interviewed him about his time in the Gardens, and he told a story about the elm: it had been rotting and

was removed in 1977. Cliff collected some of its roots, about as thick as a finger, cut them into segments and planted them in the Nursery. He retired from the Gardens shortly after. On paying a call a while later he found that small elms had grown to one foot (30 cm) in height.

One of these resulting trees was planted on the site of the original tree by Dr. J. H. de La Trobe of Germany (a great-nephew) on 4th May 1979. I noticed (to my horror!) that this tree had gone, in September 2012. Apparently it had rotted again.

This elm has been mentioned, and photographed, in three Guides to the Botanic Gardens - William Guilfoyle's, Alex. Jessep's and Crosbie Morrison's.'

Another most unusual unforeseen event occurred when we received an email from Dermot



Glycine latrobeana

Molloy offering us eighteen plants of *Glycine latrobeana*. One of the volunteers with the Victorian Conservation Seed Bank at the Herbarium, Bob Hare, collected them from his property north of Melbourne and has kindly donated them to us. We have since met him when we were working in the garden and it was decided that when the plants are ready to be planted he would bring some soil down from his property and we will create a little grassland.

Bob is also researching what other native herbs we could plant around the *glycine*. It will be interesting to see how they go, as our two existing plants are not doing as well as we had hoped. Perhaps Bob's soil may contain some micro-organisms that they need and which our soil does not have. Many plants need such a symbiotic relationship in order to survive. We do not know enough about our native plants and it is unknown whether *Glycine latrobeana* needs a symbiotic relationship to thrive. As we do not know what will happen, it will be an interesting experiment.



The position for the Glycine grassland

Recently, Sandi and Tim Gatehouse dug a new bed, copying the garden beds in the 1843-1844 George Gilbert picture of *Jolimont* to create the crescent moon bed and at the same time fixing up the diamond-shaped bed where the olive tree is planted. They were very proud of their work and were considering writing 'Welcome to La Trobe's Cottage' in the lawn, but calmed down and decided not to. Then at the following working bee the garden group planted Russel Lupins, Foxgloves and some English Lavender, leaving space for a suitable rose that does not grow over one meter. Also some Can Can pansys and Granny Bonnets (*Aquilegias vulgaris*) were planted, and some holly hock seeds from our own plants were sprinkled in the crescent moon bed.

Sandi's Garden Chat

The City of Melbourne is trialling an Elm Project where they are trying to establish the DNA of the *Ulmus procera* (English Elm). Hopefully the La Trobe elm will be included in the sample. So far, they have taken samples from the Fitzroy Gardens and Bishops court, the home of the La Trobe's friends Bishop Perry and Mrs Perry.

We are ordering some new roses: one for our new crescent moon bed, the Rose du Roi (red), and another irresistible one for the front garden, Rose du Roi à Fleurs Pourpres (pink) that used to be very popular with gardeners. Both are scented and repeat flowering and do not grow much higher than one meter, so they will be perfect.

What's Flowering in the Garden

The Australian native *Correa lawrenceana* var. *latrobeana* (Mountain correa) has set its first flower. We have not included a picture, so you will be enticed to visit the Cottage. It is located at the back of the Kitchen Block, facing Dallas Brooks Drive.



The new Crescent Moon bed



The Elm bed



The fuchsia and Mrs Perry's creeper



Correa lawrenceana var. *latrobeana*



Salvia coccinea Texas sage



Maurandya barclayana Mrs. Perry's creeper

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Spring Update – September 2013



The cottage with its new lattice

The lattice made by Australian Lattice Timber looks tremendous and has been specially made to replicate the old fashion type. Thanks to Max Joffe, who painted it charcoal to match the veranda posts and front door. It blends in nicely but it is still visible from a distance.

Winter is supposed to be a quite time in the garden when gardeners reflect, think about new projects and not much happens. Well, not so with us as we have been really busy for the past few months. With the help of Citywide, we constructed a temporary leaf compost heap, the lattice is up on the front veranda and has inspired us to put some more along the small front garden dining room veranda, the garden bench has been installed and Gardening Australia is hoping to visit.



Pelargonium cucullatum Tree pelargonium

We are so lucky, our garden bench has just been installed and it is very comfortable to sit on. It was made by Alastair Boell who is a talented craftsman and fine furniture maker. Alastair graduated



Our beautiful new garden bench

from The University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Education (Arts & Crafts) and from the North Bennet Street School, Boston, USA with a Diploma of Cabinet and Furniture Making. He kindly donated his time to make a copy from the sketch by La Trobe's cousin, Edward La Trobe Bateman, *Part of lower rockery at Jolimont, 1853*. The wood came from a Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) that was blown over in a storm in the King's Domain. It is fantastic the tree has returned to the Domain in a new form. If you would like to see Alastair's work visit <http://www.mgfw.com.au>

What is Happening in the Garden at the Cottage?

Lorraine Finlay our Volunteer Property Manager suggested we put in more flax (*Phormium tenax*) which was a brilliant idea. We were going to plant the original species, but when Sandi our Volunteer Garden Coordinator saw how big the original plant gets she had second thoughts as in time the plants would have swamped the cottage - they grow up to 4 meters. So it was decided to put in a cultivar 'Pink Ribbon'. While we are trying to only use plants that were available to La Trobe, sometimes with heritage gardens you need to be flexible and adapt to what is practical. It was not a pleasant gardening day; it was freezing, windy and wet, but with the help of the Citywide gardener Kevin, we dug out the dull old *Viburnum tinus* along the



Newly planted Flax

side path and planted lots of new flax. Once they have settled in and grown up, it will look more like the garden as it was at Jolimont.

Also, in the same bed we have finally planted two *Camellia japonica* 'Anemoniflora' (Waratah camellia) grown for us by the Growing Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens. They are only tiny but in years to come will look spectacular with their waratah shaped red flowers. For more information on the Waratah camellia visit the Hortus Camdensis web page hortuscampden.com/plants/view/camellia-japonica-l.-var.-like-waratah. In the NSW colonial database they are listed as early as 1843, grown at Camden Park by Sir William Macarthur.

The bulbs that Hancock's kindly donated to us have sprung up and are flowering beautifully. Combined with the purple flower of the *Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer' the garden looks stunning. Next year we hope to put in more yellow jonquils because they are so bright and cheery at the end of winter.

Mentioned in Garden Despatches

Finally, the old possum netting over the succulent bed needed to be replaced. We do not know what the possums did to it, but big holes had appeared and it was time for some new netting. Last year the netting cut off the lovely red winter flowers of the aloes, so when we replaced it with the help of Rick from Citywide we put in taller stakes to lift the netting off the flower spikes. Because Rick put in sturdier taller stakes it looks more permanent and funnily much better.

We had our first crop of heritage apples, all four of them but we do not know what happened to them. They were about as big as a golf ball but they disappeared. We do not know whether they were stolen or eaten by possums. Chris England from Merrywood Nursery in Baxter (Mornington Peninsula), who is one of the leading espaliers in Australia, kindly agreed to visit with a view to pruning the apples; however, all Chris needed to do was put in new stakes and tie down a few stems. So, our heritage apples are doing well; they may not end up in an "S" shape as in the sketch of the kitchen block by Edward La Trobe Bateman, but that will be acceptable nevertheless.

Sandi's Garden Chat



Buddleja salviifolia Sage bush

The *Buddleja salviifolia* (Sage bush/Buddleia) is an average bush for most of the year but in very late winter/early spring it is bursting with flowers and the perfume is to die for. Buddleias are also known as the butterfly bush and yet I never have seen a butterfly anywhere near one. Well, that was about to change as I was in the garden in late August and it was about 4.30pm in the afternoon and all of a sudden I noticed the air was full of Common Brown Butterflies and the buddleia was covered in them. I think they were eating the nectar from the flowers. It was the most beautiful thing to see.

You never stop discovering and learning things in horticulture. Recently I learnt that the early 1840s garden was a very good example of the Gardenseque style. This is a style that liked to show each individual plant at its best. After talking to John Hawker who is the Horticulturist for Heritage Victoria, I learnt that the early 1850s garden was a style called Romantic - designed so that the industrial worker could forget their dreary life and there was nothing that would remind them of everyday life. Paths were slightly overgrown, walks were gravel or dirt and there were many

different types of plants. The Romantic garden was a place where emotions over took reason and was designed to appeal directly to the soul. This style is poignant to La Trobe as we know he often escaped the stresses of his job by working in his garden.

The Friends of La Trobe's Cottage are celebrating spring and our regular Sunday afternoon openings began on Sunday 6th October. Come and see all our new improvements and enjoy a guided tour through the Cottage. You will even be able to sit on our lovely new garden bench and enjoy the tranquillity of the garden.

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Grevillea rosmarinifolia
subspecies rosmarinifolia syn. *G. Latrobei*
Rosemary grevillea



Anemone sp. Anemones



Acacia acinacea syn. *Acacia latrobei*
Gold-dust wattle



The Elm Bed in summer



Eremophila maculata Spotted Emu bush



View looking towards Dallas Brooks Drive



Moving the wine barrel in preparation for installing the garden bench



Some of our Gardening volunteers

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Winter Update – June 2013



The Camellia revealed –
flowering

We didn't do much in the garden over summer as it was too hot, but the volunteer team was certainly busy over autumn. Everything had grown and it came time when things needed another good prune. Helen took on the Elm bed and did a fantastic job pruning back everything growing into its neighbours. Jenny pruned back the plectranthus to reveal the camellia was flowering and Beverly and Paula planted lots of the bulbs around the garden. Allen pruned all the creepers on the veranda posts that were starting to grow into the shingles, something we cannot allow to happen.

The camellia (*Camellia japonica* 'Anemoniflora') that the Growing Friends of the Botanic Gardens has propagated for us is doing well, but it is still a little small to be planted out into the garden.

What's Happening in the Garden at the Cottage?

We are another step closer to installing the lattice on the front veranda steps. Good quality lattice is almost impossible to find but John Drury, the chairman and treasurer of the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage, has found some. We are using Helen Botham's book *La Trobe's Jolimont: a walk round my garden*, which contains several sketches of the cottage with lattice, as a reference for this installation. Mrs Perry's Creeper (*Maurandya barclayana*) will at last have something solid to climb on.



'Mrs Perry's Creeper'
ready for the lattice



Rosa 'Arthur de Sansal'

To improve the garden at the back of the cottage and make it symmetrical, it was decided to plant another rose where there was some dead space. The rose 'Arthur de Sansal' has been ordered from Mistydowns and Sam from Citywide very kindly donated the pot when Sandi couldn't find one at a reasonable price. Large pots and saucers are very expensive.

Mentioned in Garden Despatches

Our exciting news is that we have found a craftsman who is very happy to make our garden bench for us, just like in the picture by Edward La Trobe Bateman in Helen Botham's book *La Trobe's Jolimont: a walk round my garden* - page 46. It is reminiscent of a little jetty and will fit perfectly under the oak, which is where the wine barrel is at the moment.

Alastair Boell is a very talented craftsman in working with wood. He graduated from the world-renowned North Bennet Street School in Boston (USA) and came home and decided to establish the Melbourne Guild of Fine Woodworking in 2007, to pass on the traditional skills of working with wood. Alastair's passion is wood and he has collected some of the tree species that have fallen in the Domain during our famous Melbourne storms. It is very exciting because he suggested using the wood from the *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey pine) that he collected. It is a really nice connection that the tree is coming back to the Domain and will be a part of the Cottage. Alastair's website is included here so you can see the beautiful work he does <http://www.mgfw.com.au>

We would like to thank Hancock Bulbs of Menzies Creek, who very kindly donated 300 bulbs made up of the species we know La Trobe had from a letter written by his friend Ronald Gunn in Tasmania (1844) where it mentions jonquils, ixias and babiana. With the help of the volunteers at our working bee, we planted them all around the garden. Make sure you visit the garden in spring and see our spectacular display.



Jonquils - a variety donated by Hancock's

Our other good news is that our treasurer, John Drury, has approved the purchase of some garden labels made by the Friends of Burnley Gardens. Cheryl Andrews, a FOBG volunteer, has made around thirteen for us and they include botanical name, common name, family and where the plant originates from.

We would like to thank all our volunteers, especially Joy who came and worked when perhaps she didn't feel as up to it as usual.

Sandi's Garden Chat

A strange happening occurred at the garden recently. It was late in the afternoon, all was quiet and no-one was around. Sandi was there pottering and noticed the water bowl under the tap was nearly empty. So she refilled and kept on working. But she noticed it kept draining and began wondering what was going on. It began to puzzle her, as she kept refilling it. Meanwhile the magpie larks and magpies were poking around the lawn and it suddenly dawned on her that someone was having a bird bath or were they perhaps playing games?



Two years on looking towards
Weeping Elm



Geranium hedge



Handsome new label

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Autumn Update – March 2013



Sunflower in front of the Cottage

Summer has been kind to most of the garden this year but not to our only sunflower or bees. On the Thursday in early January when the temperature hit over 40C, we were worried that the garden would be burnt to a crisp but when we checked it the next day to our surprise we found that our sun flower (the only one the snails hadn't eaten) was in very good shape, in fact thriving. But unfortunately we discovered in February that the kernels were hollow, meaning that they hadn't been pollinated by the bees. When it is really hot or cold, the bees stay home and therefore the pollen isn't transferred from the male anther to the female stigma, so no seeds develop. We were very disappointed because we had hoped to sow some seed for next summer and also to sell some to raise money for the garden.

Our Christmas Carols evening went off without a hitch, although we did think the Cottage was on fire at one stage, when the new sprinkler system in the Domain kicked in. What looked like smoke was actually water spray and thank goodness the sprinklers were on half circles or everyone would have been soaked. But luckily that didn't happen as Sam from Citywide saw what was happening. Sprinkler systems can be controlled by satellites these days, so he sent a message that bounced up to the satellite and thankfully the sprinklers were turned off.

What's Happening in the Garden at the Cottage?

The Elm bed is finally looking established. The lavender flowered beautifully, the plumbago is hanging out the fence creating the appearance of a rough and tumble garden and after the summer weather everything will need a good cut-back. Some odd things have happened this season, one of them being the sweet peas that have flowered right through summer. They aren't supposed to be heat lovers, so normally finish flowering in spring, but ours have been blooming away.

Another odd thing was the *Glycine latrobeana* under the *Eremophila maculate* (Turkey bush) developed a flower. We thought they were dormant over summer, so were very excited about the flower, only to be disappointed that it seemed to start rotting. The water system is to blame because in the wild the ground would be dry, however because the watering comes on every second day it is too wet.



Sweet Peas flowering

The succulents along the back of the cottage are amazing. From having no roots and then being dumped on by rain regularly in 2012 (due to the cottage not having gutters) they have thrived. We have planted four heritage roses, *Rosa 'Arthur de Sansal'*, along the back of the cottage, as depicted in Helen Botham's book *La Trobe's Jolimont – a walk round my garden*, page 39. It won't quite be the same, as we are not absolutely sure if they are roses in the drawing, but it is our interpretation.



Our Hollyhock

We have also been collecting seed from plants like English marigolds, hollyhocks, fox gloves and nasturtiums that self seed and have sold quite a number of packets to raise money for the garden.

Snails have been troublesome this year, but the old method of hurling them over the fence and hoping the magpies get them seems to work fairly well. We are going to have to devise a better strategy next summer, however, to ensure that we get more than one sun flower plant.



We found this spider making herself at home in the garden. She had spun her web between two roses along the veranda by the back door of the dining room. She is gorgeous and we decided to leave her there in the hope that she would catch unauthorised insects such as white fly or aphids.

The apples have survived summer reasonably well. We think they were attacked by Cherry Pea Slug, which is a horrible grub that is black and slimy. It skeletonised the leaves (the clue that it was Cherry Pear Slug) so we decided to band the stems, using a tape that is sticky and catches anything that crawls up or down the tree. It was a horrible job, as it was very fiddly and sticky. Apples are notorious for getting fruit fly and codling moth, so we thought it was important to do this. Our Ribston Pippin decided to flower at the odd time of February and consequently four apples have formed. Because they have formed so late in the season, we do not think they will develop into anything but we are leaving them to see what happens.



Malus 'Pomme de Neige'



Malus 'Ribston Pippin' apples forming

Mentioned in Garden Despatches

We would like to thank Rick from Citywide and volunteer guide Neville for their help at the working bee in early March when the temperature was above 33C, in humid conditions. There were jobs that needed to be done. The creepers around the veranda posts had gone wild and we were surprised not to find a volunteer who had gone missing when opening the shutters. We then attacked the Elm bed. Rick cut back the succulent ground cover *Aptenia cordifolia* (Baby sun rose) that had invaded areas it shouldn't have, while Neville finished pruning the lavender and cut back the *Iris unguicularis* (Californian Iris). We also did a couple of jobs that had been on the agenda for a while, including cutting down the possum damaged *Cordyline australis* (New Zealand Cabbage tree) to the ground. It will regrow.

Finally, other exciting news is that our *Camellia japonica* 'Anemoniflora' that we had ordered from the Growing Friends of the Botanic Gardens have struck and are in the Friends' care until they are big enough to survive on their own in our garden.



Leonotis leonurus Lions ears



Pelargonium inquinans



Acacia acinacea syn.
Acacia latrobei
Gold-dust wattle

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Summer Update – December 2012

There has been a lot happening in the garden at La Trobe's Cottage over the last few months. For the first time after 3 years of hard work visitors are starting to compliment us on the garden. And finally the Weeping Elm bed is looking fabulous: everything has grown and with the help of lots of rain, fertiliser and the occasional sunshine, the garden is looking very floriferous.

What's Happening in the Garden at the Cottage?



Glycine latrobeana just above the oak leaf

Something very special happened in spring. The Euroa Arboretum donated two very rare *Glycine latrobeana* (Purple clover) plants to us. We were very lucky! Its legal status is nationally listed as Vulnerable. It is a small perennial herb (related to the soya bean) that ranges from southern New South Wales to Victoria, across to South Australia and down to Tasmania.

We were given two tubes: one we planted under the *Eremophila maculate* in the Weeping Elm bed and the other under the *Acacia acinaceae* syn *Acacia latrobei* in the Succulent bed to see which conditions suited them best. We learnt that they like a reasonably good soil that holds moisture. As the second glycine was moved four times trying to find the right spot, we

deduced that they are tough. We finally decided to move it to the Weeping Elm bed, as the first one is doing so well it even flowered! Now they are next to each other.

Something else very exciting happened. We were given permission to put on our website a photograph of the specimen of the glycine that La Trobe collected in the Port Phillip District in 1841. It is now the property of the New York Herbarium. How did it get there? [Please see the page on *Glycine latrobeana*.](#)

We are trying to raise people's awareness of this very special herb named in honour of La Trobe.



Valerian Flower and Fox Gloves

As you can see, the foxgloves and salvia are blooming.

With the help of Citywide and our team of volunteers, we mulched the elm bed with sugar cane. This has had two effects Σ suppressed the annual weeds that were driving us to distraction and conserved the moisture in the soil.



Salvia patens



Weeping Elm Bed

In our last Garden News, we mentioned that we had planted our bare rooted roses and they are all doing well, especially the ones in the front garden where they do not get quite as much sun as we would like. We were waiting with excited anticipation for our *Rosa* 'Duchesse d'Angouleme' to flower, when we became suspicious that it wasn't the Duchesse... And we were right, when she flowered she wasn't, because the supplier had mixed up the labels. The Duchesse is a beauty and we were so looking forward to her gorgeous pink flowers. We will now have to wait until next year, as our supplier realised it was either *Rosa* 'Leda' or 'Mme Zoetmans', so they are sending us a replacement. As all good gardeners complain, we are running out of room, so we are not sure where we are going to put our 'Leda' or 'Mme Zoetmans' rose.

There is now a space next to the Banksia rose, because finally we got around to moving the rose that was too close and this will allow the Banksia to grow and not swamp everything. She flowered for the first time this year and we discovered she is white. La Trobe loved banksias and with 12½ acres he had the room to let them ramble, but we don't so she will have to be maintained so we don't lose the cottage under it. But we will let it get a little wild.

And there is more.... The good news is that the National Trust has approved putting trellis around the front entrance steps, which will help Mrs. Perry's very vigorous climber *Maurandya barclaiana* (Angles trumpet or Mexican viper, a very ominous sounding name) by having something to grow on. The pastel drawing *A View of Jolimont 1843-44*, by George Alexander Gilbert, depicts the early cottage and garden and we are using this as our reference to re-establish some of the lattice work. This will give the cottage more authenticity and help us create the climber-covered cottage that Edward La Trobe Bateman captured in his sketches.

We were hoping to have a display of petunias over summer but unfortunately the snails got most of them. We know that La Trobe's grew petunias because the Mitchell Library in Sydney has a letter from his friend Ronald Gunn in Tasmania listing what plants he was sending.

The Wild Life at our Cottage



The Backdoor Mat Culprit

We have a lovely family of magpies who we are sure think the cottage is theirs. To a certain extent it is, as they live there and are there more than we humans are. Some of them come up to the dining room door and listen to the guides. One day Sandi, our Garden Coordinator, was pottering around the garden and walking towards the tap near the back door. The magpie could not have cared less she was there, but Sandi was trying very carefully not to disturb the avian resident. Well, Sandi could not believe her eyes when she saw Mrs. Maggie pulling the door-mat all over the veranda to get the fibres for her nest. How clever she thought! Sandi also wondered if Lorraine, our Property Manager, knew why the doormat keeps moving.

Collage of Pictures



Elephant Ears is thriving



Parodia ottonis



Olive tree is finally growing



Old Scented Geranium doing its thing



Geranium hedge starting to grow



Edward La Trobe Bateman, *Front View of Jolimont*
Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Spring Update > September 2012

On 15th August we held the annual Friends of La Trobe's Cottage Annual Lecture. One of our guests was Anna Murphy, a PhD student in Botany at La Trobe University, who talked about *In search of three-leaf clovers: Charles La Trobe and threatened species recovery in Victoria*. Anna gave us a great talk about the glycine, explaining one of the reasons its numbers have declined was due to the gold rush in the 19th century. Unfortunately, the digging of mines and dumping the tailing severely disrupted its habitat.

To help raise its endangered profile, we wanted to grow some in the garden. Dermot Molloy of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne has been trying to propagate some seed for us, but they are notoriously difficult to germinate and unfortunately have lived up to their name. But we will try again. Anna has a contact at the Department of Sustainability and Environment who has germinated them successfully and hopefully he will share with Dermot his secrets.

What is happening in the Garden at the Cottage?



Spring is in the air, even though at the time of writing it still feels like winter. We have been busy in the garden and our efforts are beginning to show. The 190 anemone bulbs we planted are popping up and are going to look fabulous when they flower sometime in October. La Trobe loved bulbs and the daffodils we planted last year are up and some of them are flowering again. We will probably have to replace them next year as daffodils bulbs are notoriously difficult to get to flower a second year, let alone a third year. Our grape hyacinths (*Muscari* sp.) are also just starting to flower.

Our most exciting news is that our heritage roses from Mistydowns have arrived and after much searching, we also found some cacti that would have been available in La Trobe's time.

Grape hyacinth (*Muscari* sp.)

Our bare rooted roses arrived in the mail and an impromptu working bee was called, as they needed to be planted quickly. After some rearranging of Elephant-eared saxifrage, (*Bergenia cordifolia*) and irises in the bed under the drawing room window the following heritage roses were planted with the help of Jenny Happell, Joy Harley and Sandi Pullman

-) *Rosa* 'Duchesse d'Angouleme'
-) *Rosa* 'Arthur de Sansal'
-) *Rosa* 'Louise Odier'.



Rosa 'Arthur de Sansal'

The colour range of old heritage roses is much more limited than today's modern roses. The only colours available were white, pale yellow, red (which some would call cerise) and pinkie/mauve.

In 1848 La Trobe wrote to his friend Ronald Gunn in Tasmania that cacti in his rockery were doing exceedingly well despite the summer heat. He loved his cacti and we have been looking for suitable cacti for several years. We discovered a wonderful supplier, Andrew of Cactusland, who has a stall at the Victoria Market, so off we went to the market, coming home with some treasures that

Andrew had identified were available in the 1840s-50s. He also tracked down two sedums that we have been looking for over the last two and half years.



The following are our new treasures:

-) *Aporocactus flagelliformis*
Rats tail cactus
-) *Ferocactus horridus*
Barrel cactus
-) *Sedum seiboldtii* Blue stonecrop
-) *Sedum nuttallianum* Yellow stonecrop



'Happy wanderer' in the Mint bush

Aporocactus flagelliformis

If you visit the garden, you might notice that the succulent bed is still under netting. Much to our horror, the possums snuck in under the netting and started eating our *Euphorbia milii* var. Splendens. Disaster, it took us two years to find it and they munched it in one night, so now it is also protected by chicken wire.

And for a special treat, have a look at the *Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer' which has wound itself up into the prostanthera (native mint bush). The beautiful purple flowers look terrific against the green of the prostanthera leaves. It is just fantastic the way nature does its own thing and is always perfect.

And finally below is a collage of our spring garden:



Chaenomeles speciosa Red flowering quince



The Elm bed, one year on



Aloe plicatilis Fan aloe



Alocasia macrorrhiza Elephant ears growing in the wine barrel

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Winter Update – June 2012

Slowly, we are finding plants that would have been available to La Trobe in the 1840s/50s. It is quite difficult for several reasons. One is that they have gone out of fashion, are no longer grown and therefore not available in Australia any more. Another reason is that they have been hybridised or become cultivars, which means the original species are not grown any more. A hybrid is when two species of the same genus are cross pollinated, either by human hands or nature and can be recognised by the X in the name, for example *Camellia x williamsii*. A cultivar is a plant that has been bred by cuttings, grafting, division or budding and is written *Camellia* 'Plantation Pink'.



Camellia 'Plantation Pink'

To help us find plants we have been using three sources:

1. Plants Listed in Nursery Catalogues in Victoria 1855 to 1889, by the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia
2. The Historic Houses Trust of NSW Colonial Plant Data base
http://www.hht.net.au/research/colonial_plants
3. Hortus Camdenensis Data base, which was Plants grown by Sir William Macarthur at Camden Park between 1820 to 1861 <http://www.hortuscamden.com>

When we find a plant we cross reference it, checking to see if it was available in the period that we are looking at. We have a cut-off point of 1854, because that is when La Trobe returned to London. We use the two NSW data bases the most because they show which plants were available very early in our settlement and because most plants in the early days came from Sydney or Tasmania. We have evidence (letters) showing La Trobe received plants in the 1840s from the Sydney Botanic Gardens and his friend Ronald Gunn in Tasmania.

When we find one, we get quite excited because it is such a challenge to source them. Most times it is no good going through the nursery industry because they cannot supply them. Instead, we have been contacting specialist groups such as the Salvia group or the Chrysanthemum Society or people who grow rare plants. Yes, old fashion species are considered rare plants because cultivars or hybrids have become more popular.

We have been looking for *Campanula persicifolia* Peach leafed bellflower and *Euphorbia milii* var. *Splendens* for at least two years. Finally, we thought why not check the Royal Botanic Gardens



Campanula persicifolia

Melbourne Plant Census and see if they grow them? Yes they do and they are the only people who grow them. We realised that our first inquiry should be to check the Gardens data base. We really like the fact that these unusual plants today (once common) are found in the Botanic Gardens that were established by La Trobe: it is a nice circle linking La Trobe back to the gardens' beginning. Thanks to the kind donation of Dermot Molloy from the Royal Botanic Gardens, we have just planted the campanula, the euphorbia and special iris called Jolimont.



Euphorbia milii var. *Splendens*



Camellia japonica
'Anemoniflora'

If the Plant Census does not help, then we contact the Growing Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne to see if they can source plants for us. At the moment they are growing for us an especially old camellia *Camellia japonica* 'Anemoniflora' known as the Waratah Camellia. It is listed in the 1830 and 1836 editions of Loddiges' Nursery catalogue, copies of which are held at Camden Park, NSW. It is very unusual as it has a red flower and looks like a Waratah. La Trobe does not mention any camellias, so it is impossible to know whether he grew them. But it is quite possible, as they were available in Sydney and he probably would have seen them when he arrived there a couple of months before coming down to take up his position in Melbourne.

What is happening in the garden at the Cottage?

The garden is looking fantastic and all our hard work is paying off. Unfortunately, possums have found a taste for some of our succulents which is a real nuisance. We have had to move some of the *Crassula falcata* Propeller plant and the *Echeveria* 'Big Red' to the front garden (as possums do not like walking along the ground as they are too exposed). The chosen succulent bed may not be so well located after all. Chicken wire didn't sufficiently protect the plants, so we decided to net the entire bed. Thanks to Rick at Citywide, an inconspicuous net has been put over the entire bed. But possums are determined. They are nibbling through the netting and we are now considering a third solution with the help of the arboriculture department of Citywide.

The front garden beds still need some work and will be completed in spring when we receive our last three heritage roses. We are also hoping to replace some of the trellis (with the permission of the



Maurandya barclaiana

National Trust) using the George Alexander Gilbert's pastel drawing, *A View of Jolimont, Melbourne, Port Phillip 1843-44*, as our source of interpretation.

The trellis will help recreate the romantic atmosphere of the Cottage and provide the Mrs. Perry's creeper *Maurandya barclaiana* a much needed support to climb on. Mrs. Perry was the wife of Melbourne's first Anglican Bishop and she mentions seeing the creeper growing at Jolimont. It has a purple flower, so watch out for it in spring.

Volunteers Beverley and Joy have done a fantastic job looking after the *Iris unguicularis* Californian iris. Each autumn they cut the foliage to the ground, fertilise it with some potash and off it starts blooming. Another plant that is doing its best since we started looking after the garden is our camellia. Our volunteer Jenny pruned it after it flowered last year, it was given some potash and it is blooming beautifully. (See picture on previous page.)



Iris unguicularis

If you are looking for rare or unusual plants, trying contacting the Growing Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne to see if they can grow them for you. Their website is:

<http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/rbg-melbourne/friends-melbourne/plant-sales>

Update on *Glycine latrobeana*

As you may know, we are supporting the nationally listed vulnerable species *Glycine latrobeana* Purple clover which is a small native perennial herb. We have very exciting news. The Department of Sustainability and Environment, Bendigo has provided the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne with some seed to germinate in their glass houses for us. When they are mature, we will plant them in the garden and help to raise its profile in the community.

View down along the side of the Dining Room



Jenny, pruning the *Camellia* 'Plantation Pink'



Our Resident Magpie



Our Team of Volunteers enjoying morning tea

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Autumn Update – March 2012

The garden survived summer relatively unscathed this year. We have had a brilliant display from our *Trachelospermum jasminoides* Star Jasmine, the *Crassula falcata* Propeller plant with its stunning vibrant red flower in our succulent bed and the *Lavandula angustifolia* English lavender. Only one plant died, a *Correa reflexa* var. Tall, and that was because its root system could not cope with the very hot days, followed by days of soaking wet soil. Correas are drought tolerant plants and prefer dry soil.

Each autumn the garden volunteers cut back the foliage of the *Iris unguicularis* Californian Iris, and give it a good dose of potash. Then in winter it flowers spectacularly and because the foliage has been cut the flowers can be seen to full effect.

You might notice our lawn and thanks to Citywide it is looking the best it has for years. We have gone from

having the worst lawn around to having the greenest and best. The gardeners at Citywide cored it (removed plugs

of soil that allows the oxygen and moisture in), top-dressed it and then sowed seed. Luckily, not all the seed was eaten by the birds and it is now looking lush, green and beautiful.



Crassula falcata

Work has been continuing on sourcing plants that were available to La Trobe in the 1840s/50s. We have acquired two *Philadelphus coronarius* from the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, a *Salvia patens* from the Salvia Society and an *Alocasia macrorrhizos* Elephants ears to put in our new wine barrel. The barrel was kindly donated to us and being a red wine barrel we are sure that La Trobe would approve of it. (NB See picture of wine barrel on last page.)

We have also discovered a vulnerable species named after La Trobe called *Glycine latrobeana* Purple clover. We are working with the Anna Murphy of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Bendigo Office, and are hoping to plant some in our garden and bring its plight to people's attention.



Glycine latrobeana



Platylobium obtusangulum

Through Anna's access to the Herbarium database, we have been able to discover two plants that were actually collected by La Trobe. He would have collected them on his horseback sojourns through the countryside. The two plants are:

-) *Derwentia perfoliata* Diggers speedwell, from the Upper Loddon, 1850, and
-) *Platylobium obtusangulum* Common flatpea, from the Port Phillip District, 1842.

Many of our plants have interesting provenance Z some we can prove, others are hearsay, but whichever it is, the stories are very interesting and help create a connection to La Trobe, his friends and the garden.

The Olive

The Olive *Olea europaea*, as previously mentioned, was a cutting taken from Ballam Park that was owned by the Liardet family in the late 1840s. Georgiana McCrae gave her friend a cutting from one of the olive trees growing in her orchards at Arthur's Seat. At that time, the Liardet family was preparing an orchard at their then new property, Ballam Park in Frankston. Today the tree at Ballam Park still stands and is very old. ('Olive Tree Returned to McCrae Homestead', National Trust Victorian News, November 2010.)



Pelargonium inquinans

Pelargoniums/Geraniums

We know La Trobe loved geraniums and he mentions them in a letter to daughter Agnes in 1847. So with the help of the Pelargonium Society at the Geelong Botanic Gardens we have been able to source some older species that he may have had. They were: *Pelargonium acetosum*, *Pelargonium cucullatum*, *Pelargonium inquinans* and *Pelargonium triste*. We are hoping to replicate the geranium hedge that La Trobe mentioned to Agnes in a letter in 1845 using *Pelargonium inquinans*.

Geranium *Pelargonium tomentosum*

These plants were grown from cuttings originally taken from a plant in a garden near what was left of La Trobe's Cottage by Mr Doug Gunn, who during the 1960s worked at the Bedggood shoe factory at Jolimont and lunched in the garden there. (Personal communication, Doug Gunn to Helen Botham). Doug's friend,

Stewart Bradley propagated these plants and subsequently gave cuttings of them to Helen, who grew the plants that now grow around the Cottage. There is no evidence that the original plant was at the Cottage in La Trobe's time, but this species was certainly available and is seen in many old gardens around Victoria.



Pelargonium tomentosum



Aeonium arboretum

Succulents

We also know that La Trobe loved succulents and had a magnificent rockery near the entrance to his estate. Many succulents are able to self propagate and it is quite plausible the succulents along the railway at Jolimont originated from the rockery. Cuttings of *Aloe arborescens*, *Aeonium arboretum* and *Agave americana* were procured from there and have now been planted in the garden.



Acacia latrobei

Acacia latrobei

We have several *Acacia acinacea* syn. *Acacia latrobei* Golden fields wattle donated to us from Jenny Happel, a relative to Georgiana McCrae who was a close friend of the La Trobes. In a letter to his friend Mr Ronald Gunn (8 October, 1852), La Trobe says that there is a *pretty little dwarf acacia flowering abundantly in its native soil at Jolimont*, which has been distinguished with his name. La Trobe jokes that he will go down in prosperity in another form than that of the withering curse '*Flying Pieman*'. He seems to realise that he was not popular with some sections of the community.

Two Exciting Developments



Alocasia macrorrhiza

Using the Edward La Trobe Bateman picture of the rockery which include a planted up wine barrel and the help of the firm Garden House Decor, who donated it, we have been able to recreate part of the picture. We cannot rebuild the rockery but we can reinstate a wine barrel. In Bateman's sketch the plant looks like an *Alocasia macrorrhiza* Elephant Ears, so we have put one in our barrel.

Another exciting development is the discovery of this gorgeous little frog in our water pot. We put a pot under our garden tap to catch the excess and discovered that the locals like it too. She/he is very happy in our pot with some leaves floating on top to protect her/him from hungry birds flying by.



This is an excellent sign that our garden is healthy.



Salvia patens

La Trobe's Cottage Garden News

Spring/summer 2011



There has been a lot happening in the garden over the last two years. On the 3 October 2010 we celebrated the 171st year of La Trobe's arrival in Melbourne by planting a cutting of an Olive tree *Olea europaea*. It came from Ballam Park in Frankston that was owned by the Liardet Family in the late 1840s. Georgiana McCrae gave her friend there a cutting from one of the olive trees growing in her orchard at Arthur's Seat. The tree at Ballam Park still stands and is very old. ('Olive Tree returned to McCrae Homestead', Victorian News/National Trust, November 2010)

We have also started the espaliering process on our four heritage apples. We are trying to replicate the Edward La Trobe Bateman drawing 'Kitchen and store in interior courtyard', where there are apples growing up the front of the kitchen block. They were propagated at the National Trust property, Rippon Lea, and planted in winter 2010. After much advice and trepidation, they were pruned down ready for the 2011 growing season.



The gardening volunteers got together in winter to plant a huge range of bulbs that were donated by the bulb company Hancock and Co. In September, the bulbs started flowering and looked fantastic.

Another development is our fantastic new fence, which is an interpretation of an early colonial fence. It gives the cottage an early colonial feeling and adds to the visitor's experience of Melbourne in the 1840s.

(see picture at page head)

With the help of the City of Melbourne, Citywide, the National Trust, the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage and the Garden of Eden Nursery in



Albert Park and other sponsors, the garden over the last two years has been improving. Carefully researching what plants were available to La Trobe in the 1840s, the Friends have been slowly adding to the garden, creating a valued asset for the Cottage. It is a great challenge to source the original species, as today any cultivars or hybrids are usually the only plants available.

We are fortunate to have in the State Library of Victoria copies of La Trobe's letters to his daughter Agnes, where he often mentions the garden, and also a number of drawings by his cousin, Edward La Trobe Bateman, which we can use to identify plants. We also have a list of plants sent to Charles from his friend Ronald Campbell Gunn, who was a Tasmanian public servant and amateur botanist. Of course, we cannot put them all back as some of them now are considered environmental weeds, but there are still a large number to choose from.



There are lots of good old favourites such as Mock orange *Philadelphus* sp. *Plectranthus Plectranthus ecklonii* and English lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*. These are plants you can use in your garden, as they are drought tolerant and if you like natives, as La Trobe did, we have planted the following: Emu bush *Eremophila maculata*, White correa *Correa alba*, *Correa reflexa* var. *reflexa* and Happy Wanderer *Hardenbergia violacea*.

The three natives named after La Trobe are doing really well. The Golden dust wattle *Acacia acinacea* syn. *Latrobei* has settled in and flowered, the Rosemary grevillea *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* subspecies *rosmarinifolia* syn. *G. latrobei* has grown very strongly and also flowered. The Emu bush *Eremophila latrobei*, which still retains his name and was named by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller when La Trobe was Lieutenant-Governor, has surprised us with unusual black new growth - at first we thought it was diseased - and it has flowered too.

Two La Trobe family members have visited the Cottage in recent years. Dr Charles La Trobe Blake planted the Banksia rose and Dr Henry de La Trobe planted a Weeping elm *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii', which unfortunately died due to the drought. A kind donation of a new tree by the Friends of the Elms replaced it in March 2011 and we have now designed a new garden bed around this tree [click here for Plant List](#).



La Trobe was fond of cacti and succulents and built a magnificent rockery at the entrance of 'Jolimont'. It was the height of fashion at the time and would have made an impressive statement at the beginning of the carriageway. It contained a grotto where you could sit and was between 12 to 14 feet (about 4 metres) high. La Trobe wrote to his daughter Agnes in 1850 that the grotto is covered with shrubs and strange plants. We do not know what varieties of cacti or succulents La Trobe grew, but we have sourced plants that were available during the 1840s Plant List.:

www.foltc.latrobesociety.org.au/plantlist2.html

We also discovered that there are some wild succulents along the railway at Jolimont. It is quite possible that some of these plants came from the original rockery. Cuttings have been propagated from this stock and will be planted in the garden when they have developed roots.

We are show-casing plants that would have been available in the 1840s. This will give the garden an authenticity and distinguish it from the later Victorian period gardens. Where we have not been able to source the exact old species we have chosen plants that are the closest we can obtain.

