

LA TROBEANA



Journal of the C. J. La Trobe Society Inc.

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A Word from the President

In this, our second edition of the Journal, *La Trobeana*, we highlight the unveiling in November 2006 of the first bronze statue of Charles Joseph La Trobe.

I congratulate members of the Executive Committee, especially John Drury, for the work in bringing about this great achievement. I would also like to acknowledge the support and enthusiasm of Society members through their donations to the Statue Fund and for their attendance at the unveiling ceremony and celebrations which followed. In this edition, the Editor, Fay Woodhouse writes about her conversation with the sculptor, Peter Corlett, whose artistic ability and professional capacities resulted in this fine achievement. La Trobe Society members will also remember with pleasure the other successful events held during 2006 and documented in this edition.

Significant books about La Trobe, his life, times, and work, were also launched during 2006 and include Helen Botham's *La Trobe's Jolimont: A Walk Round my Garden*, and the diaries *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian Notes J 839- J 854*, edited by Dianne Reilly. Additionally, the family history of Yarra Valley winemakers, *From Jolimont to Yering*, was published by Ray Henderson. All of these books are reviewed in this edition of the Journal.

Please join with the Society in the forthcoming celebration of La Trobe's 206th birthday on Sunday 25 March when we will have exclusive access to La Trobe's Cottage to commemorate the occasion.

At this function, we will have pleasure in welcoming the newly appointed CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Mr Martin Purslow whose willingness to talk to us about the Trust's plans for the Cottage is indicative of the

close relationship our two organisations enjoy.

The recent more regular opening times of La Trobe's Cottage and the enthusiasm with which this has been received, serve as a timely reminder that one of the purposes of the Society is to spread information to Victorians about the work and achievements of La Trobe. La Trobe Society and Australian Garden History Society members staffed the cottage on Sundays during January and February to enable it to be open to the public. A surprising number of visitors enjoyed tours of the Cottage and learnt more about La Trobe - the man, his family and his times, the building and artefacts, during their visit.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria)'s 'Year of La Trobe' travelling exhibition, *Charles Joseph La Trobe: A Sketcher of No Mean Pretensions, the Governor and the Artist* will conclude at the Hamilton Art Gallery on 25 March. The exhibition has been greatly appreciated by communities around Victoria since July 2006. Dr Dianne Reilly ably represented the La Trobe Society and the State Library of Victoria when she spoke with her usual enthusiasm about La Trobe and his work and his art, to numerous groups across the State.

Rodney Davidson, AO, OBE
President



Treasurer's Report March 2007

The C J La Trobe Society has completed its first five years of operation as an incorporated society, and this has been marked by a most gracious and generous commitment to our Society's future.

I am very pleased to announce that the inaugural La Trobe Society Fellowship is being sponsored by the Rodney Davidson Family. This generous and public-spirited response to the worthy cause of promoting the educational aims of the Society is something for which we are extremely grateful to our esteemed President and his family. This first Fellowship has been advertised and will be offered from 1 July 2007.

Our next project involves the achievement of on-going sponsorship for the La Trobe Society Fellowship. Under the general umbrella of the State Library of Victoria's Creative Fellowships Program, the Society will endow an annual Fellowship for research into the colonial period of Victoria's history during La Trobe's tenure as administrator from 1839-1854. Please note the Guidelines for intending applicants elsewhere in this issue of *La Trobeana*. For the La Trobe Society's Fellowship to continue, our Society will need to raise \$25,000 per annum. With this aim in mind, I would ask any member who may know of an individual, company or corporation which might be interested in making a tax deductible donation as sponsor, or partial sponsor, of this prestigious award, to please contact me or our President, Rodney Davidson, AO, aBE. A letter would then be forwarded to the potential sponsor, giving full details of the Fellowship and outlining the parameters of such support.

Thanks to the generosity of our members during 2006, we have achieved the Society's first goal the commissioning and installation of a superb bronze larger-than-life statue of Charles Joseph La Trobe on the

forecourt of the State Library of Victoria. This was executed by the renowned Melbourne-based sculptor and foundation member of the La Trobe Society, Peter Corlett. With the generous support of our printer and new member, Brent McKenna, a commemorative limited edition book illustrating the various stages in the creation of the work - from clay sculpture to the final unveiling of the statue by our Patron, Professor David de Kretzer, AC - is in production. Copies will be presented to all donors and sponsors who helped bring about this milestone in our Society's work.

Membership of the La Trobe Society is strong, with 130 dedicated members at present. The Committee was delighted that over half of our members were able to attend the Christmas Cocktails for 2006 at the Melbourne Club. This enjoyable event was hosted by Rob Clemente for the Society, and highlighted by an interesting and informative address 'La Trobe's Summer: diversions, excursions and seasonal celebrations' by Caroline Clemente.

It is vital that we maintain and increase our membership in order to achieve the goals and objectives of our small society and to continue with the relevant and quality functions which make the La Trobe Society so worthwhile. With this in mind, new membership brochures and membership nomination forms will be sent out separately to each of you, and I would request that you *ask a friend to join!*

John Drury

Hon. Treasurer

Forthcoming Event

La Trobe's Birthday 2007

The La Trobe Society will celebrate La Trobe's 206th birthday with an evening picnic at La Trobe's Cottage on **Sunday 25 March** from 4.00 to 7.00 p.m.

All members and friends are welcome.

A marquee will be set up with tables and chairs for the comfort of those attending. Please bring along a picnic tea. Birthday cake and champagne for a toast will be provided.

Our guest speaker will be Mr Martin Purslow, newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

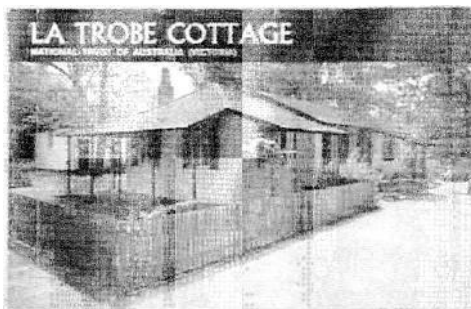
Martin will speak to us about his plans for La Trobe's Cottage and his hopes that members of the La Trobe Society might assist as volunteers to make this historic house a focal point for visitors.

DATE: Sunday 25 March 2007

TIME: 4.00 to 7.00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Martin Purslow, CEO, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

RSVP: Please telephone the Secretary, Dianne Reilly, on 96462112 and leave a message by Wednesday 21 March.



La Trobe Cottage
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) website

One Week in November 2006: A Roundup of Launches and Receptions

Book Launch

Dianne Reilly (ed.), *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian Notes 1839-1854*, Tarcoola Press in association with the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, November 2006. RRP Standard Edition \$650, Limited edition \$800.

On Monday 20 November at Government House, Melbourne, *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian Notes 1839-1854*, edited by Dr Dianne Reilly, was launched by the Governor, Professor David de Kretser AC, the La Trobe Society's patron.

The launch and reception at Government House began the week of celebrations scheduled to celebrate the unveiling of the Charles Joseph La Trobe statue. English academic Dr Charles La Trobe Blake, who had flown out from England, was the La Trobe Society's guest of honour for the occasion. Dr La Trobe Blake is a great-great-grandson of Charles Joseph La Trobe.

At the launch, Bruce Nixon of Tarcoola Press, was justifiably proud of, and excited by this splendid production, a companion volume to *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Landscapes and Sketches* which he published in 1999. The new volume contains La Trobe's diaries of the fifteen years he spent in Australia. They are reproduced in sequence and appear together in one volume for the first time. The text is complemented by 290 illustrations - many of them have never before been reproduced. This exquisite volume is available in a standard edition consisting of 396 pages, printed on cream archival quality paper and hand bound with deboss pictures. The 25 limited edition copies are hand-numbered and signed by the sponsor, W Bruce Nixon.

Copies may be obtained from Mr Bruce Nixon, Tarcoola Press Tarcoola on Yarra, 351 Glenview Road, Yarra Glen, 3775.

Unveiling of the La Trobe Statue

On Tuesday 21 November 2006, the statue of Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe was unveiled. The ceremony, presided over by the Governor, Professor David de Kretser, AC, took place on the forecourt of the State Library of Victoria.

The statue is the first bronze sculpture of La Trobe to be erected. Funds for the work of art were raised almost entirely from members of the La Trobe Society. The statue was commissioned by the La Trobe Society from noted sculptor, Peter Corlett, who got to know his subject by thorough research before embarking on the work. The sculpture is 1.3 life-size. Among Corlett's many works, he is well-known for his statues of 'Weary' Dunlop in St Kilda Road, and the Victorian Premiers located in Treasury Place, Melbourne.

Special guest at the unveiling was Dr Charles La Trobe Blake, who bears a remarkable resemblance to his great-greatgrandfather, although at six feet three inches, his forebear was rather taller.



Dr Charles La Trobe Blake and sculptor Peter Corlett
(Photograph: Susan Gordon-Brown).

A La Trobe in 21st Century Melbourne - Charles La Trobe Blake Down-under

Dr Charles La Trobe Blake, an academic from Liverpool Hope University in the United Kingdom, visited Melbourne from 17 to 25 November as a guest of the La Trobe Society and with the generous support of Emirates Airlines and Sofitel Melbourne. His main role was to attend the unveiling of the Statue of La Trobe at the State Library of Victoria on 21 November. He was also present for the launch on Monday 20 November of the new volume, *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian Notes 1839-1854* at Government House and a farewell reception in his honour at the home of Rodney Davidson's on Thursday 23 November. While in Melbourne, he was also hosted at La Trobe's Cottage and to lunch by the former CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Mr Stephen Hare.



Charles Blake La Trobe speaking at the reception following the unveiling of the La Trobe Statue and presentation of the Illumination on 21 November 2006 (photograph: Susan Gordon-Brown).

Illuminating La Trobe

To mark the presentation and donation by the La Trobe Society of the bronze sculpture of Charles Joseph La Trobe to the State Library of Victoria on 21 November 2006, an illuminated address was commissioned by the Society as a commemorative gift to the Library's Picture Collection. Treasurer, Mr John Drury, presented State Library of Victoria's Mr Shane Carmody, Director Collections and Access, with the address.

The talented calligrapher was David Harris, a paper conservator at the State Library, whose distinctive handcrafted manuscript as beautifully marked this significant occasion.

The State Library of Victoria has long had a special interest in collecting illuminated addresses which reveal aspects of Victorian history and those who created it. Examples of this art form of highly decorative calligraphy, lettering and pictorial illustration already held in the State collection range from a number in honour of various governors and their wives, to one address to 'His Honor [sic] Mr Justice Barry from Members of the Bar' in 1876 on his temporary departure from the colony, and a more recent address to Mr Joseph Kilmartin, Stationmaster at Camberwell Railway Station from his staff on the occasion of his retirement in 1900.

The illuminated address flourished as an essential ingredient of Victorian decorative art in the 19th century and the early 20th century as a popular way to mark a special occasion or an individual's outstanding service. They were hand-written using formal words of praise addressed to the recipient, and decorated very often by accomplished artists. This art form had its origins in the work of 'illuminators' as long ago as the 12th century when bright colours and precious metals to 'light up' the pages of a book. This highly ornate and delicate work reached its height in the 15th century when the invention of printing resulted in artists becoming less involved with the production of unique images for each book. With the Victorian illuminated address, something of the art of illuminator found a new avenue.

The personalization of illuminated addresses and, sometimes, illuminated albums was an important aspect of the art carefully considered by those commissioning an address. An illuminated address was given to the recipient at a suitable formal celebration in scroll form, as an album or as a framed panel, and they were often presented in elaborate boxes or folders. With the development of colour photography in the 20th century, photographic prints were sometimes used to illuminate or decorate the script. As is the case with this address, digital technology has been employed to reproduce in colour portraits of La Trobe and some of his own paintings of views of Victoria.

Dianne Reilly



Mr Shane Carmody, Director - Collections and Access, State Library of Victoria, receives the Illuminated Address from Mr John Drury, Treasurer, La Trobe Society. (Photograph: Susan Gordon Brown)

Celebratory Receptions

Continuing the week of celebrations, Dr La Trobe Blake was guest speaker at the State Library of Victoria Foundation Members' Annual Dinner held at the Savage Club on Wednesday 22 November. His interest in his family's history was evident in the title of his talk 'Unravelling the Rambler: my early life with the Governor'. An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the conviviality of the Savage Club, together with Dr Blake's thoughts on his forebear's Melbourne experience and influence on the State of Victoria, and reflections on his special involvement in the La Trobe celebrations.

Finally, on Thursday 23 November, to round off a full week of festivities, a reception for La Trobe Society members was held at the home of President Mr Rodney Davidson, AO, OBE, to farewell Dr Blake.

Creating the Mould - a Conversation with Peter Corlett



Sculptor, Peter Corlett (Picture: Susan Gordon-Brown)

Peter Corlett's involvement in the La Trobe Society dates back to the establishment of the Society in 2001 when he and his wife, Willys Keeble, took out membership NO.8.

With his large portfolio of sculptures of famous Australian characters, real and fictional, from 'Weary' Dunlop and Victorian Premiers to Kylie Minogue and Dame Edna Everage, I was keen to understand why Peter was enthusiastic about creating a sculpture of Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe. Following the launch of the statue, I asked Peter Corlett if I could talk to him about his approach to creating the sculpture and he kindly agreed to do so. The following article was gleaned in conversation with the sculptor about his history and *modus operandi*, for creating the statue that was unveiled on 21 November 2006.

Peter Corlett said that he didn't enjoy school too much. What he did enjoy was his mother showing him photographs of Michelangelo's work which entranced him; indeed, 'Michelangelo's heroic nudes remain forever at the back of his mind'.¹ He was also encouraged by his father to 'make things' and was able to do this by attending art school; he began to study at RMIT at the age of 15. There, he studied for a time under Lenton Parr, one of Australia's leading abstract sculptors.² However, though he described himself at that time as shy, Corlett appears to have had clear ambitions - he wanted to become an artist, and sculpture appealed to him more than any other artistic form. He abandoned RMIT in 1963 without graduating - he was keen to become a working artist and couldn't see the point in having a degree to prove it.

Perhaps his most notable early commission was the *Tarax Children's Play Sculpture*, 1968, commissioned by the National Gallery of Victoria and initially located in the Grimwade Gardens, National Gallery of Victoria, St Kilda Road. The sculpture is a collection of spheres with music which invites children to play, unconstrained. From 2003 it was relocated to the McClelland Gallery. This sculpture set him on his chosen course as a freelance

sculptor. *Peter Corlett Sculptures* is a study by Patrick Hutchings, of his work from 1965 to 1992 and highlights his various artistic phases. Some of Peter's well known biographical pieces, such as *Simpson and His Donkey*, are featured in this retrospective. The study assists the amateur to place this current work, Charles Joseph La Trobe, into Corlett's personal *oeuvre*.

But what of the man today and his desire to capture the essence of Charles Joseph La Trobe? Initial discussions with La Trobe Society's John Drury established the artistic questions that he wanted to answer within the parameters set by the Society. The commission called for a portrait in full official regalia. Corlett decided to attempt to illustrate the inherent Britishness of the subject and the times. A previous commission for a sculptural portrait in Tasmania of Ronald Campbell Gunn (1808-81), a personal friend of La Trobe, informed his study of La Trobe, as well as his ancestry, British inheritance and ideals.

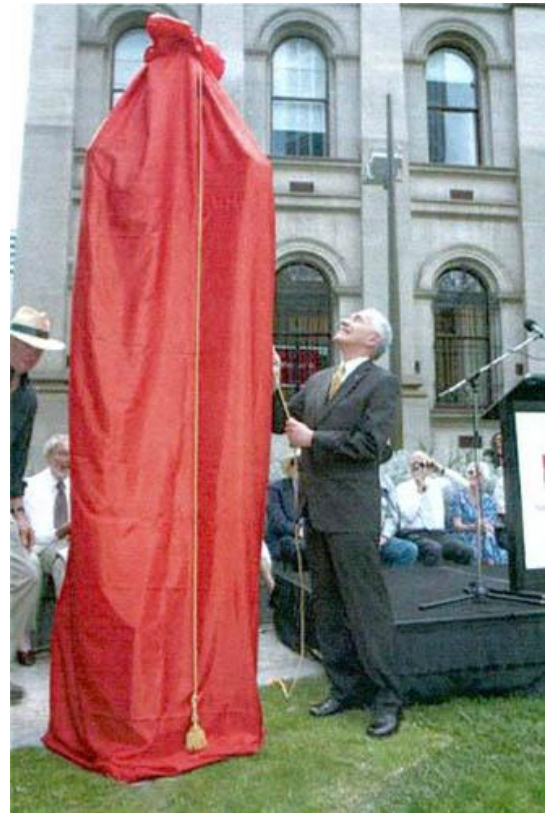
Research into La Trobe the man was fundamental to the commission. Peter spent months immersing himself in the period, reading texts of the time, finding sketches by La Trobe, making notes and preparing himself to begin a maquette of the figure he would eventually cast. In the end, there were few images of La Trobe he could rely on and he used his instincts and research and a process of distillation to draw the figure we have today. As he said, this meant 'finding out about La Trobe, getting into his psyche, fleshing him out and developing empathy' with the man. The well-known oil painting of La Trobe by Sir Francis Grant, RA, he felt, somewhat idealised, therefore he believed he had to engage more with the personality of the man - which meant more reading and research. Corlett found an official uniform and sword on which he could base his design. In his attempt to find other images of La Trobe he was assisted by Dianne Reilly and her knowledge of the State Library of Victoria's collections. At the same time, two fundamental aspects of the La Trobe commission had to be addressed. The first was the context: La Trobe's history prior to his appointment as Superintendent and, later, as Lieutenant-Governor. This included the history of Melbourne and Victoria up until 1839 and beyond. The second was the location at the State Library of Victoria: siting within this

¹Patrick Hutchings, *Peter Corlett Sculptures*, Deakin University Press, Geelong, 1992, p. 4.

²Loc cit.



Chairman of the Library Board of Victoria
the Hon. John Cain, opens proceedings



The Governor, Professor David de Kretser,
AC, prepares to unveil the statue



The Governor admires the statue
he has just unveiled



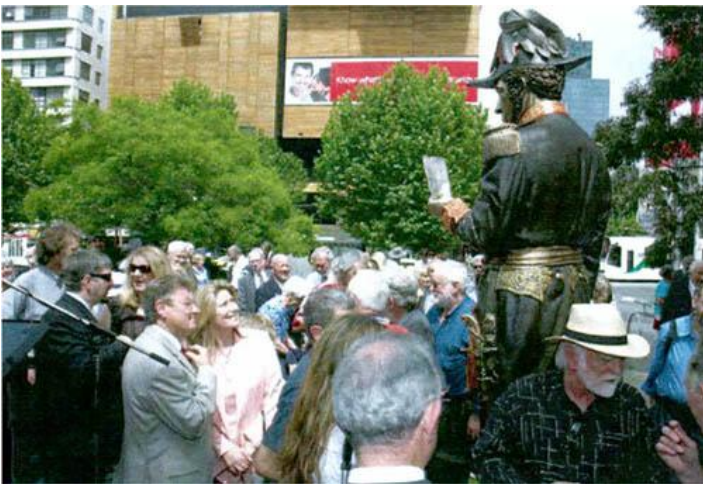
Chairman of the Library Board of Victoria,
the Hon. John Cain, and invited guests.



Members of the Royal Australian Navy Band sound the fanfare to welcome the Governor



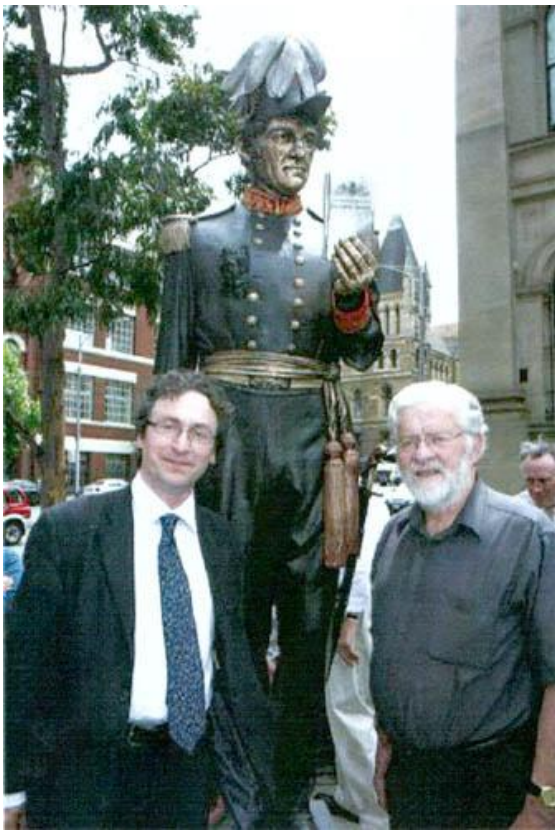
Group from left to right: Dr Dianne Reilly, Mr John Drury, the Governor, Professor David de Kretser, Dr Charles La Trobe Blake, Mr Peter Corlett, Mrs de Krestler, the Hon. John Cain



La Trobe Society Members, John & Cecily Adams among the guests admiring the statue.



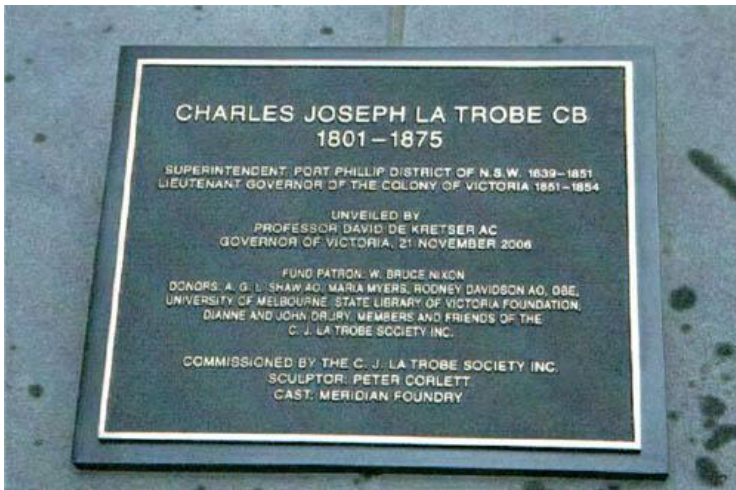
La Trobe Society members and guests mingle at the reception in the Queen's Hall, State Library of Victoria



Mr Bruce Nixon, Statue Fund Patron, with Dr Charles La Trobe Blake



La Trobe Society Treasurer, Mr John Drury, with sculptor Peter Corlett and his wife, Willys Keeble.



The plaque adjacent to the statue recording major donors and members of the La Trobe Society as contributors to the project.



The statue of Charles Joseph La Trobe.



To
The State Library
VICTORIA

Know that on Tuesday the twenty-first of November 2006 the members of THE LA TROBE SOCIETY do hereby present this bronze statue of Charles Joseph La Trobe, CB, to you and the people of Victoria. Unveiled by Professor David Jensen, AC, Governor of Victoria in the presence of various dignitaries including Dr Charles La Trobe Graham Blake, great-great-grandson of Charles Joseph La Trobe.



CJ La Trobe was Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales from 1835 to 1851 and upon Separation from New South Wales was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the new Colony of Victoria and he sailed with his family in 1854. This Peter Corlett sculpture is a tribute to the great leader of the state which did so much to establish the solid foundations upon which the state of Victoria is based. CJ



heritage precinct influenced his perspective. For example, the feathers on the cocked hat and the way they would blow naturally in the breeze were important to the siting of the statue.

Peter Corlett felt that the unveiling of the clay model at the cocktail party in his studio for La Trobe Society members in August was important to the creative process - issues raised on the night assisted in answering some of the questions he had posed for himself prior to commencing the project.

As we know, the process of commissioning, modelling, casting the clay, feedback, adjustments and final casting in bronze took most of 2006, culminating with the unveiling of the statue on 21 November. The result is an informed study and an intriguing figure to contemplate.

The artist, Peter Corlett, could now be described as a shy man. He is passionate about his work; he researched his subject thoroughly and developed a level of empathy which enabled him to achieve a magnificent result in recreating not only the likeness but something of the enigmatic character of Charles Joseph La Trobe. This we see in the superb statue now standing in the forecourt of the State Library of Victoria.

Fay Woodhouse

Renewed Interest in La Trobe's Cottage

National Trust Opens the Cottage during January and February 2007

With the aim of encouraging visitors to discover the historic venue of La Trobe's Cottage and learning about the contribution of Victoria's first governor to the State's early development, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) opened La Trobe's Cottage each Sunday afternoon in January and February 2007. Advertising the opening of the Cottage achieved surprising and very encouraging results - over 150 people visited the Cottage on Australia Day alone, when Government House was also open to the public.

Following the publication of her book, *La Trobe's Jolimont: A Walk Round My Garden* last year, La Trobe Society member, Helen Botham, took visitors on tours of the cottage and the garden, using the book to help them understand how the current cottage was but the nucleus of the whole estate and garden. The La Trobe Society jointly funded the production of the book with the Australian Garden History Society, and members of both societies assisted the National Trust in staffing the cottage during these two months.

The response from the public has been rewarding, with many people who knew very little about our first Lieutenant Governor enjoying the opportunity to visit a property with such significant heritage value. The response by more than 150 people to visit La Trobe's Cottage on Australia Day should encourage the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) to review their policy on opening the Cottage. Visitor numbers to the Cottage have been good and we can record that around 400 people visited the Cottage during January and February.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has plans to upgrade the presentation and interpretation of the cottage. It is working with the La Trobe Society, the Australian Garden History Society and the City of Melbourne to plan these changes, including the recreation of parts of the original garden around the cottage.

Any La Trobe Society members who would be interested in helping to staff the cottage at future openings, or working with other groups on the upgrade of the cottage, should phone Helen Botham on 9583 1114.

La Trobe Society Fellowship

The La Trobe Society, in association with the State Library of Victoria, will award a La Trobe Society Fellowship each year for the study of the colonial period of Victoria's history during Charles Joseph La Trobe's administration as Superintendent and Lieutenant-Governor (1839-54).

Fellowship requirements

The Fellowship is intended for the use of the resources of the State Library of Victoria. Subject to this general consideration, the award is to be used to research into and write about the colonial period of Victoria's history during Charles Joseph La Trobe's administration as Superintendent and Lieutenant-Governor (1839- 54). It may be extended to cover the period immediately before La Trobe's arrival, or the effects of his tenure after his departure.

In addition, successful applicants will be required to:

- take up the Fellowship in the 12-month period of July 2007 to June 2008
- make significant use of the resources of the State Library of Victoria
- spend at least 75 percent of their research time at the State Library of Victoria
- give a public presentation of the results of their creative activity or research and, where appropriate, deposit a copy of their work in the State Library
- give the State Library of Victoria the first opportunity to publish the results of the work undertaken, where appropriate or desirable.

Selection process

The Fellowship is awarded on the advice of an independent committee of the Library Board of Victoria. The selection of the Fellowship award winner is based on written application only. The application must include the names of three referees. The Fellowship will not be awarded to postgraduate students before

completion of examination requirements.

The Library's collections

The Library is Victoria's major reference and research library. Its collections, which reflect the cultural and social history of Victoria, are an incredibly rich resource for the La Trobe Society Fellow.

Its special collections - Australian Manuscripts, Pictures, Children's Literature, Rare Books, Maps and Newspapers are particularly important for researchers. Many rare and unusual artefacts of great historical significance are held in these collections, such as Ned Kelly's 'Jerilderie Letter' and suit of armour, John Batman's journal and a leaf of the Gutenberg Bible.

Application form

The application form for the La Trobe Society Fellowship 2007-08 is available at La Trobe Society Fellowship Application Form 2007. It should be saved to your computer's hard drive, completed electronically by typing into the answer fields, printed, signed and returned to the address given on the form. Completed applications must be received in hard copy by 5pm on Friday 30 March 2007.

More information

Dr Dianne Reilly
La Trobe Librarian
State Library of Victoria
328 Swanston Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Phone 03 8664 7182
Email dreilly@slv.vic.gov.au

For details go to the State Library of Victoria's website:

http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/prourams/research/Latrobe_fellowship_index.html

Books Books Books Books

Helen Botham, *La Trobe's Jolimont: A walk Round My Garden*

C J La Trobe Society & Australian Garden History Society, Melbourne, 2006. Special price for Society members \$25.00 available from the Secretary, La Trobe Society, PO Box 65, Port Melbourne, 3207.

Charles and Sophie La Trobe's Jolimont garden is the subject of sketches, drawings and paintings by Edward La Trobe Bateman (1816-97), George Alexander Gilbert (1815-?) and some by Charles Joseph La Trobe (1801-75) himself. However, for Australian Garden History Society sleuth, Helen Botham and the then National Trust of Australia (Victoria)'s Richard Heathcote, it was firstly the sketches by Edward La Trobe Bateman that fired their imagination. Secondly, they viewed the Richard Counsel 1853 survey of the Jolimont estate, *Map of Jolimont*, held at the State Library of Victoria. From then on, Helen and Richard were determined to attempt to locate and name the plant specimens illustrated in La Trobe Bateman's drawings.

The challenge of mapping and naming the specimens in the garden, provided the genesis of the beautifully illustrated book, *La Trobe's Jolimont: A walk round my Garden*. From the time Helen and Richard first collated their work as a Powerpoint presentation, it was clear that it would translate well into a rich and informative book. This book is the result of Helen's further research.

Attention to detail is obvious as the reader turns every page. Descriptions of the location, landscape and plant species are accompanied by illustrations and drawings. Additionally, relevant quotes from letters or diary entries enhance the location descriptions. Together these help to recreate in the reader's imagination, the garden Charles and Sophie La Trobe were so passionate about.

All 22 of Edward La Trobe Bateman's 1853 set of sketches of Jolimont, held in the State Library of Victoria, have been reproduced together here for the very first time. Each section of the garden is highlighted, with inset maps and sketches of the location and narrative providing the virtual tour of the garden.

The encroachment of factories and houses that surrounded the Cottage prior to its removal to its first location adjacent to the Royal Botanic Gardens is highlighted by the inclusion in the book of historic photographs. Although the date is unclear, of particular interest is the photograph of the Cottage which, from the turn of the century, abutted the Bedggood shoe factory. The fact that Edna Walling designed the grounds adjoining the factory may not be well known, and a 1932 drawing of her design is also included here. One photograph of the Cottage is testament to the state of disrepair the cottage fell into prior to its first move in the 1950s. Of great interest too, is the 1865 Bagot plan of subdivision of the Jolimont estate; the subdivision continued until the end of the 19th century. Melburnians also will appreciate the 1931 aerial photograph of the MCG highlighting the Jolimont estate.

The book concludes with contemporary photographs of La Trobe Cottage, accompanied by two beautiful maps indicating its original and current locations. On the final page of the book, after enjoying an informative virtual tour of the 19th century garden, the journey concludes with two images of the Cottage. One is a contemporary view in its Dallas Brooks Drive setting, placed side by side with an Edward La Trobe Bateman sketch. Produced in black and white, the placement of this sketch emphasises the original and the contemporary version of the Cottage. It is a fitting, thought-provoking conclusion to the book.

The production of this beautiful coffee table book was a collaborative effort. Great care and attention to detail is exhibited by the author, Helen Botham, editor, Dianne Reilly, and designer, Nutshell Graphics. The layout, paper and production are of the highest standard and compliment the impeccable research and referencing throughout.

This book has enormous general appeal to anyone interested in garden history and Melbourne's colonial era, and it is a great resource and excellent addition to the growing canon of the study of early Melbourne.

Fay Woodhouse

Ray Henderson, *From Jolimont to Yering*

Roundabout Publishing, Kilsyth, 2006, rrp \$125.00. For members of the La Trobe Society \$109.00 includes postage from the Secretary, PO Box 65, Port Melbourne 3202.

This book traces the story of the earliest pioneering Swiss vigneron who emigrated to Australia in the 1850s; it tells of their journeys from Europe and their ultimate decision to settle in what is now known as the Yarra Valley of Victoria. Fundamental to their decision to journey to Australia was the encouragement by Victoria's then Superintendent, later first Lieutenant Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe and his Swiss wife, Sophie (nee Montmollin). The title, *From Jolimont to Yering*, aptly captures the extent of their journey, and hints at the bachelor vigneron's excitement of discovering the fabulous volcanic soils of the Port Phillip District which is now renowned as one of Australia's premier wine making districts.

From Jolimont to Yering is very much a family history and Henderson's passion for genealogy is obvious from the first pages of this book. Genealogical searches have resulted in the documentation of the family trees of the major Swiss families he discusses. As well as the family backgrounds of the major players, he provides an historical context to the arrival of the Swiss vigneron. Henderson enjoys

retelling and interpreting the early history of the Port Phillip District - from the arrival of the overlanders from New South Wales and overstraiters from Van Diemen's Land, the explorations by Batman and Fawkner, the opening up of the Port Phillip District, the naming of Melbourne and the surveys of Russell and Hoddle. This preamble sets the scene for the *dramatis personae* who dominate the story.

The first Swiss vigneron was James Henry Dardel, the Belperroud brothers, Jean d'Ostervald, Frederic Guillaume de Pury, Alolphe de Meuron and Hubert de Castella, and their family trees are introduced in the early chapters of the book. Of these families, perhaps the descendants of the de Castella family are most readily associated with early winemakers and remain a familiar name to Australian wine lovers.

Of great interest to Henderson, of course, are his forebears, the Leuba family, whose association with Neuchatel dates back to 1429; they arrived in Victoria in 1854. The lengthy and complex family tree is complemented by a number of beautiful images identifying members of the family. Perhaps the *piece de resistance* for Henderson is the collage of the Montmollin, Ostervald, La Trobe and Leuba families, indicating the connections between the families. To the family members descended from the Leubas who read this book, this document will prove a great resource. To the reader who is not a family member, this table is also a great resource and makes clear the intersection between the lives of these important families and their presence in Victoria.

One of the book's great achievements is the range of rare images collected together in one place. The maps, plans, lithographs, advertisements, posters, early photographs and those taken more recently, are truly remarkable. Although their date, origin or source is rarely documented, they provide a valuable visual record of the personalities, and aid the interpretation of the history which Henderson explores.

From Jolimont to Yering also documents the re-emergence of the Yarra Valley wine industry in the 20th century. This resurgence began in the late 1970s, gained momentum in the 1980s and 1990s, and continues today.

The lives, times and histories of the major players and their vineyards are told in words and accompanied by splendid photographs of the estates, past and present. Sadly, throughout the book the majority of the photographs is undated, nor is this information noted in the reference section. As the captions give little away, the reader is left to guess whether a photograph of Paul de Castilla's late 1850s winery is an historic or contemporary image (they are so well reproduced). I would also have been very interested to know the date of the photograph of Dame Nellie Melba with her daughter-in-law, most likely taken at *Coombe Cottage*, and the date of the photograph of the drawing room at *Chateau Yering*, for example. While known to the author, from an historian's point of view, these details would have provided greater insight and the ability to connect the information and images to the wider themes and stories of places, families and individuals embraced by the writer. Similarly, careful referencing of original quotations from family members or secondary sources would have greatly enhanced the work, giving some aspects of its content greater impact.

While the first 314 pages of the book trace the early origins of the winemaking families, the final chapters (13-15) are devoted to 20th century winemaking in the Yarra Valley. As the reader turns the page, new names, this time including Italian immigrants, emerge to tell the story of a regeneration of winemaking. Here the colourful and often effervescent stories of *St Hubert's*, *Yerinberg*, *Fergusons Winery*, *Yarra Yering*, *Chateau Yarrinya*, *Seville Estate*, *De Bortoli*, *Yarra Burn*, *Diamond Valley*, *Lillydale*, *Yarra Ridge*, *Tarra Warra*, and many more wineries, all bubble to the surface. Again, they are accompanied by compelling images of well-known personalities (James Halliday, Deen de Bortoli, Mac McWilliam, Bailey Carrodus) and picture-postcard images of the Yarra Valley - making this a truly splendid coffee-table publication. To conclude his history, Henderson explores possibilities for the future of winemaking in the Yarra Valley in an increasingly global economy.

From Jolimont to Yering is interesting and informative over 361 pages (excluding Footnotes and References) and will provide

a great resource to those researching the district and its winemakers. While written as a family history, and adopting the style of genealogists to be wide-ranging and thorough in its detailed history of all family dynasties, I felt the book could have been sharpened by judicious editing to eliminate the repetition which at times detracts from the main threads of the book. However, there is no doubt that *From Jolimont to Yering* has been a ten year labour of love for Ray Henderson, and the limited edition of this volume represents the fruits of his labours.

Fay Woodhouse

Unravelling La Trobe's *Australian Notes*

In the following essay, Dr Dianne Reilly provides the context for the La Trobe diaries published as *Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian Notes 1839-1854*, Tarcoola Press in association with the State Library of Victoria, 2006.

The Inter-relationship of La Trobe's Diaries

In the nineteenth century, it was common practice for men and women to document their lives by keeping a diary, a record of the daily happenings in their lives. Charles Joseph La Trobe was no exception. Walking tours in England in the company of friends and his brothers, and every visit he paid to the continent, were described in his journals. His travel diaries resulted in the publication of four books of adventures before he left for Australia.

La Trobe was assiduous in noting every detail of the world around him wherever he travelled, and he continued to record his activities for the next fifteen years. The momentous journey he and his family made from England to Australia on the other side of the world was carefully recorded in

his notebooks from the day of his departure from London until he arrived at Port Phillip on 1 October 1839. Nor was the habit of a lifetime broken by the weight of his responsibilities in this often turbulent colony. In his diary, he described his activities in Australia, the places he visited and the people he met until that day, nearly fifteen years later, when his term of office was over and he departed Australian shores forever. With the exception of La Trobe's New South Wales diary, and his account of his first days at Port Phillip, the journals form part of the 'La Trobe Archive' preserved in the Australian Manuscripts Collection at the State Library of Victoria.

The diaries are transcripts of the various journals still in existence which were kept by La Trobe. The volume which describes his voyage from England to Sydney from 24 March to 24 July 1839 was apparently recorded in an exercise book belonging to his daughter, Agnes Louisa La Trobe, and this is now missing. La Trobe notes as a preface to his New South Wales journal 'For diary of Voyage from England from 24th March to 24th July, see Text Book of ALL 1839'. However, his 'Australian Notes 1839-1854' records rather sketchily some details of this long journey of 123 days on board the *Fergusson*.

La Trobe's **New South Wales diary** of 1839 describes the events from his arrival in Sydney on 25 July when he sent in his credentials to the Governor, Sir George Gipps, until six weeks later when he and his family embarked on the *Pyramus* and sailed for Port Phillip on 17 September. This diary is held by the Archives de l'Etat in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where much La Trobe memorabilia is housed. A copy of this diary forms part of the 'La Trobe Neuchâtel Archive' held in the Australian Manuscripts Collection of the State Library of Victoria.

The Public Record Office, Victoria is the custodian of La Trobe's first **Port Phillip diary** which documents his first fifty days on duty as Superintendent. This describes his memorable arrival at Liardet's Beach, now Port Melbourne, on 1 October 1839, and the delay caused by 'rough weather' until he and his family could be rowed ashore on Thursday 3 October for the official welcome from the inhabitants of Melbourne. It goes on to record the daily calls of 'divers gentleman' such as Foster Fyans, Robert Hoddle, William Lonsdale, George Augustus Robinson and the Henty brothers on the new administrator.

La Trobe's shipboard diary of the two weeks spent on board the *Pyramus* en route to Melbourne begins his '**Australia: Memoranda of Journeys, Excursions and Absences, 1839-1854**'. This long narrative was faithfully compiled throughout his time in Australia, and would have formed the basis of his proposed history of the colony of Port Phillip, had not his encroaching blindness prevented its achievement. As a foreword to this volume, added at his residence at Addington Vale in England in August 1856, he noted:

I find that I kept no distinct journals of my various Australian Excursions from my arrival in Port Phillip in 1839, until early in 1845, from which date I have pretty correct diaries.

However, the events described in 'Australia: Memoranda of Journeys, Excursions and Absences, 1839-1854' were amplified in the two volumes of 'Australia Notes, 1839-1854' which 'were copied by E.S.L.T.', Eleanora Sophia La Trobe, Charles Joseph's second daughter, in 1874-1875, not long before his death in 1875. These notes give a reasonably comprehensive and personal account of La Trobe's activities over nearly fifteen years in the colony.

At the same time as he was compiling his private 'Memoranda', La Trobe was maintaining a complete record of his administrative activities in his **'Memoranda of Official Correspondences. Port Phillip, 1839 1851'**, which concluded when he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria. This describes the contents of all incoming mail, drafts of some proclamations, reports to the Colonial Secretary in Sydney, and summaries of his own official communications, including the appointment of government officials, during this period. It is occasionally interspersed with personal comments, such as his obvious triumph at having personally blazed a trail to Cape Otway in 1846, and notes about an eclipse of the sun and the 'Black Thursday' bushfire in 1851.

The diaries compiled by La Trobe from 24 March 1839 to 5 May 1854 are produced in sequence in the pages of this book, and appear in print together for the very first time as a record of La Trobe's connection with Australia. Their value lies in the fact that they provide data otherwise unrecorded of the life of this administrator. In addition, they reflect La Trobe's reactions to his posting and to those he met during his nearly fifteen years in Australia, and they reveal something of the man himself, giving candid insights into his attitudes and manner. Above all, they reveal La Trobe's predominant characteristics, instilled in him from his earliest years, which informed his administration of the colony.

Dianne Reilly