

MAKE CONTACT
WITH THE
VILLA FORTUNA
ACTION GROUP

You can email us on

info@villafortuna.org.au

OR

Write to PO Box 2392

Bendigo VIC. 3554



Fortuna Villa



**Villa Fortuna
Action Group Inc.**

P.O. Box 2392 Bendigo Mail Centre VIC. 3554
Victoria AUSTRALIA

*Villa Fortuna
Action Group*

*Some basic
Information
about the
situation of
Fortuna Villa*



Our goal: A viable publicly-accessible
venue for future generations of Australians.
incorporating

Education	Arts
Culture	Heritage
History	Accommodation

Historical Background

Located on the New Chum Reef of Victoria Hill, 'Fortuna Villa' was built in 1856 by the Ballerstedt family. Along with the '180' gold mine, the property was purchased in 1871 by George Lansell, a successful mining investor.

During the 1870s, Lansell embarked on a program of extensions and modifications to the house and grounds and this continued over a period of 40 years. It was transformed into a unique and exuberant expression on a grand scale, demonstrating several different architectural styles.



The old Fortuna gardens

From 1942 the property has been owned and operated by the Commonwealth Department of Defence for its major cartographic operations. During this custodianship several important restoration projects were undertaken and the building was maintained in good order. Mapping activity ceased at the site in 2008

The Commonwealth is presently in the process of disposing of the unused property..

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Under the provisions of the property disposal process, there exists the opportunity for entities such as State and/or local Municipal governments to seek a 'Priority Sale' following a submission to the Commonwealth of a viable and beneficial future use of the site.

The Villa Fortuna Action Group formulated a 20-page 'Business Concept' document outlining its proposal for future use of the site. This document, directed to the City Council in 2009, is still available for viewing on:

www.villafortuna.org.au (go to 'Vision' on top menu and scroll down for pdf document).

Council of the City of Greater Bendigo resolved that it was not solely able to take over the future management. However, it has subsequently indicated that in conjunction with strong support from the State government, it would consider involvement, since Fortuna is considered a very important part of Bendigo's heritage.

LOOKING AHEAD

Following the election of the Liberal government the issue of Fortuna needs to be taken up by the current Baillieu government through resuming negotiations with the Federal government (and the City of Greater Bendigo).

There is some sense of urgency in formulating and submitting a plan as there is no obligation for the Federal government to sell the property

on the 'Priority Sale' basis.– it has the legislative scope to place Fortuna on the open market for general sale.

The Villa Fortuna Action Group has indicated its strong desire to work co-operatively with the present government and the City to promote Fortuna as a venue that will have a viable future with a national prominence in tourism, the arts and heritage.

YOU CAN HELP!

* Make your views known to the State government by e-mailing Damian Drum, MLC.

damian.drum@parliament.vic.gov.au

*Contact the City of Greater Bendigo by e-mailing City Futures Director, Stan Liacos: s.liacos@bendigo.vic.gov.au

*Write to the Editor of newspapers.

* Talk to as many people as possible about the critical stage in this icon's future.

* Join the VFAG for \$20 (\$10 Joining +\$10 annual membership – details online).

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