

THE ARMY Survey Regiment is history . . . literally.

Bendigo resident Valerie Lovejoy is researching and writing The History of the Army Survey Regiment as part of her Masters of Arts Degree at La Trobe University.

Ms Lovejoy said she jumped at the offer from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association to write about the Army Regiment.

"Fortuna is an important part of Bendigo's history I have always been interested in," Ms Lovejoy said.

And there has been no shortage of support for the book from the Bendigo community. Ms Lovejoy said about \$19,000 has been donated to writing and publishing the book.

Books writes new chapter in history

She received a scholarship from the survey association towards writing her thesis. A community grant of \$3000 was given by the City of Greater Bendigo and the Army's Officer's, Sergeant's and Soldier's mess' provided funding.

Ms Lovejoy said she sent out questionnaires to people who were involved with the regiment as part of her research and has conducted more than 80 interviews.

Each person she interviewed had a sense of enthusiasm towards their job at the survey regiment, she said.

Everyone was very passionate about the friendships made and spoke of their memories with pride.

Ex-Fortuna Survey Association spokesman Gary Warnest said the regiment was important historically to Bendigo and Australia.

Mr Warnest said it was

surprising how the development of the country followed mapping.

He said Bendigo's Survey Regiment took up residence at Fortuna on June 11, 1942, and was the largest unit within the surveying corps.

He said the book would provide a comprehensive history of the regiment for members of the corps and the public.

City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Barry Ackerman will launch the writing of the History of the Army Survey Regiment at Fortuna tonight.

Mr Warnest said he anticipate the book would be completed by March 1999.

— SUSAN TURPIE