

Landmark opens doors

By SUSAN TURPIE

WHEN the Army Survey Regiment marched out of Lansell's Fortuna, many people thought the doors closed behind them for good.

In fact it's quite the opposite.

Fortuna is open to the public through weekly guided tours.

People wanting to satisfy their curiosity of Lansell's Fortuna can be walked through history by tour guide Mal Fosters.

Mr Fosters said he was concerned people thought Fortuna was closed and not accessible to the public.

"The numbers for tours dropped off after the army left," he said.

Tourist numbers needed to increase because funding raised by the tours was used for the house's restoration and upkeep, Mr Fosters said.

He said there were many projects at Fortuna which had been put on hold because of a lack of funds.

artefacts remained in storage until money was raised to put them in their rightful place.

Furniture sold at auction in 1934 when the Lansell family vacated the house, has gradually been bought-back by the Regiment and Lansell Family members.

However, there was still plenty to see at Fortuna, Mr Fosters said.

Luxurious

Luxurious marble baths, stained-glass windows, imposing staircases and intricate works on ceilings were just a few examples of George Lansell's exquisite taste, he said.

Mr Fosters said there was a piece of Bendigo's history behind every "nook and cranny" at Fortuna.

The tours run each Sunday from 1pm to 3pm.

Group bookings and other tour times can be arranged by phoning in Pat Graham on 5442 0210.