

# Lansell family reunion

ALMOST 300 descendants of one of Bendigo's most historic families converged in town on the weekend for a family reunion.

George Lansell, known as the quartz king of Bendigo, moved here during the gold rush becoming one of the country's most successful goldmine owners.

He set up home in Fortuna in 1871 where the Lansell family lived until 1935.

On Saturday members of the Lansell clan from across the globe visited Bendigo to celebrate the family's prominent history.

The reunion was spurred by Wendy Caldwell who visited Fortuna last year.

After months of planning and searches for family members the reunion was organised.

The family was officially welcomed by City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Barry Ackerman on Saturday night at a dinner at the All Seasons International Hotel with 250 members attending.

"The Lansell family have featured predominantly throughout Bendigo's colorful history, and it's wonderful that so many of the Lansell family have returned to the town where it all began over 100 years ago," Cr Ackerman said.

Cr Ackerman said Mr Lansell was not only one of the founding fathers of Bendigo but he was also a very generous and extremely successful business man as well.

"George generously provided financial assistance for the construction of some of Bendigo's most notable landmarks including the famous Alexandra Fountain and the Rosiland Park Cascades which have only recently been restored."

Mr Lansell even donated the pendent which is part of the mayoral chain, Cr Ackerman said.

Yesterday's barbecue was the biggest family gathering held at Fortuna since it was in its prime 100 years ago.

Lansell family historian Beverley Carter said yesterday's luncheon was a "family thing" where children and parents could catch up with old and new relatives.

The oldest family member attending was Stanley Budds, grandson of George's sister Susan Budds, nee Lansell.

Stanley said he could remember regularly visiting Fortuna when he was a teenager.