

LAST week's article about the future of Fortuna is helpful in bringing the issues to the forefront for the community and its city council to consider carefully.

Recognising Fortuna's significance within a national context, being patient to obtain the right outcome and supporting a "nothing is too hard - anything is achievable" approach are all hitting the nail on the head.

The Villa Fortuna Action

Group is a community group that certainly does not see itself as promoting the site to be used as an artists' retreat.

Rather, a multi-use proposal for Fortuna is being developed.

Bendigo city councillors have recently visited the property and have acknowledged publicly that it is in surprisingly good condition.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth Government through the Defence Depart-

ment has a strong commitment to heritage values and will be conducting comprehensive works prior to it passing into new ownership.

Staged development and the obtaining of initial seed funding are not unknown processes in producing significant community outcomes.

With entrepreneurial policy and subsequent management there can be economic viability as shown by the success of Abbotsford Convent.

Let us not be hasty in putting labels like 'fanciful', 'romantic', 'totally unrealistic' and mega-dollar scare tickets on any well-considered and well-documented idea that grows out of a community vision for a potential use of the Fortuna site.

After all, isn't being patient and open-minded with one another's ideas supposed to be the way to go?

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