

## Villa should be a gift for Bendigo

THE beautiful and historic Fortuna has immense potential for Bendigo (*Bendigo Weekly*, July 25).

I would suggest that the federal government be approached to "gift" the building to the people of Bendigo.

It has had the use of Fortuna for a very long time and this would be a highly appropriate cultural gesture.

Mr Carter in saying that, "the community needed to be made aware of the extent of the work needed to make the building usable again", seems to suggest that the building is quite run down and has not been well looked after.

If this is so, then the government has some responsibility in its restoration.

Personally, I would not like to see Fortuna become a medical establishment.

As a young girl growing up in Bendigo, I longed to visit the beautiful place, and now as an aging woman, I still long to visit it.

It would be such a thrill to see Fortuna and its grounds open to the public as a place of culture and relaxation.

*Brenda Stevens-Chambers,  
Kyneton.*