

Fortuna support praised

VILLA Fortuna Action Group president Merle Hall has welcomed the the positive response received from candidates standing for council in this month's elections towards the historic property's future.

Villa Fortuna Action Group contacted prospective councillors late last month, outlining the group's proposal for the future of the Fortuna site, and inviting responses.

"We are greatly encouraged by the number of candidates who have responded, and by the quality of their comments," Mrs Hall said.

"Many candidates have clearly given this matter a great deal of thought, and are very excited about the possibilities.

"We look forward to presenting our detailed business concept to Council in the near future."

Villa Fortuna Action Group is a community organisation committed to the continued public ownership of Bendigo's historic Fortuna Villa.

It proposes that the City of Greater Bendigo take up the op-

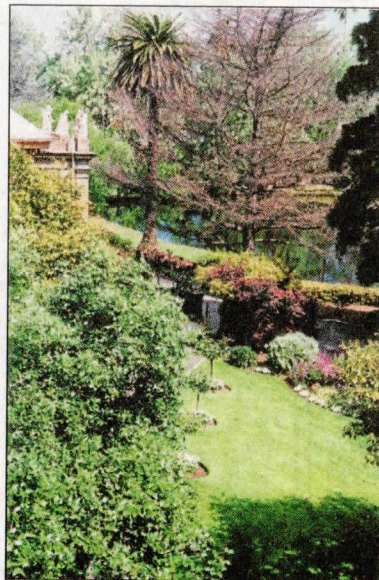


HISTORIC: Council candidates have been asked for their stance on Fortuna Villa.

tion of acquiring Fortuna, in accordance with the Commonwealth Government's Priority Sale at Concessional Rates guidelines, and that, under council ownership, the property be developed as an arts/

cultural/heritage centre, modelled on successful, self-sustaining projects established in similar historic properties elsewhere.

Fortuna had been the home of the Australian Army's map making



Picture: JULIAN PROWD

unit until recently, when the Defence Imagery Geospatial Organisation moved to state of the art purpose built premises adjacent to the Multi User Depot in Atlas Road, Junortoun.