

The end of an era – *Fortuna tours to close*

After 20 years, conducted tours of Fortuna, the famous mansion of Bendigo's 'Quartz King' George Lansell, are to cease.

Sunday tours and Devonshire teas at the Fortuna Villa will come to a close as the husband and wife team of Malcolm and Hayden Beer, who have been conducting the tours, are moving away from Bendigo.

Hayden, who worked at Fortuna with both the Army and the Defence Topographic Agency, has been running the tours for the past four and a half years in conjunction with the contract to run the canteen.

The position that Hayden took up included running the canteen during week days and running tours of the home, in conjunction with Devonshire teas, on the weekends.

"I decided to stick with the Devonshire teas, and my husband, Malcolm, educated himself on the building and the Lansell family in order to conduct the tours".

Malcolm gathered a lot of information about the Lansell family and the building at a Lansell family



reunion, where he meets many members of the family.

Hayden said the couple felt a little sad that the tours are coming to a close, "but there has not been the demand for them over the last six months. A lack of public interest, and low numbers, along with our departure from Bendigo, has meant that the Defence Topographic Agency will no longer be holding them," she said.

The last available tour of Fortuna is Sunday November 12. Visitors will be treated to a two-hour tour of the home and a Devonshire tea, in either the original dining room, or stateroom, for the price of \$11. For further information or bookings contact Pat Graham on 5442 0210