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## Fortuna Still in the Spot Light

Recently the LaTrobe University Alumni hosted a lecture in its View Street Bendigo Gallery entitled "The Changing Fortunes of Fortuna Villa" The Theatre was full, showing that there is still significant Bendigo interest in the Villa.



The two presenters were local historian Dr Gary Hill and Paul Banks the current owner of Fortuna Villa.

Dr Gary Hill is currently a Heritage Consultant in Bendigo and has recently completed a conservation management plan for Fortuna. Gary began the presentation with a journey through Fortuna's colourful history, including the people and the organisations that have called it home over the past 160 years.

Paul Banks the Managing Director of Regional Reach Australia - Australia's largest regionally based advertising agency is a passionate supporter of regional Australia and what it has to offer. Paul then outlined the current and future plans for the development of the Fortuna site and his vision for the mansion.

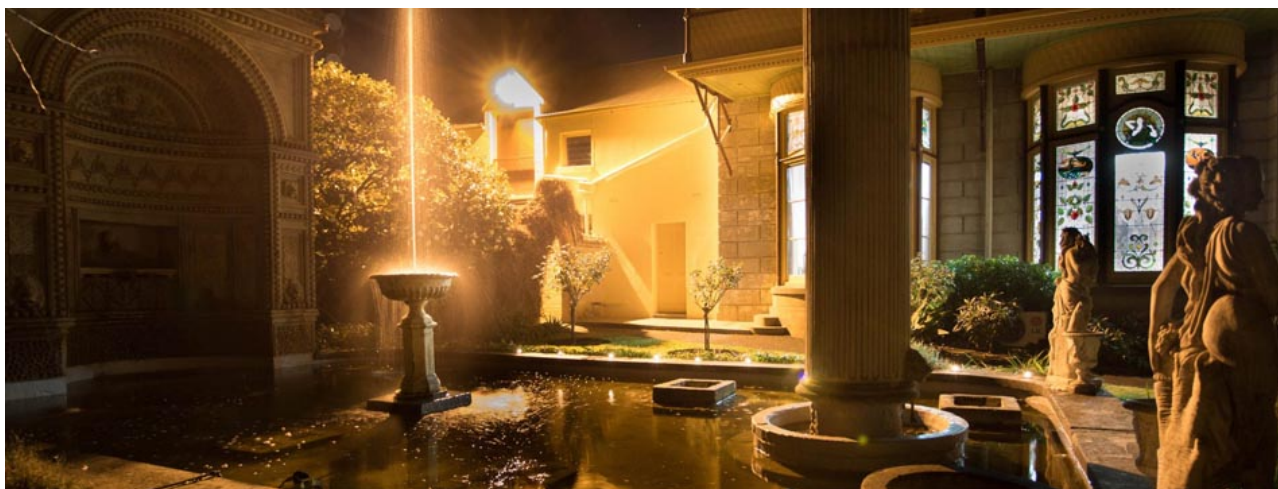
As well as being a dedicated business professional in the areas of property development, advertising, communications and media Paul is a keen sportsman.

Paul represented Australia in the UK in 1990 in eventing and again in 1994 in China in show jumping. He is a registered race horse trainer with Racing Victoria and has trained over 100 winners. Paul recently took over as head trainer of the Cloud 9 racing empire.

Owner Paul Banks has been working to restore the manor since purchasing it in 2013, and said that while more than half of its 70 rooms had now been restored, there was still plenty of work to be done.

"There's still a lot of rooms to do but we're well over half way internally – but the thing is, when you finish, guess what, you've got to start again," he said.

He showed slides of the impressive restoration work that has already been completed.



He is well on the way to restoring the iconic Pompei Fountain.

"We're working on the Roman baths now, bringing them back to life and that'll be ready by summer and that's pretty exciting – it's already got water in it courtesy of the rain from the other day."

Paul has just completed the lacework railing on the third floor balcony by replacing the existing Defence barriers. "We decided to copy the lacework from the second level and basically copy it and make it the legal height of over a metre," he said.

"It's a complete replica of what was already there, we've taken down every piece of lace work and we've powder coated and sandblasted it.

Mr Banks thanked his small team of dedicated staff as well as the local businesses that contributed to the restoration for their hard work.



The third floor railing has now been totally replaced with lacework to match the second floor  
Paul reminded the audience that “High Tea Tours” are available through the Villa, details below:.

**MORNING AND AFTERNOON FORTUNA TOURS:**

MORNING TOURS include an indulgent array of local produce as part of a high tea. AFTERNOON TOURS include local wine and craft beer.

Be entertained by a string quartet, followed by an extensive tour of Fortuna Villa and it’s surrounds.  
Duration is approximately 3 hours.

**COST**

\$80 per person, \$70 for pensioners

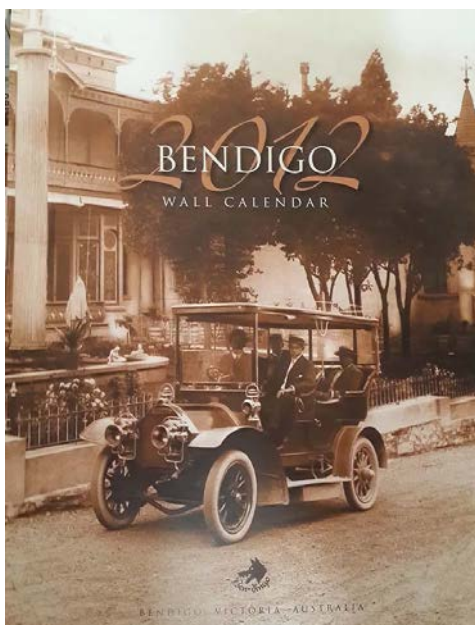
**WHEN**

Morning and afternoon tours are usually available on the last weekend of each month:

July 30 & 31, Aug 27 & 28, Sept 24 & 25, Oct 29 & 30, Nov 26 & 27, Dec 17 & 18.

**To book: Go to: [www.bendigotourism.com/fortuna-villa-high-tea-and-tours](http://www.bendigotourism.com/fortuna-villa-high-tea-and-tours) – Bookings are essential.**

**Limited spaces.**



One of the classic Fortuna photos spotted on an old calendar.

## Vale



**36283/ 51788 SGT William Malcolm (Bill) FORREST** served from 1-Jan-1951 to 22-Aug-1975

Bill passed away at the Joan Pinder Nursing Home Bendigo on September 14, 2016. Aged 82 years Dearly loved Husband of Yvonne. Loving Father of Jennifer (Alford), Bruce (dec.), and Peter.

## William Forrest farewelled

It was reported in the Bendigo Advertiser by Chris Pedler with Pictures by Glenn Daniels.



**HONOURED:** William Forrest's son Peter Forrest, wife Yvonne Forrest and daughter Jenny Alford received flags from the Kangaroo Flat RSL's Bill Hosking.

**COUPLE:** Mr Forrest with his wife Yvonne Forrest. The pair met at a dance in Bendigo when Mr Forrest was undertaking army training.





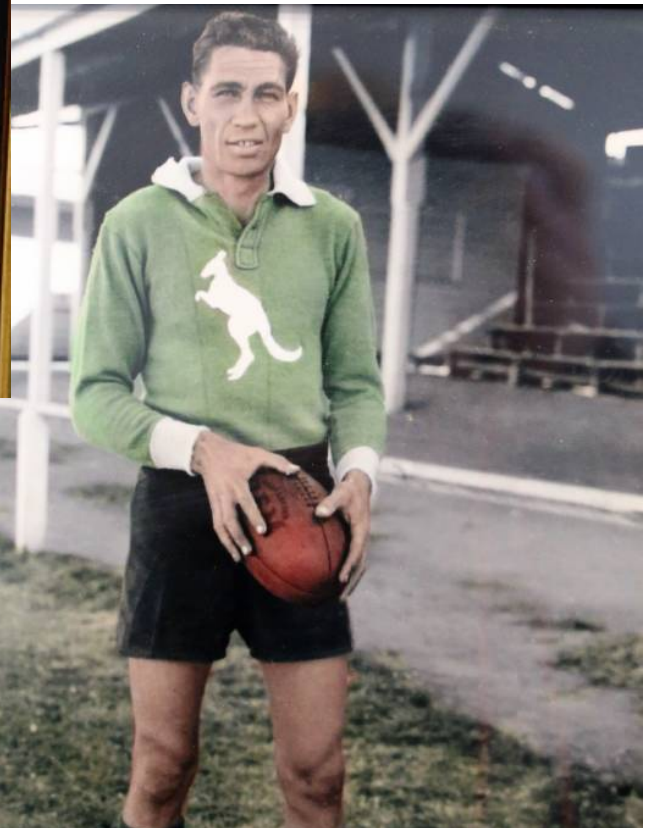
Family man, Footballer, War hero, Good knockabout bloke.

That is how Kangaroo Flat man William Forrest was remembered at his memorial service yesterday.

More than 100 people attended the service at the Windemere Hotel for Mr Forrest who passed away last Wednesday.

Mr Forrest was a sergeant with the Army and his daughter, Jenny Alford, said he would have been happy to see so many people there for him.

“He would be chuffed and rapt to think we were all having a beer with him right now,” she said.



Mr Forrest played football for North Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat, Golden Square and Fortuna.

“He had done really well for the life he had. He was a pretty good sportsman as well as a knockaround bloke.



“He was someone who was fair dinkum and could see through the bullsh\*t. He called a spade a spade and was a hard working fellow.”

After undertaking basic training in Puckapunyal he served in Korea, Malaya and Borneo as well as acting as a peacekeeper in Japan.

“The people who are here today are just a small sample of the people who loved him.”

Five people from Fortuna Days were represented at the gathering.

Bill in recent years was seen about Kangaroo Flat in his red scooter

Family and friends of Joyce Gray, recently joined her to help celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Brougham Arms.

Joyce served for many years in the Survey Corps Army Reserve. When not travelling Australia in her Mercedes motor home she now often appears at the Bendigo RSL sheds where she is more often seen talking rather than practicing any of her other skills.



### Items for Sale



The Ex Fortuna Survey Association 100th Anniversary USB drives that were circulated at the Anniversary Dinner are still available. The ones at the dinner contained the photos from the Unit Photo albums and the faces of the Corps. We have now added the photos of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend to those USB now on sale. USB are \$10.



100th Anniversary miniature badges are also still available at \$10.

Postage for all items will be extra or they can be picked up if you are in the area. Contact the secretary if you are after any of these items.

### **2016 AGM**

**Ex Fortuna Friday and Christmas Drinks for November will be held on Friday 11 November 2016** at the Goldmines Hotel starting at 1700hrs. The Ex Fortuna Survey Association AGM will be held in conjunction with the get together starting at 1730hrs (5:30pm for those that have forgotten).

This will only be a short meeting, so please come along even for a short while to enjoy the company and ensure that we have enough numbers for a quorum. Bar snacks provided and a bistro meal is available for anyone wishing to stay on after the meeting.

There will be no first Friday drinks in December



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Volume 2 Issue 40



# "Magna Carta"

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EX FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC**