

CHINA

The Chinese community of Greater Bendigo contributes enormously to the regions tourism industry and is an integral part of the Easter Fair celebrations. But the Chinese were not always a welcome addition to the region or in fact the Colony.

In 1855 the Victorian Government passed the *Chinese Restriction Act* which was designed to reduce the number of Chinese immigrants entering Australia. Under this Act a ship arriving in Victoria could carry only one Chinese passenger for every 10 tonnes of registered tonnage. Further, the captain of the ship had to pay an entrance fee of £10 for every Chinese passenger aboard. In 1861, the New South Wales parliament passed a similar Act. These Acts stopped the inflow of Chinese immigrants. New South Wales repealed the Act in 1867 when Chinese immigration to the Colony was too small to warrant its existence.

The Chinese lived in encampments as much for their own protection as companionship. They were ostracised because of the colour of their skins, their mode of dress, their speech and their long pig tails. Very few Chinese women were found on the goldfields and some inter racial marriages took place. Descendants of these early marriages are still living in and contributing to our community today.

Source: Australian Law through 200 years - Vijaya Nagarajan 1989

Sun Loong spruced up and starting to stir

BENDIGO's most charismatic Chinese dragon, Sun Loong, has finally recovered from his injuries suffered in last year's Easter parade.

Volunteers and members of the Bendigo Chinese Association have completed the task of repairing delicate Sun Loong after about 12 months of work.

Bendigo Chinese Museum curator Ralph Beh said Sun Loong always looked a little worse for wear after his annual adventure because he was made of such delicate material.

There have been several major injuries in recent years, including the loss of a horn as Sun Loong danced his final steps through the city's streets in a parade several years ago.

A book which serves as a type of medical report card details Sun Loong's past injuries and Mr Beh said it was vital every last piece of damage was repaired.

"It is always crucial to get it (the repairs) done before the next procession as there is always new damage after each procession," Mr Beh.

With Sun Loong's injuries from the 2002 Easter parade tended to, all he needs now is to be awoken. He will be roused at a ceremony on

