



Bendigo Easter Festival  
PO Box 36  
BENDIGO 3552

Phone: 5434 6475  
Fax: 5434 6473

Email: [info@bendigoeasterfestival.org.au](mailto:info@bendigoeasterfestival.org.au)  
Web: [www.bendigoeasterfestival.org.au](http://www.bendigoeasterfestival.org.au)



Annual Report & Review of 2003 Sandhurst Trustees  
**BENDIGO EASTER FESTIVAL**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the Year ended 30th June 2003

2003

2002

**Note 4a - Reconciliation of Cash Held**

Cash at the end of year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Petty Cash Float		(3 49)
Bendigo Bank - Lucky Envelope a/c	54 16	54 16
Bendigo Bank - Raffle a/c	1 30	22 85
Sandhurst Trustees Common Fund	117 39	40 77
North West County Credit	200 00	(132 00)
Bendigo Bank - Operating A/c	(50,068 19)	(906 42)
	<u>\$ (49,695 34)</u>	<u>\$ (924 13)</u>

**Note 4b - Reconciliation of Net Cash from (used in) Operating Activities to Net Operating Result before Income Tax**

Net Operating Profit (Loss)	(31,618 16)	928 33
Add: Non-Cash Items		
Depreciation Expense	3,062 00	4,703 00
Changes in Assets & Liabilities		
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	(11,302 52)	7,026 30
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	(8,890 10)	(21,006 07)
Increase (Decrease) in GST / PAYG Liabilities	(22 43)	930 39
<b>Net Cash from (used in) Operating Activities</b>	<u>\$ (48,771 21)</u>	<u>\$ (7,418 05)</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
For the Year ended 30th June 2003

**Note 1 - Accounting Policies**

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report prepared for distribution to members to satisfy the account keeping requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and the rules of the association.

The following accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements have been applied:

- AAS 1 : Statement of Financial Performance
- AAS 5 : Materiality in Financial Statements
- AAS 6 : Accounting Policies
- AAS 10: Revaluation of Non-Current Assets
- AAS 15: Disclosure of Operating Revenue
- AAS 28: Statement of Cash Flows

No other applicable accounting standards or mandatory professional reporting requirements have been intentionally applied.

The financial statements are based on historical costs and do not take into account any changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets. Where necessary, comparative year information has been reclassified to achieve consistency in disclosure with the current financial year amounts.

**Note 2 - Plant & Equipment**

Items of plant & equipment are initially recorded at cost and then depreciated over their estimated useful lives. A combination of straight-line and diminishing value methods of depreciation are used. The committee of management has reviewed the value of plant & equipment recorded in the accounts and has determined that the net realisable value of each item is equivalent to or exceeds the carrying amount of that item.

**Note 3 - Co-Operative Fund Raising Program**

Included in the Statement of Financial Performance is the following Income & Expenditure from the Co-Operative Fund Raising Program. The program was not run during the 2003 financial year.

	2003	2002	
<b>Income</b>			
Festival Raffle	-	22,567.00	
Spinning Wheel	-	6,081.50	
	-	28,648.50	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Festival Raffle	-	2,455.45	
Spinning Wheel	-	2,531.50	
Distributions to Charities/Groups	-	12,164.05	
	-	17,151.00	
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ -	\$ 11,497.50	

**Index**

1.	Forward from the President.....	iii
2.	The First Bendigo Easter Festival.....	iv
3.	Overview of Research by Victoria University.....	v
4.	2003 Coliban Water 'Day at the Lake'.....	vi
5.	2003 Lanier/DCS Skydiving Spectacular.....	vi
6.	2003 Friday Night Rage.....	vii
7.	2003 Minit Computers 'Wine on Bull Street'.....	vii
8.	Street Carnival.....	viii
9.	2003 Bartercard 'Cavalcade of Transport'.....	viii
10.	2003 Mount Alvernia Mercy Hospital 'Children's Wonderland'.....	ix
11.	2003 Chinese Spring Festival Cultural Experience.....	ix
12.	2003 AAPT Torchlight Procession.....	x
13.	2003 Lanier/DCS Fireworks Extravaganza.....	x
14.	2003 Parmalat Gala Parade.....	xi
15.	The Chinese Procession.....	xi
16.	The Bendigo Dragons.....	xii
17.	The Festival's Long Term Goals.....	xiii
18.	Committee of Management.....	xiv
19.	2003 Council Acknowledgement.....	xv
20.	The Future.....	xvi
21.	2003 With thanks to our sponsors.....	xvii
22.	Auditor's Financial Report (Vic. University).....	xviii

**The Sandhurst Trustees Bendigo Easter Festival**  
**18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2003**

*President's Report*

In reviewing the past few months in my role as President I felt it imperative to thank those who have worked with me to create a successful 2003 Festival. Special thanks to Peter Robertson who is BEF Manager; Claire Peters who is BEF Event Coordinator, Committee members; Rosalie Rogers - Vice President, Ken Gilchrist - Treasurer, Helen Yorston - Secretary and Public Officer, Toni Riley, Geoff Cartwright and Brett Henderson.

Thankyou to our sponsors, without whose generous and loyal support, the Easter Festival would not be possible. With your ongoing support we plan to continue to grow this premier Bendigo and Regional Victorian event.

A special thankyou to our life members, whose continued support is an inspiration to those of us who continue as the custodians of the Bendigo Easter Festival. Life Membership is bestowed on those who have shown extraordinary dedication to, and support for the Bendigo Easter Festival. The Committee looks forward to your ongoing support of an evolving Festival. I value your opinions and being able to call on the vast collective experience you have.

As you all no doubt know, the BEF has been troubled financially over the last few years. Last year the Public Liability more than doubled from \$30,000 to \$64,000. In 2004 it is tipped to rise to over \$75,000. Under this scenario the festival's insurance costs will almost equal all the remaining annual running cost of about \$100,000. At present we have a \$40,000 overdraft facility, which is generously under written by Council. We draw on this facility to cover the running costs of the Easter Festival.

The current financial arrangements of the Easter Festival are not sustainable and your Committee has been working with Council on a strategy to address this. At a Special Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> July I presented an agreement between, Bendigo Easter Festival and the City of Greater Bendigo Council in which we come under the umbrella of Council under Section 86 of the Local Government Act. Such an arrangement means the Public Liability policy of Council covers members of the BEF and it's volunteers. The Committee strongly endorsed the arrangement and members present at that meeting voted in favour. For the agreement to be entered into changes to the Bendigo Easter Festival Statement of Purpose had to be agreed but due to an oversight, insufficient notice was given for this, making it necessary to present the same proposal to the members at this meeting.

Your Committee still strongly recommends this course of action be taken.

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year ended 30th June 2003**

	2003	2002
<b>Cash Flow From Operating Activities</b>		
Receipts from Customers (excluding GST)	237,640.11	295,108.95
GST Received from Customers	26,236.22	26,236.22
Payments to Suppliers (excluding GST)	(207,720.78)	(233,375.56)
GST Paid to Suppliers & ATO	(26,258.65)	(25,305.83)
Payments to Employees	(77,024.69)	(69,770.83)
Interest Received	318.76	314.33
Bank Charges & Interest	(1,962.18)	(625.33)
<b>Net Cash from (used in) Operating Activities (Note 4b)</b>	<u>(48,771.21)</u>	<u>(7,418.05)</u>
<b>Cash Flow From Investing Activities</b>		
Payments for Plant & Equipment	-	(5,870.90)
<b>Net Cash from (used in) Investing Activities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,870.90)</u>
<b>Cash Flow From Financing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from Loans	-	-
<b>Net Cash from (used in) Financing Activities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held</b>	(48,771.21)	(13,288.95)
Cash Held at beginning of year	(924.13)	12,364.82
<b>Cash Held at the end of year (Note 4a)</b>	<u>\$ (49,695.34)</u>	<u>\$ (924.13)</u>

## Statement of Financial Position

As at the 30th June 2003

	2003	2002
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Petty Cash Float	-	(3.49)
Bendigo Bank - Spinning Wheel a/c	54.16	54.16
Bendigo Bank - Raffle a/c	1.30	22.85
North West County Credit	200.00	-
Sandhurst Trustees Common Fund	117.39	40.77
Accounts Receivable	<u>43,970.00</u>	<u>32,667.48</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>44,342.85</u>	<u>32,781.77</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Plant & Equipment - at cost (Note 2)	22,838.71	68,369.71
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(9,066.00)</u>	<u>(51,535.00)</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<u>13,772.71</u>	<u>16,834.71</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>58,115.56</u>	<u>49,616.48</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
North West Country Credit	-	132.00
Bendigo Bank - Operating A/c	50,068.19	906.42
Accounts Payable	2,892.45	11,782.55
GST / PAYG Liabilities	<u>3,556.58</u>	<u>3,579.01</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>56,517.22</u>	<u>16,399.98</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Loan from Council	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>56,517.22</u>	<u>16,399.98</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,598.34</u>	<u>\$ 33,216.50</u>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	33,216.50	32,288.17
Net Surplus (Loss) for year	<u>(31,618.16)</u>	<u>928.33</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>\$ 1,598.34</u>	<u>\$ 33,216.50</u>

The City of Greater Bendigo Council has been enormously helpful and generous leading up to, and since the last Festival, and we thank them for their help and cooperation in getting the BEF to this stage of development. Council paid part of the public liability for the 2003 festival, as the BEF did not have the funds to cover the installments. As well as this they provided further financial and in-kind support. The Council have shown respect for the autonomy of the Festival Committee and staff by their actions during the organisation of the 2003 Festival and in the negotiations leading to the Agreement presented here.

Being under Council's umbrella significantly reduces the overhead cost of putting on the festival allowing more sponsorship dollars to be spent on the event. It also opens up enormous avenues of expertise, knowledge and experience, which can only enhance the running of the Festival. Being under Council will also ensure continuity of staff to run the day-to-day operations of the Festival, this is critical to a successful event. We have had recent experience where staff and committee members have left in the months immediately before the Easter Festival because of uncertainty placing an unfair burden on those left behind. A stable financial and governance environment as proposed in the arrangement with Council will help remove the uncertainty and provide stability in staffing and direction.

I, and your committee believe that if the Festival is to survive and prosper then going under the Council's Section 86, so public liability is not an issue, and part of Council's contribution to the BEF is to pay the salaries of the staff, the only viable option open to us is to accept ***the Agreement***.

Peter and I have visited all our major sponsors and have kept them up to date with the progress with Council. All have been very supportive of this move. We lost some larger sponsorship before and since Easter and now Peter, Claire and your committee are working hard to increase the sponsorship of 2004 Easter Festival.

*Fay Buerger*



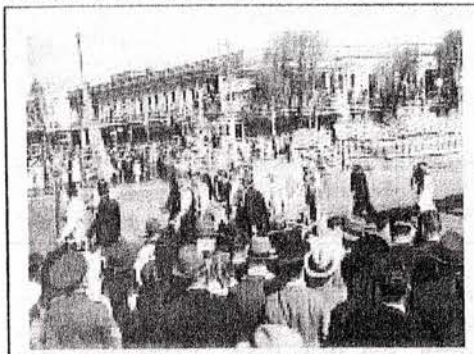
Fay Buerger  
President  
Sandhurst Trustees Bendigo Easter Festival

## The First Bendigo Easter Festival

### Bendigo Easter Festival – Australia's oldest festival.....

Gold, gold, gold. The year of 1871 was a great year for Bendigo. Parks were laid out, trees lined the streets. The town had developed from its early start as just a gold mining field and the prosperity was visible everywhere. A certain degree of sophistication had also developed and the Bendigo homes reflected this. In the background, seldom out of earshot, was the thunder of mighty batteries that crushed the rock yielding vast amounts of gold. Whistles and dust were the Bendigo trademarks of the time.

The town faced setbacks, with floods and fires, undaunted by the hardships the town still faced, the first Bendigo Easter Festival was seen. Although acknowledged as starting in 1869 the Festival was considered an annual event by 1871. G. Aspinall and J. Burnside have been given the credit of conceiving the idea for the first festival with their aim being to establish an annual fair, which would raise money for the hospital and benevolent asylum, as it was then known.



Later on it was known as the Home and Hospital for the Aged, now it is known as the Anne Caudle Centre.

Under brilliant illumination the whole of the Camp Reserve (now Rosalind Park) was filled with a bewildering variety of groups, exhibits and individuals all eager to be involved in such a worthwhile cause. There were sports meetings, theatricals, bazaars and instrumental items as well as dancing and carnival rides. On Easter Monday, as it is today, there was a grand procession that included a variety of bands. Such entertainments were; the Bungaree Bashi Bazook Horse, Fallstaff's Charge of Foot, the Wild Beast Show, the appearance of a wizard and a Punch and Judy Show.

1871 also marked the first year that the Chinese joined in the festivities. Originally the Chinese participated in the procession by dressing in richly embroidered costumes, and carrying colourful banners in all shapes and sizes, which were specially made for them in China.

In 1879 when attendances were falling, the Chinese community contributed a mile long pageant to back up the Easter Fair with nearly 1000 meticulously made up and beautifully robed Chinese men and children participating. There was a grand Chinese Theatrical performance with feasts of Chinese delicacies. In 1889, the Chinese were given their traditional place in the Parade, the end. They created a wonderful spectacle with their colourful costumes, banners and flags, and in 1892,

## Statement of Financial Performance For the Year ended 30th June 2003

	2003	2002
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	1,340.00	2,024.05
Grants	88,470.00	100,000.00
Memberships	6,916.60	8,959.53
Parade/Procession Entry Fees	1,413.51	877.73
Poster/Program Advertising	8,590.91	10,963.64
Site Fees, Entry & Tender Fees	34,311.98	33,906.36
Sponsorships	90,135.93	98,659.08
Wine on Bull	10,964.75	
Sundry Income	798.95	43.76
Tea House Lease	6,000.00	4,000.00
Co-Operative Fund Raising Program (Note 3)		28,648.50
Interest Received	318.76	314.33
	<u>249,261.39</u>	<u>288,396.98</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accountant/Auditors	1,800.00	2,525.00
Bad Debts	3,843.54	
Sponsorship	4,000.00	
Cash Floats & Petty Cash	1,900.00	226.91
Administration	56.36	1,803.54
Advertising & Marketing	9,387.24	20,258.10
Catering	1,678.55	4,638.61
Cleaning & Waste Removal	2,465.00	
Consultants Fees		4,113.98
Electrician Costs	2,280.00	2,548.00
Electricity	181.37	307.94
Equipment Lease & Servicing	2,268.50	5,249.00
Equipment Hire	20,061.03	11,108.35
Factory Rental	7,800.00	7,800.00
First Aid		2,600.00
Insurance	57,568.75	45,970.28
Internet & Telephone	1,554.56	1,677.14
Merchandising	3,012.49	1,220.45
Miscellaneous	469.09	1,577.24
Office Supplies & Stationery	2,653.89	3,491.68
Postage	1,564.43	1,401.94
Printing & Graphic Design	14,010.00	15,444.54
Prizes & Trophies	1,681.36	7,489.26
Rates	1,533.70	576.40
Security	1,912.00	1,869.00
Signwriting	205.00	2,460.00
Travel & Accommodation		321.62
Training & Staff Development	935.00	
Salaries & Wages	77,024.69	69,770.83
Superannuation	6,938.00	5,581.68
Volunteers Expenses		100.00
Entertainment, Events & Fireworks	47,070.82	42,857.83
Co-Operative Fund Raising Program (Note 3)		17,151.00
Bank Charges & Borrowing Costs	1,962.18	625.33
Depreciation	3,062.00	4,703.00
	<u>280,879.55</u>	<u>287,468.65</u>
<b>Net Operating Surplus (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (31,618.16)</b>	<b>\$ 928.33</b>



**SEEBER WASHINGTON & ROBERTSON**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

To: The Members  
Bendigo Easter Fair Incorporated  
P.O. Box 36  
**BENDIGO VIC 3552**

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

**SCOPE**

We have audited the attached financial statements, comprising Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Accounts, of the Bendigo Easter Fair Incorporated for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003. The committee of management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Association's financial position and the results of its performance and cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**AUDIT OPINION**

In our opinion, the financial statements of Bendigo Easter Fair Incorporated are properly drawn up:

- (a) So as to give a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003 and of its operating result and cash flows for the financial year ended on that date; and
- (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

**EMPHASIS OF MATTERS**

Without qualification of the audit opinion expressed above we draw the members' attention to the following matter. Under the terms of our audit engagement it has not been possible to verify the ownership and net realisable value of Plant & Equipment recorded in the accounts at a written-down value of \$13,772. The committee of management has reviewed this matter and has determined that the net realisable value for Plant & Equipment currently exceeds, or is equivalent to, the carrying amount recorded in the accounts.

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> August 2003

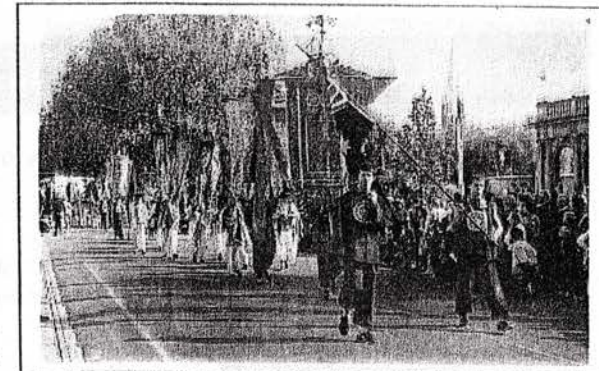
**SEEBER WASHINGTON & ROBERTSON**

195 McCRAE STREET, BENDIGO, 3550  
P.O. BOX 404, BENDIGO, 3552  
TELEPHONE: (03) 5441 0999 FACSIMILE: (03) 5441 0950  
EMAIL: info@swrobertson.com.au

Loong, the dragon appeared. The Bendigo Easter Festival had been fortunate in that it had such a lively Chinese community in its midst.

At the time of course, Bendigo was in fact known as Sandhurst, it was not until twenty years after the first Easter Festival that the town was known as Bendigo. These days with sponsorship from the Sandhurst Trustees, the Festival is known as the Sandhurst Trustees Bendigo Easter Festival.

132 years later, the Sandhurst Trustees Bendigo Easter Festival has had many changes. But loyal followers have never been disappointed. This year, although not held in Rosalind Park because of the drought, people saw the traditions upheld with family entertainments and of course, not Loong, but Sun Loong, meaning new dragon, a 100m long Imperial Dragon who was created to take the place of the aging Loong.



Each year is a new Bendigo Easter Festival. Each year is the old Bendigo Easter Festival. Every time you come to Bendigo at Easter time you become part of the living history that is Sandhurst Trustees Bendigo Easter Festival.

**Overview of 2003 Research by  
Victoria University**

- The largest group attending the BEF: 57% aged between 20-59 years, with 51% being over 40 years of age. Total sample: Females 52%/males 48%.
- 69% of the attendees were from the Bendigo City and region, with 16% from Melbourne and 11% from other parts of Victoria.
- The main motivation to attend the festival was to (1) participate in children's activities and (2) because it was a community event.
- The overall satisfaction with the event was rated at 4.2 on a 1-5 scale (% being highly satisfied)
- Attendees were least satisfied with the price of the services (3.4 on a 1-5 scale) and most satisfied with the range of services (4.0 on a 1-5 scale were 5 is highly satisfied.)

## 2003 Mount Alvernia Mercy Hospital's 'Children's Wonderland'

*A fun-filled children's day of delight.....*

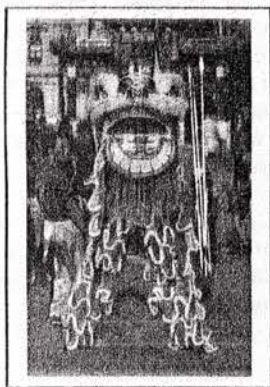


Where-ever *Humphrey B Bear* is, so are the children. Easter Sunday morning in Bendigo is Easter Eggs, the Easter Bunny and *Humphrey B Bear* at the Bendigo Easter Festival. Along with thousands of children, *Humphrey* danced and played while others sang and laughed. 3BO's Brian Coghlan MC'd our Teddy Bears' Picnic while the

children waited to see whose Teddy won a prize. This is an incredibly successful morning where children wait so eagerly for *Humphrey* and the *Easter Bunny* that the crowds threatened to extend well beyond the Civic Garden area.

Children's entertainment was the focus for Easter Sunday and the stage was filled with songs and dancing from performers such as *The Jelly Bugs* and *The Cooe Band*. Children were delighted with the antics of Alice and the White Rabbit in our Pantomime of '*Alice in Wonderland*.' There was face painting and juggling with *The Letter J* and *Kyra the Clown* while Lisa Heenan ran workshops for children to create weird and wonderful headgear.

## 2003 Chinese Spring Festival Cultural



At 2.00pm the Chinese Dragon Museum came alive with fire crackers and Lion Dancing while our sleepy Imperial Dragon, Sun Loong, was roused in the 'Awakening of the Dragon' ceremony. The dancing of the Lions gives the dancer an opportunity to display intricate and symbolic movements. The dances of the Lions are designed to tease the dragon to a state of 'awakeness.' As dragons take such a long time to awake,



Local, regional and state wide media,  
Other event organisers,  
The wider Bendigo community.

- Develop the Festival's cultural/community (Chinese Dragon and Community Group Expo.) focus to be the best quality event of its kind on Australia
- Maintain and foster volunteer support as a primary resource mechanism to facilitate the conduct of the Festival.
- Create National exposure of the Bendigo Easter Festival



## Committee of Management

**President:** Fay Buerger

**Vice President:** Rosalie Rogers

**Treasurer:** Barry Secombe

**Secretary:** Maree Murphy

**Members:** Brett Henderson, Geoff Cartwright, Ken Gilchrist

### **Staff**

**Manager:** Peter Robertson

**Coordinator:** Claire Peters

### **Life Members**

Violen Myer-Davey OAM  
Norman Quinn  
Les Rhodda  
Vincent Walshe  
Chinese Association  
Simon Mulqueen

### GANSU LOONG (dragon from Gansu)

Gansu Loong was donated by the Gansu province of China in March 1992, a gift to the Bendigo Chinese Association. He appears in the AAPT Torchlight Procession, to welcome Chinese delegates to Bendigo and to participate in arts festivals etc. Gansu is the province of Bendigo's sister city in China Tianshui.

### MING & PING

A new pair of dragons were acquired for the Easter Celebrations of 2001. Dragon Ming – meaning Brightness (yellow beard) is the male partner of Bendigo's first lady dragon, Ping – meaning Peace (green beard). Dragons are traditionally carried by men. However in the new millennium, Beijing created a new lady dragon, to be carried by women! And according to Chinese symbolism, the dragon represents maleness and the phoenix femaleness.

### XIAO LE LOONG (little happy dragon)

The baby of Ming and Ping Loong! Xiao Le Loong requires only 9 carriers. This little dragon was acquired from Beijing in 2001 especially for hands-on school workshops and associated activities.

## Festival's Long Term Goals

- Maintain the 4 day Sandhurst Trustees Bendigo Easter Festival as Bendigo's premium community/tourist event focusing on Bendigo at Easter time.
- To become self-sufficient
- Develop a comprehensive marketing plan to attract Bendigo residents as well as visitors from Victoria, interstate and overseas for an extended length of stay.
- Ensure a positive impact on the Bendigo economy, not only as an event but also as one that contributes to the development of the region on an annual and ongoing basis.
- Improve communication with stakeholders
- Develop effective partnerships and participation with the following organizations to ensure the continued viability of the event:



The corporate sector for sponsorship and involvement,

Tourism Victoria and other State and Federal funding bodies,

Bendigo Tourism and Cultural Development Units of Council and other relevant organizations involved in the marketing of Bendigo



Bendigo Chamber of Commerce and other relevant industry bodies

sheer noise is necessary. This is provided by a barrage of crackers and fireworks, and the livelier the fireworks the more exuberant is the dance of the Lions.

This ceremony was part of an entire day of multicultural festivities called 'The Chinese Spring Festival Cultural Experience' and was held for the first time this year at the famous Chinese Dragon Museum. The day was sold out before the doors opened and will be continued again next year with more entertainment and tours.

## 2003 AAPT Torchlight Procession



Owing to the withdrawal of The Bed Shop as the sponsor of the Torchlight Procession, AAPT kindly came on board support this historic and unique Bendigo Tradition. With beautiful Autumn weather the procession moved its way down Pall Mall from Bull Street towards the Lake. Crowd numbers exceeded expectation. The spectators lined the streets cheering and laughing at the antics of the many fire trucks and their crews, who blew whistles and flashed their lights while bands played and floats full of Bunyips and dancers made their way along the main street of Bendigo. Even in the Torchlight Procession we have a dragon. 'Yar Loong', the night dragon, who is illuminated and dances through the night lit streets on the way to the Lake.

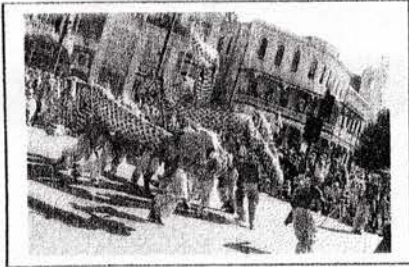
## 2003 Lanier/DCS Fireworks Extravaganza

The destination of the AAPT Torchlight Procession was to Lake Weeroona, where the Lanier/DCS Fireworks Extravaganza would be reflected in the waveless water of the beautiful Lake. Over 40,000 spectators moved into position around the shore-line to catch the spectacular pyrotechnics. The Bendigo Youth Choir and the Melbourne Youth band performed selected concert pieces to entertain the crowds before the show began. Metropolitan and interstate visitors referred to the fire works as '...the best they had seen.'

Besides the Gala Parade, the fireworks are by far the most popular event on the Easter Festival calendar.



## 2003 Parmalat Gala Parade



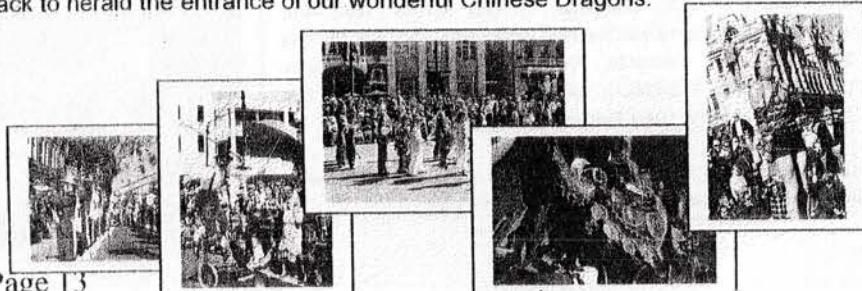
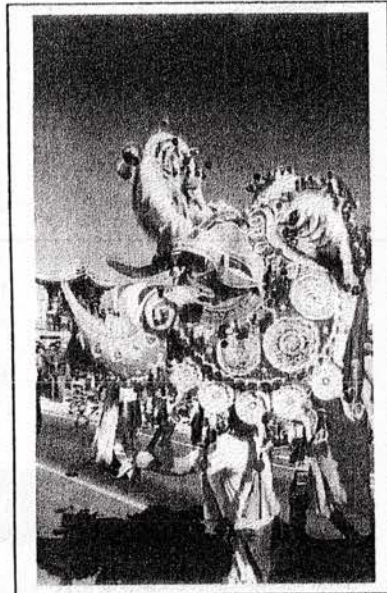
No-one who has seen the Parmalat Gala Parade ever doubts why people flock in their thousands to see Bendigo at Easter time. Over 70 entries from community groups to businesses, from bands to baton twirlers entertained a crowd of over 70,000

locals and visitors alike, who travelled, some from interstate, to witness the famous Parmalat Gala Parade.

Fay Buerger was the Parade Director this year and through her tireless effort managed to coordinate dozens of contributors as well as encourage businesses - who have the finances - to financially back community groups who have the enthusiasm and the time. This coordination of businesses and community groups was so well received that 2004 will see the introduction of a formal financial agreement between both groups to support the Parade. We believe this agreement will make the future of the Parmalat Gala Parade even more secure and help increase the quality of the entries






This parade is the icon of the Festival, the reason why so many come here. From early Easter Monday morning the crowds start to line the streets to claim the best spot to view their parade.

The Clan McLeod begin the festivities as they have done for 50 years with the crowds cheering in welcome. After all the floats have been along the route the band will double back to herald the entrance of our wonderful Chinese Dragons.



## The Chinese Procession

The members of the Bendigo Chinese Association are responsible for the magnificent procession we are honoured with each year. The procession involves:

-  The Banners – to herald government groups, messages and following parade sections
-  The Religious and Military Section – to herald the Commander-in-chief, Sam Gong See Luen.
-  The Princess Section – a banner signifies her association with a high ranking family
-  Bendigo Lion Teams – dramatising the antics of Royal Ladies' miniature dogs.
-  The Children's Section – dressed in beautifully embroidered Chinese clothes and carrying umbrellas, flowers, silk fans and lanterns in shapes of mythical creatures.

## The Bendigo Dragons

Dragons are traditionally used in China to celebrate special occasions eg. New Years, Emperor's birthday, Cultural festivals etc.

In 1871 the Chinese community joined the Bendigo Easter Procession to assist in the fund raising for charity. In 1892 the local newspaper reported the 1<sup>st</sup> appearance of a dragon in the Bendigo Easter Procession.

In 1990 the Golden Dragon Museum was built to preserve and display the collection of dragons and their colourful history in Bendigo. The Museum now houses 6 dragons.

### LOONG (dragon)

Loong is the oldest Imperial (five claws) Dragon in the world. He made his first appearance in Bendigo in 1892, and continued to walk through the streets of Bendigo every year till his retirement in 1970.

### SUN LOONG (new dragon)

Sun Loong was brought from Hong Kong to replace Loong in 1970 and is the longest Imperial Dragon in the world, being over 100 metres in length. Sun Loong was awoken to accompany Loong – in Loong's last Bendigo Easter procession in 1970.

### YAR LOONG (night dragon)

Yar Loong first appeared in 1939, made of delicate silks and carries his own illumination. He appeared in December 1996 after 9 months of restoration by volunteers at the Golden Dragon Museum and funded by the Y's Men of Kangaroo Flat.