



# Bendigo Easter Fair Chinese "Autumn Festival"

Chinese Association Grounds

Sunday 20th April 2003



## Concept:

Development of a Chinese "Autumn festival" celebration as a lead up to the "Awakening of the Dragon" ceremony on Easter Sunday. The purpose of the event is to expand the cultural elements of the festival, and provide a ticketed event that can provide revenue to cover the Chinese associations costs over Easter. Ticket revenue will be distributed at an 80-20 or 75/25 ration between the Chinese association and BEF

## Event:

The Event will be held at the Chinese Museum, using its restaurant, museum, gardens and surrounding area.

It is perceived that a ticket (\$15 depending on grant subsidies) will provide the following:

- Yum Cha Lunch including a bamboo Chinese basket ("steamer") keep sake
- Access to the Chinese Museum/ Gardens
- Access to 2 x Chinese entertainment groups from Melbourne (Chinese orchestra and another artist)
- Viewing of the "Autumn ceremony" held in the Chinese gardens
- Chinese Historical Walks Around Bendigo (20 minutes)

## Discussion topics

How do we make it more like a "Chinese festival" atmosphere?

How do we ticket the event without hindering the Chinese Museum access for patrons not wishing to pay for an all inclusive ticket?

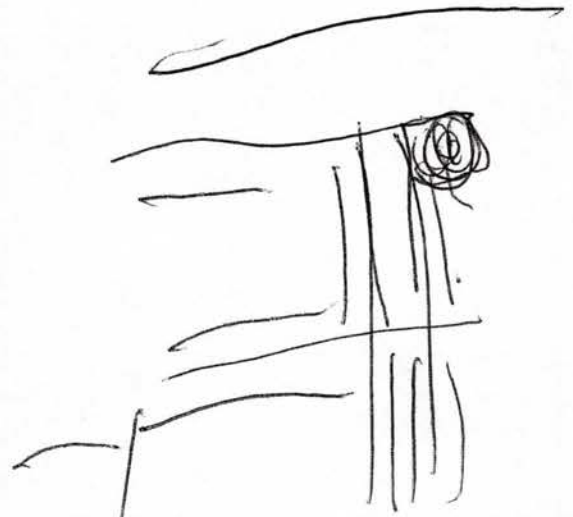
FOR 1 DAY

Where should we place the entertainment?

How many people should we expect to attend?

How do we make this entertainment a "special event" and give the ticket holders exclusive access to it?

How do we best tie in the Awakening of the Dragon Ceremony? (ie exclusive grandstand for paying customers?)





## THE BENDIGO DRAGONS

(dragon.doc)

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

The Chinese arrived in Bendigo during the goldrush of 1850s and established communities in the region. In 1871 the Chinese community joined the Bendigo Easter Procession to assist in fund raising for charity. In 1892 local newspaper reported the 1st 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 housed 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. He was created in the City of Fat Shan on the Pearl River near Canton in China. In his original state Loong was about 60 metres long and was build of silks, mirrors, bamboo, and paper mache.

In 1901 Loong was taken to Melbourne for the Victoria and Nation Parade to mark the opening of Australia's 1st federal parliament!

### SUN LOONG (new dragon)

Sun Loong was brought from Hong Kong to replace Loong in 1970. He was created by Lo On Kee, a traditional dragon builder. Sun Loong is the longest Imperial Dragon in the world., being over 100 metres in length. Requiring 52 people (plus 52 reliefs) to carry him. Sun Loong is covered in 4,500 scales, 90,000 mirrors, 30,000 beads and his head weights 29kg. Before he appeared in 1970, he was blessed and brought to life by 101 years old Mr James Lew, dotting his eyes with chicken blood. 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. When the Chinese collection was being prepared for display in the Museum (1990), Yar Loong was badly in need of restoration. This work was undertaken by volunteers at the Museum in 1996, a project funded by the Y's Men of Kangaroo Flat. This project was completed in 9 months. Yar Loong appeared in December 1996 for the opening of the Classical Chinese Gardens and has since reappear on several occasions.

### 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. This dragon made its first appearance in the 1992 Easter Torchlight (night) Procession, and have since appeared many times in Bendigo, eg. to welcome Chinese delegates to Bendigo, participate in arts festival etc. Gansu if the province of Bendigo's sister city in China, Tianshui (approx 2hrs from Beijing).

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✓ Dragons to come out at Easter

## BENDIGO'S NEWEST DRAGONS

### **MING & PING**

A new pair of dragons were acquired from Beijing for the Easter Celebrations of 2001. Dragon Ming - 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. However in some Chinese folklore, the human race were created by Nu Wa - a half dragon half woman creation being, who made people out of clay.

Ming and Ping are each 18 metres long and require 10 carriers per dragon.

### **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 hand-on school workshops and associated activities. This Happy Dragon made his debut at the Bendigo Easter Procession of 2002!

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**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
REVISED PROGRAM OUTCOMES  
2003-2005**

21-11-02

**ORGANISATION NAME-** Golden Dragon Museum / Bendigo Vic 3550.

**OUTCOME & BRIEF DESCRIPTION-**

**2003**

- \*To deliver a diverse range of educational programs to local & regional schools - which will give students a unique experience of Bendigo's past, present & future.
  - \*To promote education programs & develop network with local and regional schools.
  - \*To encounter racism and breaking down stereotypes by utilising guided tours, 'Chinese Footsteps' historic walks (funded by Living in Harmony), and Chinese art/craft workshops...to enhance students understanding & appreciation of Bendigo's Chinese heritage.
- 

**2004**

- \*To deliver educational resources (eg. Web link etc) and workshops to school communities, by providing outreach programs to country schools.
  - \*To develop and upgrade educational programs according to the needs of students and teachers.
  - \*To provide upgraded workshops to compliment CSF/ VCE learning outcomes.
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**2005**

- \*To provide & deliver ongoing resources to local and regional schools.
  - \*To maintain level of standards by upgrading and developing new programs.
  - \*To create new educational projects by involving school communities.
- 

Golden Dragon Museum  
Email- [info@goldendragonmuseum.org](mailto:info@goldendragonmuseum.org)  
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