



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Loong 龍 Conservation Project

Update Number 01 | 18 October 2021

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Conservation project begins



Image: Loong during parade in 2019

On 19 August Heritage Victoria Living Heritage Grant representatives Zoe Guthrie and Lauren Keating met with the Golden Dragon Museum and the University of Melbourne to begin project planning. It was acknowledged that the works to be undertaken are complex due to the size of Loong 龍, and that as part of the planned works the project would aim to engage conservation students and the local Bendigo community to work alongside senior conservators and researchers to assist in the delivery of a number of tasks. The project work will begin in mid-November and be completed by Easter 2022.

A full project plan was completed in late August and a Permit Application has been lodged with Heritage Victoria to approve the conservation works.

Media and communications

The Minister for Planning Richard Wynne announced publicly on 9 September the recipients of Round 6 of the Living Heritage Grants, including the Golden Dragon Museum. The announcement led to the following media mentions of the project:

9 Sept 2021 - Herald Sun, '\$2.3m to put state's heritage on track', p5.

9 Sept 2021 – Hugo Leschen interview with WIN Regional News

10 Sept 2021 – Hugo Leschen interview with ABC regional morning radio.

The University of Melbourne marketing team and CEO Hugo Leschen are preparing a communications plan to support the amplification of publicity the project.



The Loong, Chinese Dragon Conservation project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Living Heritage Grants Program.

Inspecting Loong 龍

Senior Conservators from the University of Melbourne's Grimwade Conservation Services team visited Bendigo on 21 September to begin detailed condition reporting and to undertake a detailed inspection of Loong 龍 and his supporting stands. Detailed measurements of his bamboo poles and photography of his head, body and tail was completed.

The senior Grimwade team in attendance on the day included:

- Dr Evan Tindal, Principal Conservator, Objects
- Lisa Yeats, Assistant Conservator, Textiles and Objects
- Jordi Casasayas, Technician and display specialist
- Penny Tripp, General Manager



Images: Conservator Lisa Yeats photographing Loong 龍, and an example of the detailed photographs taken for condition reporting



Images: Conservator Dr Evan Tindal measuring diameter of poles and assessing stands.

International engagement: Jingwen Wang

In September 2021, Masters of Cultural Materials Conservation student Jingwen Wang began her professional internship with Grimwade Conservation Services. Jingwen is currently based in China and is participating in activities remotely via zoom. During her internship she will work with Grimwade Conservator Marica Mucic and Bendigo Golden Dragon Museum Researcher Leigh McKinnon to review the previous conservation history of Loong 龍 with the aim of developing authoritative documentation outlining his full conservation history. Jingwen will also produce a pre-treatment condition report with the support of the onsite Conservation team who inspected Loong 龍 on 21 September.



Researching the pictorial history of Loong 龍

Golden Dragon Museum researcher Leigh McKinnon has provided invaluable research information to the conservation team through the collation of images of Loong 龍. The library of over 600 images allows the conservation team to understand how his condition has changed over time, and the previous conservation treatments that have provided stability to his aging structure over time.



Get in touch

Project leads

Hugo Leschen – CEO Golden Dragon Museum

Penny Tripp – General Manager, Grimwade Conservation Services, The University of Melbourne



ceo@goldendragonmuseum.org