



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Loong 龍 Conservation Project

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Image: Conservation Team Leader Holly Jones-Amin inspecting Loong's mouth

On 4 November team members from the University of Melbourne visited the Museum to meet with Bendigo Chinese Association leaders. The team discussed the conservation works planned and opportunities for association volunteers to assist with the works, scheduled to start in December 2021.

Making conservation carbon neutral

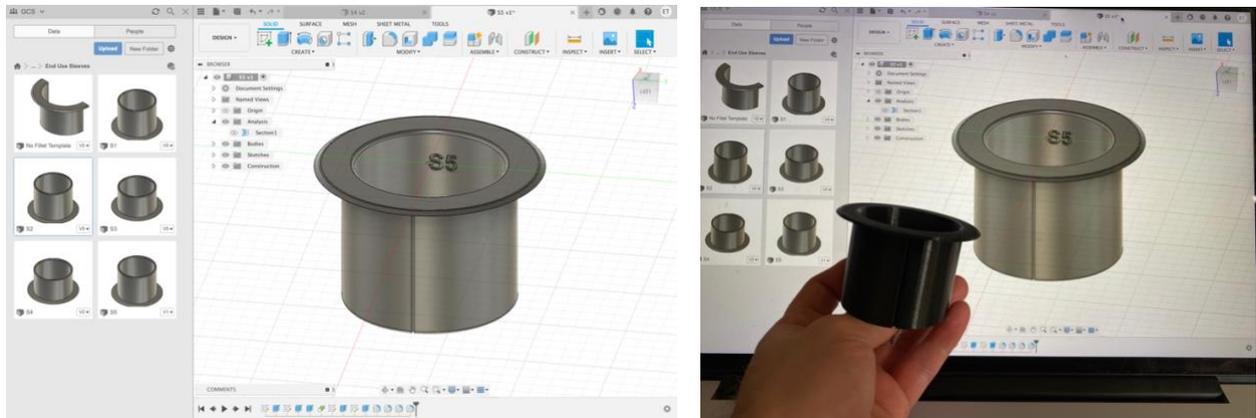
As a pilot project for the University of Melbourne, the Grimwade team have partnered with climate consultants Pangolin Associates to ensure the Loong 龍 conservation project is carbon neutral. The team will measure the carbon footprint of all activities related to the project and develop a strategy to reduce emissions to ensure the project is carbon neutral. The pilot will be the first of its kind in Australia to capture detailed measurements of emissions created through the delivery of a heritage conservation project. The life cycle of products and processes will be measured, and alternate solutions will be tested throughout the project.



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

Digital printing of prototypes

Conservation specialist Dr Evan Tindal has applied his PhD research in digital printing and conservation materials to the Loong 龍 project through the development of a solution to straighten his bamboo poles. On 4 November Evan visited the Museum to test digitally printed prototype sleeves. The sleeves will ensure the poles remain straight in the stands and protected from abrasion.



Images: Designing the prototypes

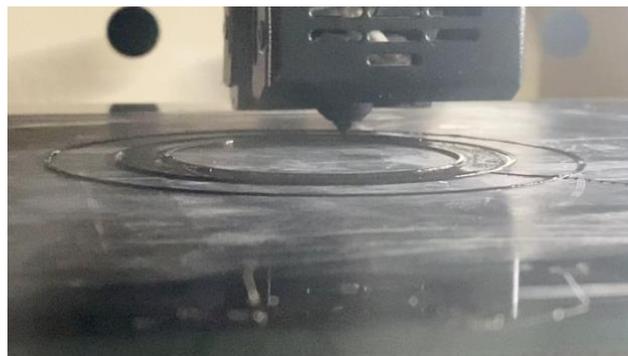
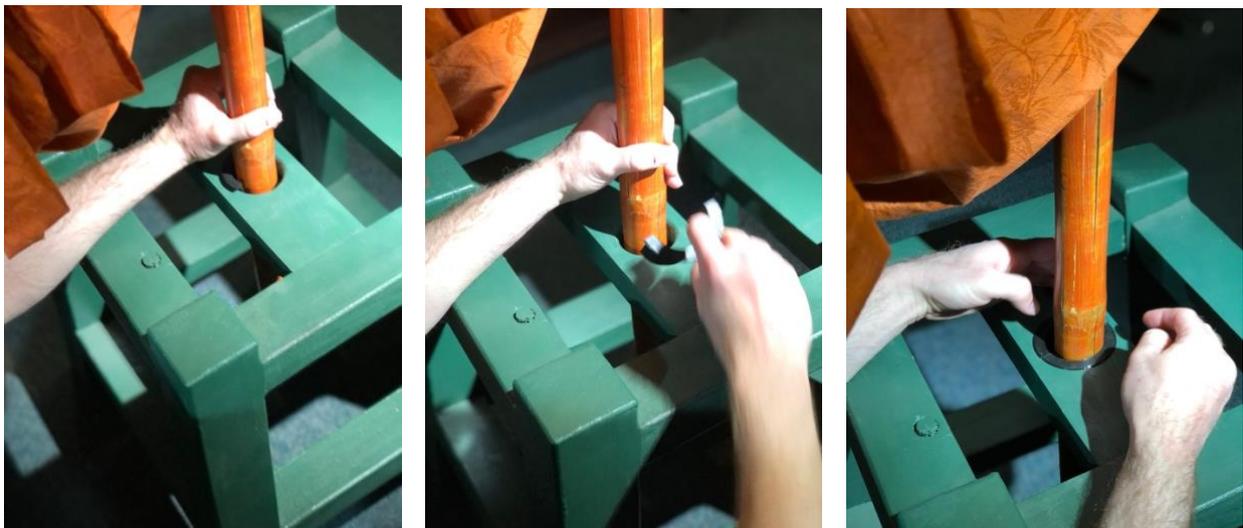


Image: Digitally printing samples of various sizes to test onsite at the Museum



Images: Conservator Dr Evan Tindal testing digitally printed archival sleeves in the stands

Students begin internships

In November, two conservation interns began working on the Loong 龍 project. Isabel Walker and Gemma Ghoukassian have been researching and completing condition assessments of Loong's 龍 decorative skirt and scales.

The involvement of students in the conservation works ensure specialist skills are transferred to a new generation of conservators and heritage workers. The University of Melbourne's professional team frequently work with students to deliver large projects. The Loong 龍 conservation project offers students studying a range of disciplines (paper, painting, textile and object conservation) practical experience in research and treatment work.

Image: Conservation Team Leader Holly Jones-Amin, conservator Marica Mucic and student Isabel Walker inspecting Loong 龍



Colour matching stands for Loong 龍

The stands that provide support for Loong 龍 were reviewed by the project team. It was observed that although they are very solid and strong, they do require some modification to support Loong's 龍 weight. To complement the modifications to the stands it was agreed after consultation with the Bendigo Chinese Association that the stands be painted red. The original green stand colour was chosen to match the museum décor, but a more suitable red, which has been used throughout the museum and adjacent temple will be used to paint the stands.

Conservators will paint the stands without removing Loong 龍 by carefully masking his bamboo poles and skirt throughout the process. Painting will commence in December.

Partnering with Bendigo Woodturners Inc.

John Phillips from Bendigo Woodturners Inc. met with University of Melbourne conservators on 4 November to discuss the original stands made for Loong 龍 over 20 years ago, the community engagement that was created as part of their construction, and the opportunity for the group to work with conservators to make new stands to support the Dragons head and neck. The project team discussed the modifications to be made to the stands to ensure the bamboo supports remain upright and stable.



Get in touch

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