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National Chinese Museum of Australia Inc. T/A

## **GOLDEN DRAGON MUSEUM YI YUAN GARDENS & GUAN YIN TEMPLE**

Dai Gum San

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### MEDIA RELEASE

9 December 2021

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30AM FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2021**

### *LOONG CONSERVATION PROJECT – WORK COMMENCES*

#### **Come and See Bendigo's Historic Dragon Being Given the Royal Treatment**

Loong, the oldest complete processional dragon in the world, is being cleaned as part of an extensive conservation project. With funding of \$133,000 from the Victoria State Government's Living Heritage Grants Program, Golden Dragon Museum in partnership with Grimwade Conservation Services, The University of Melbourne, is delivering the Loong Conservation Project, which will see him conserved and in the best possible condition for Museum visitors to see and enjoy for many years to come.

This weekend, volunteers from the Bendigo Chinese Association and other community members will assist a team of conservators in cleaning Loong literally from nose to tail. Made from various materials including bamboo, silk, papier mache, paper and kingfisher feathers, cleaning Loong is a major undertaking. Loong is 29 metres long, requires 22 carriers and his head weighs 21kg.

Members of the public are invited to visit the Museum and see the works in progress. (Entry charges apply.) Usually undertaken back of house, this is the perfect opportunity to have a closer look at what museums do, see the project in action and speak with the conservators who will be happy to explain what they are doing and answer any questions you may have. Grimwade Conservation Services are considered amongst the very best conservators both in Australia and further afield.

First paraded in 1901 as part of Australia's Federation celebrations and listed on Victoria's Heritage Register, Loong's career spanned many decades and thousands of kilometres until he was retired from regular parading in 1970. A long-time community favourite, Loong last paraded when he joined Sun Loong and Yar Loong to welcome Dai Gum Loong to Bendigo in 2019. Coincidentally this was the last Easter Festival parade to be held because of COVID restrictions.

To mark the Loong Conservation Project from Saturday 18 December children and the young at heart can enter our 'Guess How Many Scales Loong Has' competition.

Entry forms, conditions of entry and further information will be available from the Front Desk and each person is only allowed one entry. The competition opens on Saturday 18 December 2021 and will run until Friday 4 February 2022 across Christmas, Summer, and the Lunar New Year. The winner will be the entry that comes closest to guessing how many scales Loong has. If there is more than one correct entry, the winner will be randomly drawn from amongst those entries.

The winner will receive a Gold Family Ticket, allowing their family unlimited Museum entry for the coming 12 months. Visit the Museum from Saturday 18 December for further information and to enter.

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## **MEDIA CALL**

### **INTERVIEW AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**Golden Dragon Museum**  
**11.00am**  
**Friday 10 December**

Available for interview:

- Doug Lougoon, Chair, Golden Dragon Museum
- Penny Tripp, General Manager, Grimwade Conservation Services, The University of Melbourne
- Hugo Leschen, CEO, Golden Dragon Museum

Photos and footage of conservators and volunteers at work on Loong.

Media inquiries:

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