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**HERITAGE  
VICTORIA**

## MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 6.00PM THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2023

# *Victoria's Goldfields: Chinese Curiosities from Heritage Victoria*

24 November 2023 – 10 November 2024

### THE EXHIBITION

Being opened tonight by the Mayor of Greater Bendigo Council, Andrea Metcalf, *Victoria's Goldfields: Chinese Curiosities from Heritage Victoria* is a collaborative exhibition between Golden Dragon Museum and Heritage Victoria. It presents small vignettes of the Chinese presence across Victoria from the mid-1800s into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and showcases the significant collection of artefacts held by Heritage Victoria that relate to and show evidence of the Chinese diaspora across the state.

*Victoria's Goldfields: Chinese Curiosities from Heritage Victoria* is also the first temporary exhibition in the Museum's new Temporary Exhibition Space. Created during the Museum's recently completed Upgrade Project, the new Temporary Exhibition Space is situated in the repurposed foyer of the Museum before visitors enter the Sun Loong Gallery.

With objects that are frequently small in size, but significant in their stories, *Victoria's Goldfields* shows items that help to locate Chinese communities throughout Victorian history and shine a light on stories and times that have been all too often lost to history. The exhibition also speaks to the archaeological method of investigation, analysis, and identification used by historical archaeologists as they search for artefacts from the past and strive to reveal their hidden and sometimes elusive stories.

Golden Dragon Museum and Heritage Victoria have worked together in the past, most recently on the care and preservation of the Heritage Registered Imperial Processional Dragon Loong through the *Loong Conservation Project* which was supported by a \$133,000 Living Heritage Grant in 2021. During that project, Heritage Victoria's collection of Chinese archaeological material was discussed with Golden Dragon Museum and this project was developed to bring the two organisations together through a collaborative exhibition showcasing the Heritage Victoria collection at Golden Dragon Museum.

The exhibition continues until 10 November 2024.

## NEW TEMPORARY EXHIBITION SPACE

One of the outcomes of the recent Museum Upgrade Project at Golden Dragon Museum was the creation of a Temporary Exhibition Space in the foyer.

This exhibition is the first in this new space and represents a return to the Museum showing a program of regularly changing temporary exhibitions after a lapse of many years. These exhibitions are an important part of the Museum's Community Engagement Program which ensures that it continues to engage with the public through a range of exciting, creative and dynamic activities.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Working together, Heritage Victoria and the Golden Dragon Museum will collaborate on a suite of public programs including school programs, specialty tours, historical talks, and interactive workshops that will bring the exhibition to life and highlight key aspects of this fascinating part of Victoria's heritage.

First of these will be a Curator's Talk presented by Anne-Louise Muir, Heritage Curator, Heritage Victoria, on Saturday 2 December at 11:00 am.

Bookings not required.

Museum admission charges apply.

Further information is available at [www.goldendragonmuseum.org](http://www.goldendragonmuseum.org)

## **Attached Photograph:**

### **Caption:**

One of the curious artefacts in *Victoria's Goldfields: Chinese Curiosities from Heritage Victoria*. Current at Golden Dragon Museum until 10 November 2024.

Figurine

Stone

Mid-19 century

Heritage Victoria Historical Archaeology Collection

**Interviews and Further Information:** Contact Hugo Leschen, Chief Executive Officer, Golden Dragon Museum on 0417 100 229.

22 November 2023