



金龍博物館

National Chinese Museum of Australia Ltd. T/A

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

## **CHINESE BELLS: Ancient Sounds in a Southern Land**

**23 August – 19 October 2025**

**An interactive exhibition exploring the ancient 'nao' bell through  
the research and life's-journey of Dr Anton Hasell.**

The Chinese 'nao' bell is believed to be one of the earliest forms of bell produced in the world. These ancient bells, often made from bronze are now particularly rare, with only a few of the earliest examples in existence. Due to their significance and fragility, these historic bells are unable to be rung or heard. Today it is through replicas that we can experience the music of these bells.

The replica bells featured in this exhibition were created by local researcher and bell maker Dr Anton Hasell through his company Australian Bell and are the result of decades of study into traditional bell construction methods and exploring how to integrate these practices with modern materials and technologies. His research has particularly focused on the form of the elliptical bells and its sound mechanism, using modern technologies to improve the musicality of this bell form, and bringing this ancient musical tradition into the modern world.

**Learn more about these wonderful bells and their fascinating  
history as you also enjoy their sounds and melodious tones.**

A lively program of associated activities including tours, talks and lectures will be presented throughout the exhibition's run.

Visit [www.goldendragonmuseum.org](http://www.goldendragonmuseum.org) for details.

(OVER)

Quote attributable to Dr Anton Hasell:

'I have been fascinated by bells, their history, manufacture and sounds, since I started exploring their properties in the 1990s.

Chinese 'nao' bells have been a particular interest as they are amongst the oldest known forms of bells ever created. Not only are they often objects of great beauty, but the sounds that they can produce are also often beguiling and, for me, totally absorbing.'

Quote attributable to Doug Lougoon, Chair, Golden Dragon Museum

'Golden Dragon Museum is very excited to be presenting this wonderful exhibition. Many of us are attracted to the sounds of bells but fewer of us appreciate their history or the artistry that goes into making them. This showing of replica bells by Dr Hasell helps to explain and demystify them, especially ancient Chinese 'nao' bells

This exhibition is also exciting as it is the fourth temporary exhibition presented in the Museum's newly revamped temporary exhibition space and the first that is the product of an EOI process that the Museum ran during 2024 to identify future temporary exhibitions. The response from artists, curators and others interested in working with the Museum to mount exhibitions at Golden Dragon Museum over the coming few years was outstanding, and we appreciate everyone's time and effort they put into their EOIs.

The EOI initiative was only possible with the support of the City of Greater Bendigo supporting our temporary exhibitions and their associated activities through their Community Grants Program and we are indebted for this three-year support from 2024 – 2026.'

**END**

**Attached Photograph:**

1. Image credit: Nao Bell, Dr Anton Hasell, 2003  
Photo: Fred Kroh
2. Image credit: Elliptical Clock Bell, Dr Anton Hasell, 2023.  
Photo: Fred Kroh

**Media enquiries:**

Please contact Hugo Leschen, Chief Executive Officer, Golden Dragon Museum 0417 100 229.



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City of Greater Bendigo Community Grants Program*