



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Expressions of Interest

Conservation Interns - volunteer
Grimwade Conservation Services Golden Dragon project

Summary

Seeking 4-8 Conservation Interns to assist our conservation team in the delivery of conservation treatment work to Loong, the oldest imperial dragon in the world.

Expressions of Interest Due:
30 September 2021

About this project



Grimwade Conservation Services is partnering with the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo to deliver **significant and highly complex conservation treatment works** to Loong, the oldest imperial dragon in the world. Due to the size of Loong, all works will be conducted onsite in Bendigo in the Museum exhibition space.

We are seeking expressions of interest from 4-8 volunteer Conservation Interns to assist our professional conservation team in the following tasks:

- Object handling and assessment
- Photography and documentation
- Supervised treatment work including cleaning, repairs and stabilisation of textile, papier mache and bamboo supports.

When: from 15 November 2021 to 30 March 2022. The project will be delivered in 6 sprints each consisting of 3-4 days' work onsite in Bendigo. The sprints are:

1. Realignment and stabilisation of bamboo poles holding Loong upright
2. Surface clean and documentation, including sourcing archival treatment reports and oral histories which document prior repairs
3. Restoring structural integrity to splits in bamboo supports
4. Removal of unsuitable repair materials and methods
5. Treatment to stabilise internal fabric components
6. Repair and consolidation of fragile decorative components

Inclusions: accommodation and travel expenses will be covered

Location: Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo

Further information:

Penny Tripp
General Manager
Grimwade Conservation
Services

ptripp@unimelb.edu.au

Loong, the Imperial Dragon

Loong is a ceremonial Chinese Dragon c1892-1901 held in the collection of the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo.

Loong and his Pearl and Flame ceremonial regalia is significant at a State level as a rare and surviving artefact related to the Chinese in Victoria.

Loong is recognised as the oldest imperial dragon in the world. It is estimated he made his first processional appearance in 1892 and was the main attraction in Bendigo's annual Easter Parade until his retirement in 1970.

Loong was crafted by the Sing Cheung workshop in the city of Foshan on the Pearl River near Guangzhou in southern China. Constructed from silks, mirrors, bamboo, kingfisher feathers, and papier mache he is an excellent early surviving example of master craftsmanship and tradition. His name simply means 'dragon', but historically he was also referred to by the Chinese community as Gum Loong (Golden Dragon) and Moo Loong (Dancing Dragon).



*Loong in Melbourne in 1901 for the parade to welcome the Duke and Duchess of York.
Images courtesy Golden Dragon Museum.*

Loong's earliest recorded appearance in a procession was the Bendigo Easter Procession of 1892. During his parading career Loong made a number of important appearances outside of Bendigo, most notably in May 1901 for the Melbourne procession to welcome the Duke and Duchess of York who had come to open the first Australian parliament. A century later he featured again in Melbourne to mark the centenary of Australian Federation. During the 1890s to 1900s, Loong heralded the opening of hospitals in Adelaide, Sydney and Bendigo. Raising money for the sick and needy he won the hearts of people Nationwide and as such in these early years Loong came to symbolise community, benevolence, diversity and cultural acceptance.

In 2007 Loong was recognised on the Victorian Heritage Register for his historic and cultural significance to the state of Victoria.

Today Loong is on permanent display in the Golden Dragon Museum alongside two other dragons: Dai Gum Loong (Big Golden Dragon) and Sun Loong (New Dragon).



*Conservator inspecting Loong's scales.
Image courtesy Golden Dragon Museum.*

Grimwade Conservation Services

Grimwade Conservation Services specialises in all areas of cultural material conservation. As a trusted leader in conservation practice and training in Australia and the Asia Pacific region, our client base includes significant national, state and regional public collections and cultural organisations; commercial galleries; corporate collections; arts communities; and private collections.

The team of 16 specialist conservators have deep experience working across a range of materials and collaborating with University researchers to deliver world class conservation results of global significance.

Grimwade Conservation Services is part of the Faculty of Arts.

Visit Grimwade Conservation Services website for further information:

<https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/grimwade-centre-for-cultural-materials-conservation/conservation-services>



Expressions of Interest

Please submit your expression of interest to become a volunteer Conservation Intern to Penny Tripp, General Manager of Grimwade Conservation Services via email **by Thursday 30 September 2021**. Your EOI should include:

1. A cover letter which includes your name, email, contact details, and availability between 15 November 2021 to 30 March 2022.*
2. A short statement of 4-5 dot points on why you would like to join this project. Please include what you think you can contribute, your skills, and interest in textile and/or object conservation
3. A one page CV

If you have any questions, please email:

Penny Tripp
General Manager, Grimwade Conservation Services

ptripp@unimelb.edu.au

* Draft dates for each sprint are listed below. Final dates are flexible pending COVID restrictions and staff availability. Please nominate your preference for some or all sprints.

Sprint 1: between 15 November and 22 December 2021. Total of 8 days in Bendigo consisting of 2 x 4-day sprints. Realignment and stabilisation of bamboo poles holding Loong upright.

Sprint 2: between 1 December and 22 December 2021. Total of 3 consecutive days in Bendigo, plus additional work from home.

Surface clean and documentation, including sourcing archival treatment reports and oral histories which document prior repairs. Detailed condition reporting including photogrammetry.

Sprint 3: between 1 February and 18 February 2022. Total of 4 consecutive days in Bendigo.

Restoring structural integrity to splits in bamboo supports.

Sprint 4: between 8 February and 18 February 2022. One day in Bendigo.

Removal of unsuitable repair materials and methods.

Sprint 5: between 15 February and 29 March 2022. Total of 8 days in Bendigo consisting of 2 x 4-day sprints.

Treatment to stabilise internal fabric components.

Sprint 6: between 1 February and 29 March 2022. Total of 18 days in Bendigo working with local conservator.

Repair and consolidation of fragile decorative components

Grimwade Conservation Services



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