



Chinese Teaching In Bendigo

Eric Gong

18/12/2021

Acknowledgement of Country

In this presentation, we respectfully acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, the traditional custodians of the land in which Bendigo is situated. We pay our respects to their Elders, both past and present, and acknowledge the teaching and learning traditions of the Dja Dja Wurrung people that have been practised on this land for many thousands of years.

Background and Context

The Big Gold Mountain 大金山

- In 1851 gold was found in the Bendigo region.
- The name for Bendigo in Chinese is Dai Gum San - the Big Gold Mountain.
- News about this town reached China by 1853, and Chinese miners started to arrive at Dai Gum San to make their fortune. Most of them came from the villages of Guangdong Province.

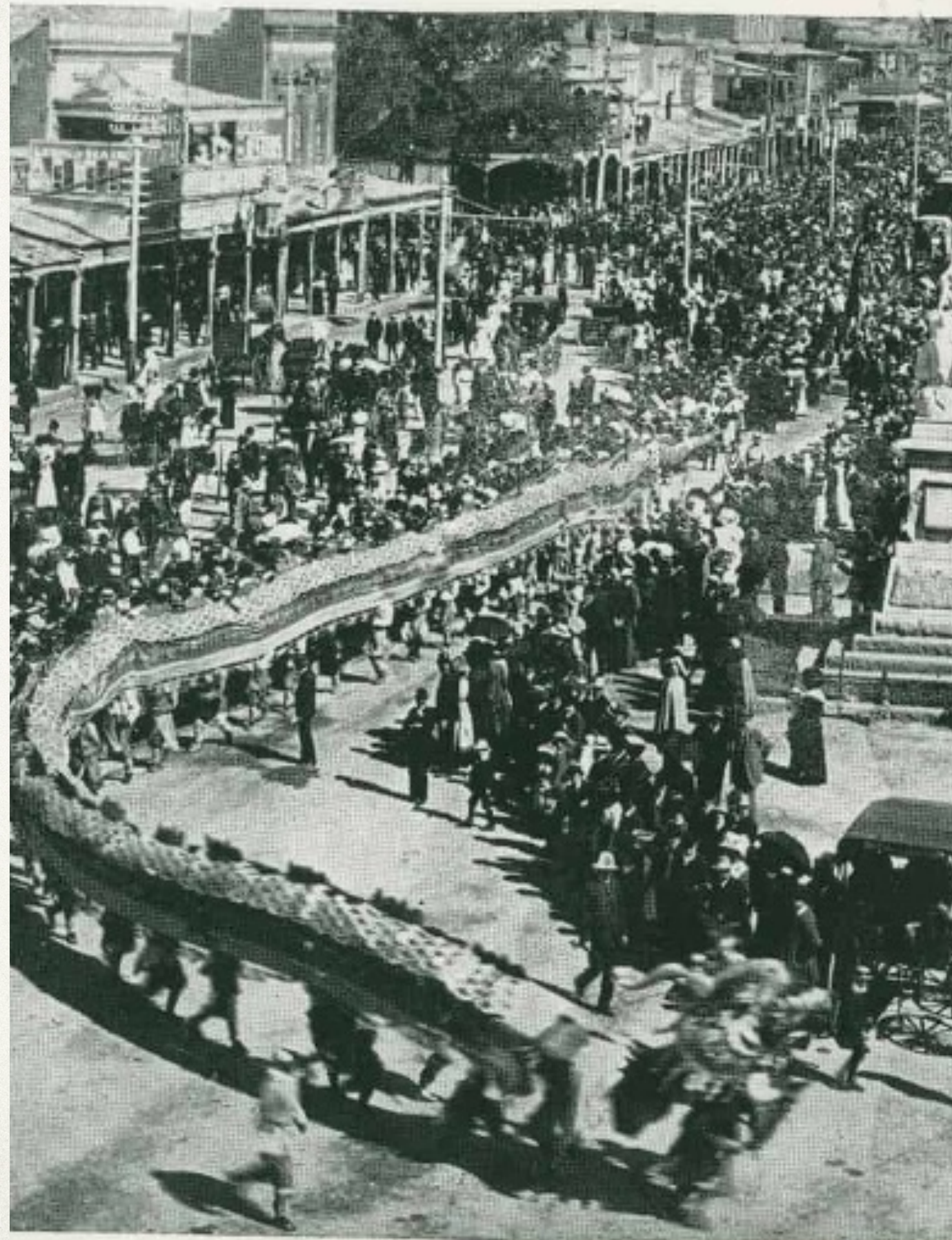


Off to the Diggings- Chinese leaving Melbourne
Illustration from Old Colonist and Samuel Charles Brees. How to farm and settle in Australia.
Ward & Lock, London, 1856.

Bendigo Easter Parade

- In 1869 The Bendigo Easter Fair and Procession was initiated to raise funds for the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum and Hospital.
- The Chinese community in 1882 decided that if they're going to raise money for charity, then they should do it on a grand scale.
- In 1892, large processional dragons became an integral part of the annual parade. The three principal golden dragons are Loong (1892–1970), Sun Loong (1970–2019) and Dai Gum Loong (2019–present), housed at the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo.

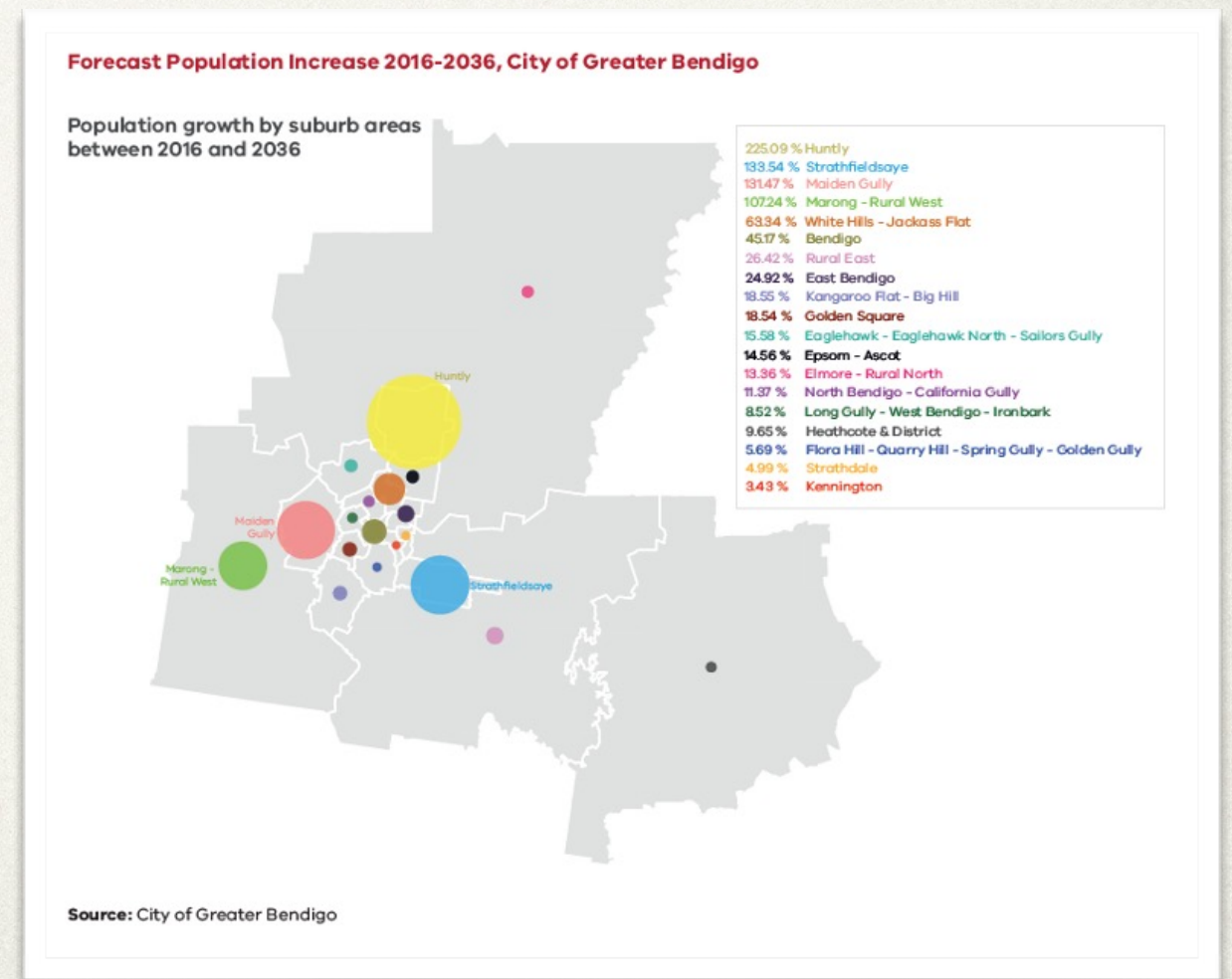
PROCESSION PASSING THE GOLD DISCOVERY STATUARY GROUP AT HOWARD PLACE





The City of Greater Bendigo

- The City of Greater Bendigo is a large municipality in central Victoria covering an area of 3,048 square kilometres including the towns of Axedale, Elmore, Heathcote, Marong, Raywood and Strathfieldsaye.
- With a current population of more than 110,000 residents (2018), Bendigo is seeing steady population growth (approximately 1.7 per cent per annum), with the population forecast to almost double in size by 2050.



Education in Bendigo

- Early education services in Bendigo are comprised of 21 funded kindergarten services and 15 long day care services. There are **28 primary schools** in the region, along with **four junior secondary colleges** that service students in Years 7–10 and **one senior secondary campus** that services students in Years 11–12. There are also two special schools that cater to students with additional needs. Bendigo also has a TAFE, a university and a range of flexible learning options for young people who are finding it hard to remain engaged at school.
(from DET)

Chinese Course in Bendigo

- Currently, there are about 5500 students enrolled in the Chinese program throughout the primary schools and secondary schools in the Bendigo region.



Bangchuiping

This word means "wooden club" in Chinese. The name comes from its cylindrical body and flanged neck with flat shoulders. The bangchuiping shape was developed during the Kangxi Period (1661 - 1722). These vases are often decorated with a blue or green underglaze.

Challenges

Challenge 1: Learning for life (Why Chinese)

- need to lift achievement, prepare for workplace and employment changes,
- ensure equitable access to programs and pathways,
- develop consistent best-practice approaches to curriculum, pedagogy and assessment.

Challenge 2: Happy, healthy and resilient Chinese learners

- need to ensure that more young people stay engaged in the Chinese program,
- need to strengthen partnerships in order to promote the development of practices that support young people's health and wellbeing

Challenge 3: Breaking the link

- need to raise aspirations for the whole community,
- need to support vulnerable students through key transition points and ensure that educators are equipped to tailor learning to individual needs

**Among the 5 government secondary schools, the average rate of “Language Background Other Than English” is 8%. (from My School)*

Challenge 4: Pride and confidence in learning Chinese

- need to work out better ways to teach Chinese characters and sentence structures,
- need to create a culture of excellence and offer opportunities for students to specialise,
- need to partner with parents and carers as first educators and with community, business and industry in promoting diverse pathways through school.

Possible Solutions

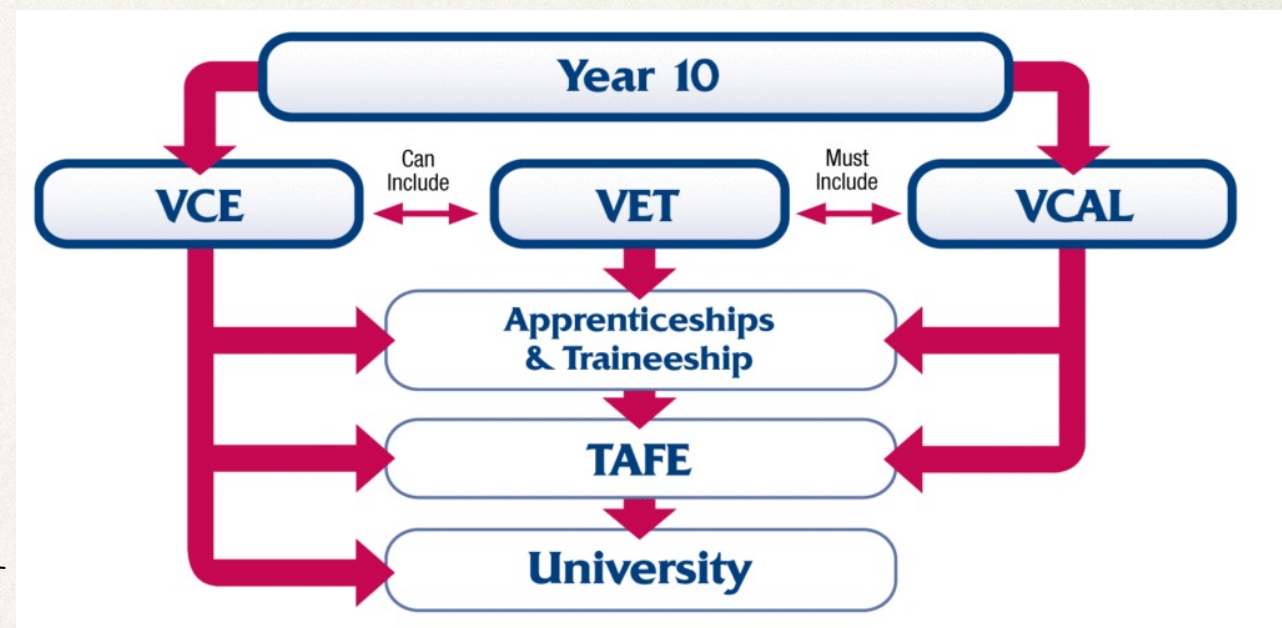
Solution 1: When in Rome, do as the Romans do

- know your students and the way they live,
- change your mindset



Solution 2: Ensuring equitable access to quality programs and pathways.

- Chinese teachers' network,
- continuity and connection between the primary curriculum and the secondary curriculum,
- pathways to vocational education including VCAL and VET



Solution 3: Getting more support from the community

- Partnering with family and carers as first-educators,
- Collaborating with community, business and industry to lift engagement, learning and developmental outcomes



Solution 4: Enriching approaches to Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment

- The Berry Street Education Model: Body, Relationship, Stamina, Engagement and Character.
- Curriculum and activities that linked to the real world.



“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.”

–Aristotle

Thank you!