

## TRIP TO BENDIGO ON THURSDAY 18th JULY, 2019



We caught the country train to Bendigo, some picked it up in the city, one in Footscray and two in Gisborne. We all managed to sit together and enjoyed the train ride, it was really nice watching the scenery go by, saw many kangaroos as well.

When we got to Bendigo we caught a bus to the Talking Tram depot, we were a bit early so we went to a bakery and had coffee and cakes for morning tea. The tram ride was very interesting, although a bit rattley. We stopped at another depot and changed trams to go to the Bendigo Joss House Temple.

**The Joss House** was constructed in the 1870's using locally handmade red bricks. There were at least eight other Joss Houses in the area but this building is now the sole remaining structure of the large settlement known as the Ironbark Chinese Camp.

**In the Main Altar** room there was the smell of incense burning and it contains a set of five sacred metal vessels representing the five jewels of the Buddhist paradise, a gong hanging on the right wall with a collection of flags underneath it. The flags are carried by messengers to the god. There is also a cabinet with the animals of the 12 years Chinese horoscope cycle.

**The Entrance Chamber** has two large red wooden doors and the Confucius Altar with two wooden panels of poems and the cloths depict the Eight Immortals.

**Ancestral Hall** is dedicated to the memory of ancestors. This altar is dedicated to the Chinese goddess of compassion and mercy, protector of mothers and children.

Outside the Joss House is a pair of Chinese Lions carved in wood. There are Loquat trees that are native to South Central China and were probably introduced to Australia by Chinese market gardeners. There is also a beautiful pond with water plants and Koi fish.

We caught the tram going back for lunch. The tram conductor told us where we should get off, but we found out that there was a walk of about two kilometres to the Lake View Hotel and it was near the tram depot so we had some nice exercise before lunch. It was a very enjoyable lunch; food was good and the staff were very friendly and helpful. The bus stop was just outside the Hotel so we just got it back to the station in time to catch the train back.

We all really enjoyed the day even though there was only seven of us attended.

