

# **Attachment C**

<b>Engagement Report</b>
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# Engagement report - proposed names for 2 lanes at 180 George Street Sydney

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## Engagement overview and background

From 23 September 2022 to 21 October 2022, we asked the community for feedback on the proposed names for two lanes as part of the redevelopment of 180 George Street, Sydney.

This report outlines the community engagement activities that took place to support the consultation and summarises the key findings from the consultation.

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## Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community
  - meet legislative and policy requirements
  - inform future decisions regarding the naming of these lanes
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## Outcomes from the consultation

A total of 40 submissions were received during the consultation period, of these submissions:

- 35 completed an online survey
- 5 email submissions were received

Submissions received from organisations:

- Chinese Australian Historical Society
- Chinese Heritage Association of Australia
- Lendlease Australia (on behalf of the joint owners)

## Summary of feedback

Several subjects/topics were raised in the feedback received via the survey and email.

All submissions can be found in the appendix.

Issue/ comment	Number of times raised	City of Sydney response
Comments stating the lane/s should reflect a Chinese name	22	Agree
Requests that 'Cabinetmaker Place' be called 'Ah Toy Place'	17	Support
Support of 'Crane Place'	10	Noted
Support of 'Cabinetmaker Place'	10	Noted
*two comments suggested 'Cabinetmaker Place' be plural, eg. 'Cabinetmakers Place'		
Requests that 'Crane Place' be called *'Shi Ying / Sai Ying / Mak Shying Place' *(there were a range of spellings in submissions)	5	Noted
Requests that Aboriginal language be used	5	Noted
Request that 'Cabinetmaker Place' be called 'Fan Tan Lane'	1	Noted
Suggestion to shorten Cabinetmaker Place to 'Cabinet Place OR Cabbie Place'	1	Noted

## Activities to support the consultation

### **Sydney Your Say webpage and survey**

- The webpage and survey were open for feedback from 23 September to 21 October 2022
- 373 unique page views

### **Letter**

- A notification letter was sent to 650 properties in the area (see appendix a)

### **Onsite signage**

- 4 signs were displayed onsite to notify people of the consultation (see appendix b)

### **Sydney Your Say e-news**

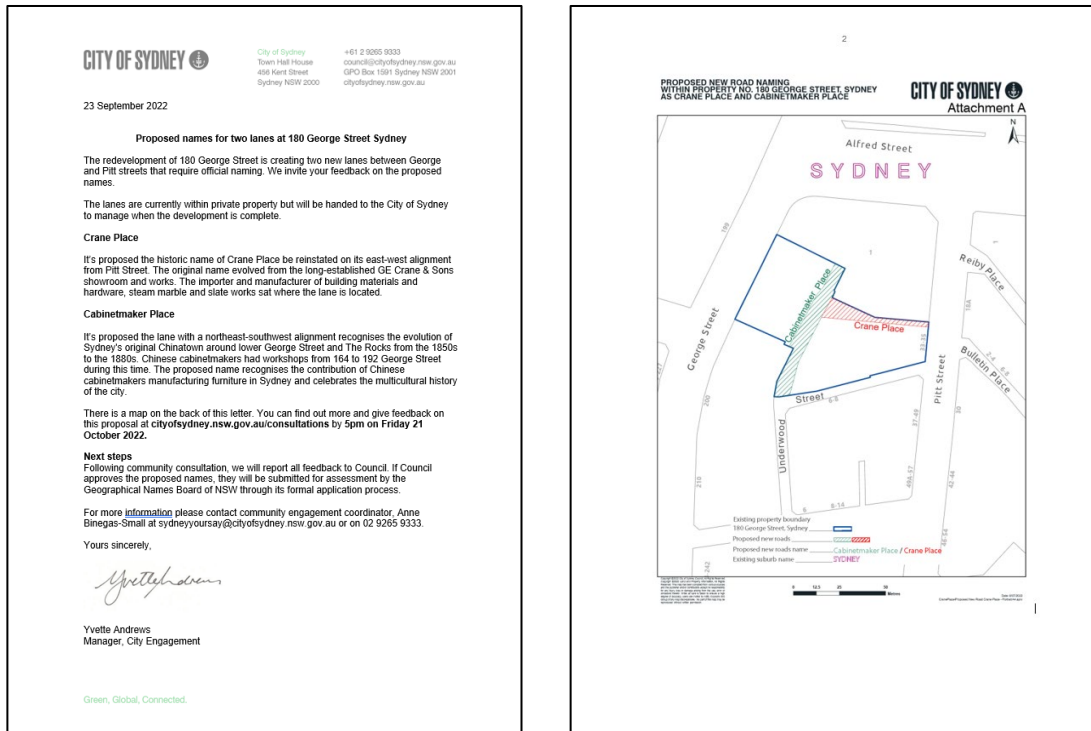
- The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say October 2022 e-newsletter (7,088 subscribers).

### **City News article**

- The consultation was promoted in a City News article (published 26 September 2022)

## Appendix A

Letter sent to 650 properties in the area:



## Appendix B

A3 signage displayed on site:

**CITY OF SYDNEY**

# Have your say

**on proposed names for 2 lanes at 180 George Street, Sydney**

The redevelopment of 180 George Street is creating 2 new lanes between George and Pitt streets that require official naming.

The lanes are currently within private property but will be handed to the City of Sydney to manage when the development is complete.

**Naming proposals**

- Crane Place - it's proposed the historic name of Crane Place be reinstated on its east-west alignment from Pitt Street.
- Cabinetmaker Place - it's proposed that the lane with a northeast-southwest alignment recognises the evolution of Sydney's original Chinatown around lower George Street and The Rocks from the 1850s to the 1880s.

For more information about the proposals and to give feedback, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit:

[cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations)  
by 5pm on Friday 21 October 2022

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## Appendix C

### Submissions received online

Individual or organisation	Submission
<b>Organisation</b> Chinese Heritage Association of Australia	The Chinese Heritage Association of Australia, Inc (CHAA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on this proposal. We believe that the generic title "Cabinetmaker Place", while a positive nod to the Chinese presence in this part of Sydney, fails to have anything more than a tangential connection to our historic connection. Cabinetmakers could, of course, be of any ethnicity. Instead, CHAA strongly supports the naming of this space as "Ah Toy Place" for the reasons set out in 'Attachment C - Historical Justification'. The use of this distinctively Cantonese name will remind residents and visitors of the substantial Chinese business presence – including On Chong & Co, King Hing & Co, and King Nam Jang – that operated along George Street North at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th Centuries. Using a representative personal cum business name also matches Council's proposal to reference the English name of Crane's Stoneworks. The existence of a hitherto unremarked interpretive plaque in the nearby E&Y building that references Ah Toy's cabinet works should not mitigate against the much more visible naming of an actual trafficked street. This opportunity to commemorate Ah Toy, and by extension all of his fellow Chinese migrants who lived and worked in The Rocks and elsewhere in the Sydney CBD, should be grasped by the City of Sydney. Cheryl Cumines President Chinese Heritage Association of Australia Inc PO Box 1136 Campbelltown NSW Australia 2560 02 4628 9579 61 2 4628 9579 <a href="http://www.chineseheritage.org.au">www.chineseheritage.org.au</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ChineseHeritageAssoc">https://www.facebook.com/ChineseHeritageAssoc</a>
<b>Individual</b>	I think the name Cabinetmaker Place does acknowledge the history and the occupation. But I suggest calling it Ah Toy Place to more strongly link it to a Chinese firm and also to link it to the 1878 event that illustrates the racism that underpinned the Chinese experience in Sydney. Crane Lane could should be named after Mak Shi Ying, who was one of the earliest Asian migrants and was a significant and colourful figure in 19th century Sydney.
<b>Individual</b>	I AGREE WITH THE CAHS PROPOSAL. ACKNOWLEDGING AND CELEBRATING CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN HISTORY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF AUSTRALIA'S MAINSTREAM HISTORY IS NECESSARY AND GOOD FOR AUSTRALIA AND ITS FUTURE.
<b>Individual</b>	There are currently no street names in Sydney that reflect the significance of the Chinese in Sydney's history. Cabinetmaker Place has no reference to the Chinese cabinetmakers and others who lived and worked in this area in the 19th century. I support the Chinese Australian History Society's proposal to name these two streets as Shi Ying Place and Ah Toy Place.
<b>Individual</b>	An excellent choice for both of these lanes.

Individual or organisation	Submission
<b>Individual</b>	I appreciate the work that has gone into researching the names for these lanes and their significance regarding businesses that existed there previously, especially the Chinese cabinetmakers. However I feel that we could use this opportunity to take a step on the reconciliation pathway and ask the local Aboriginal Elders what they would name these lanes. Remembering that our occupation of this area is but a blink of time compared to theirs. The hurts that these people have endured will not be healed by grand gestures alone, they need many small gestures too. To be consulted in this area of dense white settlement could be one of those gestures of recognition.
<b>Individual</b>	Excellent names for both - interesting to read the history and view the maps
<b>Individual</b>	Both names meet approval.
<b>Individual</b>	The names respect our city's heritage, I approve the use of these names.
<b>Individual</b>	Agree great names
<b>Individual</b>	is there dual naming to these laneways. Aboriginal naming of laneways.
<b>Individual</b>	'Crane Place' would quite properly commemorate George Crane and Sons' hardware company's historic relationship with this site. However, 'Cabinetmaker Place' would only generically reference the many Chinese-Australian cabinetmakers who once had workshops in the area. As a place name it does not distinguish the residents of this part of Sydney's original Chinatown from any other ethnicities who may have engaged in the same trade. The new space should instead be named for a specific individual, as 'Ah Toy Place', referring to the biggest of the furniture makers in the area in the late 19th Century. The 'Historical Justification' for the renaming sets out the significance of Ah Toy's business to the area and the era. Using this Cantonese name for the new space would highlight the Chinese heritage of this part of Sydney* in a way that 'Cabinetmaker/s Place' does not. Although Ah Toy was not his true Chinese name, it is the name by which he is best known to history; using it for this purpose (Ah Toy Place) is consistent with the use of an Anglo-European family name for Crane Place. * My great-grandfather Cheng 'Henry' Fine Chong (also known as Ah Hing) lived in Essex Street, The Rocks, from 1896-1906; he was involved with the firm of King Hing and Co at 229 George Street, and the 'Tung Wah News'/'Tung Wah Times' newspaper based at 158 George Street.
<b>Individual</b>	Both most appropriate, reflecting history & heritage of the locations.
<b>Individual</b>	Missed opportunity to use indigenous names. Gadigal presence and words are lacking from the CBD and this seems like an easy win in terms of highlighting local indigenous leaders from the area. It would be amazing to look forward rather than backward and name a local leader or symbol that is meaningful to local Gadigal groups.

Individual or organisation	Submission
<b>Individual</b>	I would rather see more frequent naming of indigenous people, places, or references. Crane was a private company that profited, and their work can stand alone for itself. Let's be clear - "original premises" would be indigenous.
<b>Individual</b>	For simplicity (instead of a mouthful), as a long-time City of Sydney local resident, I propose the following for their names: FROM: Crane Place Cabinetmaker Place TO: Crane Place Cabinet Place OR Cabbie Place
<b>Individual</b>	I would recommend the name Ah Toy's Place, as "Cabinetmaker Lane" is far too generic, and does not immediately communicate the Chinese character of its history.
<b>Individual</b>	Considering the association of the place with Chinese business I wonder why the place is named after a nameless "Cabinetmaker".... & not one of the nominated 3 Chinese names, thereby repeating the anglocentric bias of "Crane" Place. It should not be too difficult to choose and justify one of the 3 names.
<b>Individual</b>	You could call that name a whitewash. Given the racism and discrimination experienced by the Chinese in the early days, never mind the White Australia Policy, to further wipe out the early workers this way is thoughtless and a disgrace.
<b>Individual</b>	If this name is supposedly to commemorate Sydney Chinese history, it is a disappointing and poor choice. What in the broad, bland and general occupational word 'cabinetmaker' indicates that it is about Chinese Australian history at all or linked to the Chinese Australian community and the sometimes violent and tragic racial riots they endured. Giving the lane a specific name pointing to a specific Chinese cabinetmaker, such as Ah Toy, would be much more evocative, informative and less tokenistic and evasive. Please don't waste this opportunity by not doing it properly.
<b>Individual</b>	Having learned of the history of Ah Tot furniture making premises and public determination to obliterate it and it's occupants it is important as a marker and respectful acknowledgement to register this history through naming this lane Ah Toy lane
<b>Individual</b>	To better reflect the long history of Chinese in Sydney and to reflect the both the positive and negative experiences of the culture as part of Sydney's diversity I suggest the name Ah Toy's place
<b>Individual</b>	The proposed name of "Cabinetmaker Place" is a great recognition of the early inhabitants and industries in this location but should reflect there was more than one person involved in this trade (not singular). I propose Cabinetmakers Place. Makes more sense.



Individual or organisation	Submission
<b>Individual</b>	To better acknowledge that Sydney first Chinatown was in the Lower George St district, I submit that the lane should be called Ah Toy's Place or Ah Toy's Lane after one of the original business owners. Cabinetmaker Place is too generalised a name and gives no sense of the vibrancy and contribution of Sydney's early Chinese community.
<b>Individual</b>	Very happy for the name change.
<b>Individual</b>	Better if Cabinetmakers Place - singular implies a particular person. These places usually had multiple workers.
<b>Individual</b>	The mere fact that Chinese-Cabinet makers Inhabited this Laneway from the 1850s up until the late 1880s so as far as I am concerned automatically gives these Gentleman the right to be honoured and have an assured place In our rich diverse history, these men should NOT be FORGOTTEN and relegated to a distant dusty past and be thrust Into the void of NOTHINGNESS. Our Asian Brothers and Sisters so to speak eons ago were treated as though they were HUMAN-GARBAGE Society URGENTLY requires to rectify that HORRENDOUS annomoly NOW.
<b>Individual</b>	I support Glenn Mar's submission to name these lanes after early Chinese settlers who had businesses in the area.
<b>Individual</b>	I support Glenn Mar's submission.
<b>Individual</b>	Ah Toy was a cabinetmaker of the time. He endured much adversities to forge name for himself in the industry. I think Ah Toy is worthy of a place named after him. After all he was a cabinetmaker of note The other worthy candidate is Mak Shying who was also known as Mak Sai Ying who was the first documented Chinese arrival at Sydney Cove in 1818. Mr. Mak was in the service of John MacArthur. The descendants are now known as the Shying family. I think the Shying family deserve a a mention in the city's history viz a street in their honour. Thank you.
<b>Individual</b>	As a descendant of a Chinese great grandfather who experienced exclusion, I think naming it "Ah Toy lane" is properly honouring and recognising the contribution that Ah Toy made to the Sydney community.
<b>Individual</b>	No reason why a Chinese name cannot be used to recognise the huge impact the have had in our history.
<b>Individual</b>	You should honour the early Chinese immigrant history who established the cabinet making industry and fought to be treated equally. Cabinetmaker lane is too generic, connect the name to a particular story and individuals. There is little Chinese-Australian history in the public realm, even though it stretches back from the very early days of the colony and even beyond that.

Individual or organisation	Submission
Individual	Can we please use more Aboriginal place names? Perhaps ask the traditional custodians what they would name these streets, or what the Aboriginal name for Crane or Cabinetmaker is, so that you can reflect both Aboriginal and European histories?
Individual	I would like to support the proposed Crane Place name. My late father Dr. Robert ELBURY JEFFERIS was a close friend of Geoffrey Crane and as Sydney Uni. students sailed on Tuggerah Lake from a lake side cottage owned by my grand father also a Dr Jefferis. Additionally G E Crane formulated the ceiling in the Pitt St. Congregational church My great grand father James Jefferis started the Congregational Church at Brougham Place Adelaide and later preached at the Pitt St. church. Thus I have a tenuous relationship with G E Crane and Sons and thus my support.

**Submissions made by email (attached on next pages) from:**

- Chinese Australian Historical Society
- Lendlease (on behalf of joint owners)
- Dr Michael Williams
- Dr Juanita Kwok

**CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY'S SUBMISSION**

**TO CITY OF SYDNEY'S**

**SYDNEY YOUR SAY  
SURVEY 'YOUR SAY ON  
PROPOSED NAMES FOR  
2 LANES AT 180 GEORGE  
STREET SYDNEY'<sup>1</sup>**

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To: The CITY OF SYDNEY The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Clover Moore and CEO  
Leander Kloh

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**The Chinese Australian Historical Society acknowledges the traditional  
custodians  
of the land which is the subject of this submission, the Gadigal people of the  
Eora  
Nation and pays its respects to their Elders, past present and emerging.**

The CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC (CAHS) thanks CITY OF SYDNEY for the opportunity to submit its view. The Committee of CAHS has researched and considered the issue and all appropriate name options with the following outcome:

The CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY submits that

- 1. *The Laneway with a proposed name Cabinetmakers Place (Lane 2 in this document) be named AH TOY PLACE , and***
- 2. *The Laneway with a proposed name Crane Place (Lane 1 in this document) be named SAI YING PLACE.***

The reasons for this submission are set out below. The CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY thanks CITY OF SYDNEY in advance for its consideration of this submission.

Members of CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY's Committee are available for any queries or additional consultation on the matter.

CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY would be happy to present this submission face to face to any interested Councillors and Council staff, and to the Council meeting where the Lanes Naming is on the agenda.

Also below, please find some relevant information regarding the CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, a national, volunteer-run society with its own roots in the CITY OF SYDNEY.

Thank you.

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#### A. THE AH TOY INCIDENT 1878

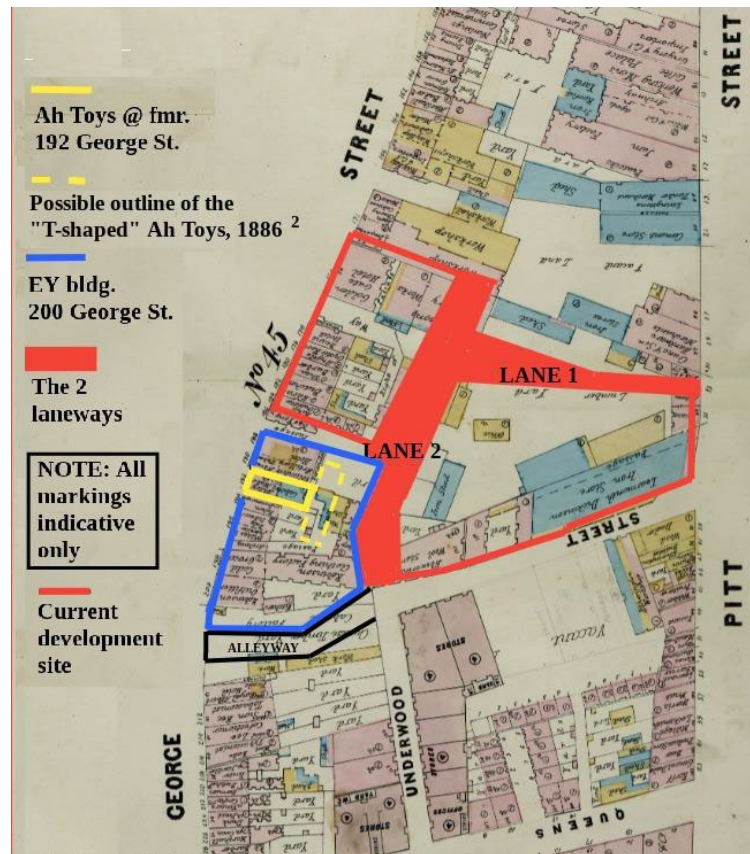


Fig. 1 - Marked up historical map<sup>2</sup> showing the lanes and Ah Toys

## A. WHY THE TWO LANES SHOULD BE NAMED AS A PAIR WITH CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN NAMES

### SECTION A INTRODUCTION

The simple act of naming a pair of lanes with Chinese Australian names will demonstrate City of Sydney's focus for Sydney's CBD covers enriching the city, celebrating & examining its history, showing how local meets global, valuing its whole community, and saying no to racism in a physical form that will be part of the city in perpetuity.

## 1. CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL TO LEAD THE WAY

- ⇒ **City of Sydney Council is to be congratulated** in its initiative to name the 2 laneways with a process to achieve the best two street names, focussing on historical bona fides.
- ⇒ **As Australia's first city, City of Sydney has a role to look at national significance as well as local.** The pair of proposed names each have both national and local aspects to them, as explained below in this submission.

- ⇒ **There are few if any precedents for such city CBD or town centre street naming acknowledging the past & present roles of the Chinese Australian community in the cities and towns of Australia.** If Sydney chooses two Chinese-Australian street names with exemplary historical bona fides, Council will be leading the way among Australia's Councils, and its cities and towns.
- ⇒ **The naming Lane 2 as 'Ah Toy Place' would be the first street name or placename in Australia referencing historical racist violence.** Therefore City of Sydney would be leading the way particularly in the case. And this would fit perfectly with City of Sydney's leadership role in the national & community *Racism Not Welcome* campaign<sup>3</sup> which includes the erection of faux street signs flagging the mantra "Racism Not Welcome".

## 2. TWO LANES CRYING OUT TO BE NAMED AS A PAIR

- ⇒ **The pair of lanes created by the new development should logically be named as a pair with an obvious common theme.** By naming the two lanes with clearly Chinese origin names is the best way to achieve this thematic consistency.
- ⇒ **The thematic Chinese Australian naming of the pair of lanes may potentially help the street level part of the development become a culturally interesting precinct, for example, for a hip new micro-Chinatown or 'SE Asia-town' in the northern end of the city.** The City knows the importance of maximising the utility and vibrancy of its existing laneways for public amenity particularly nightlife.<sup>4</sup> Any new lanes created in developments are clearly as important and create the opportunity for those outcomes to be focussed on in all their planning decisions. With benefits to the public, retailers in the precinct, laneways nightlife - for the city as a whole.
- ⇒ **The two proposed names are thematically linked as both reflect the important Chinese-Australian historical industrial niche of cabinetmaking & carpentry** with Ah Toys the cabinetmaker and Mak Sai Ying the carpenter, and three of his sons cabinetmakers & coffin-makers in Sydney Town.
- ⇒ **Comparatively the non-paired names Crane & Cabinetmaker possess none of the above benefits.**

## 3. SYDNEY'S CHINESE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY - THEN & NOW

- ⇒ **A pair of Chinese Australian named streets in this northern end location will address the lack of knowledge amongst the general public of Sydney that the first Chinatown in Sydney was at The Rocks** at the port end of Sydney Town<sup>5</sup>. Even in heritage documents the Chinese or The Rocks Chinatown may be missing<sup>6</sup>. So the history is not unknown, but it is certainly 'under-known'. be a physical & symbolic reminder of this history. Especially if the new laneways precinct has other Chinese or South East Asian elements in its street level as per 2. above.
- ⇒ **A pair of Chinese Australian-named streets will go some way to address the situation that a significant part of Sydney's current Chinese & SE Asian-Australian community, particularly 1st and 2nd generation such Australians are also very largely unaware of the long history of Sydney's Chinese Australians** and that after First Nations people and the Anglo-Celts, Chinese Australians were the next largest ethnic community in the second half of the nineteenth century. And help



this part of Sydney's community feel more culturally accepted in the city, as an example of one benefit of such naming to the community.

4. THEN STILL JUST TWO (OR SO) CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN NAMED STREETS AMONG THE THOUSANDS IN THE CITY & THE 180,000 STREETS IN GREATER SYDNEY

⇒ **The pair of names will create a good, little artefact on their street signs and on all Sydney's maps and street directories in perpetuity.** Flick through a Greater Sydney street directory and try to find a street name with a Chinese origin - there are none or almost none among the 180,000 odd<sup>7</sup>. Of course this is understandable, given when most streets were named. And it is supposed new streets in suburban developments have not been named for Chinese Australians because of no historical links in those locations and other reasons? However the City of Sydney has both the opportunity and it is assumed the will to create the precedent of two excellent Chinese Australian street names for its CBD.

**B. REASONS FOR THE STREET NAME "AH TOY PLACE" FOR LANE 2**



Figure 2. Illustration of a rally in the same week of the Ah Toy incident, December 1878, Sydney<sup>7A</sup>.



## SECTION B INTRODUCTION

Ah Toy Place will reference Sydney history and Australian history in several important ways, as well as being very place-specific. City of Sydney will do well to adopt it, as it is a far superior name that the one originally proposed.

### 1. AH TOYS - THE 'UNDER-KNOWN' SITE OF SYDNEY'S MOST SERIOUS URBAN ANTI-CHINESE VIOLENCE, 1878

- ⇒ **This incident, particularly the attempted torching of the Ah Toy factory and dormitory part of that night, was Sydney's most serious incident of urban anti-Chinese violence**, given that potentially scores of Chinese Australians may have died if the torching attempt had been successful.
- ⇒ **The incident is also amongst the top two of Australia's most serious incidents of urban anti-Chinese violence<sup>7B</sup>.**
- ⇒ **Please now refer to APPENDIX A** for a detailed write up of the incident based on newspaper reports at the time including relevant references<sup>8</sup>.
- ⇒ **Was the attack on Ah Toy's a fairly random act by the larrikin element that night, or was there more direction behind the scenes?** This question has not been asked let alone attempted to be answered (unless this author missed something, which is very possible). It is known that at least one Sydney European furniture maker supported the seamen's strike<sup>9</sup>. And note the name "Ah Toy" was used derogatively in one of the rabble-rousing speeches earlier in Hyde Park<sup>8</sup>.
- ⇒ **The incident draws together many elements which make it an excellent history to bring to focus in an 'Ah Toy Place':** Sydney's Chinese history, the 'Chinese Question' debate of that era, the union's and other players' role in anti-Chinese campaigning, previous NSW anti-Chinese legislation and the soon to follow federal White Australia policy laws, the conjunction of the larrikin era in Sydney and other capital cities, and the excellent planning and actions of the colony's police force that saved the Ah Toy workers and two others later that night.
- ⇒ **An 'under-known' and under-analysed incident:** Despite the incident's richness there is no detailed history that has been written of it known. Various publications give it one line or two, if any (with the exception, to an extent, of the Gibson book of Australia's Chinese Australian cabinetmakers *Made in Chinatown*)<sup>9</sup>. A detailed, analytical history when written would be an asset to Australia's history of this seminal pre-federation period. See the notes to Appendix 1.

### 2. AH TOYS - ONE OF THE LARGEST CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN CABINETMAKERS IN ONE THE LARGEST CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES

- ⇒ **Ah Toy the person, and Ah Toys the firm, like other pioneers of Sydney Town, was a credit to an exemplary Sydney immigrant's life.** Ah Toy came to Australia in

1854, not for gold, but to make furniture, as he opened his factory almost immediately. His was one of the largest of the Chinese Australian factories employing over 60 workers by 1891. His complex included a retail shopfront and store, the factory & dormitory, and large timber yard<sup>9</sup>. The factory 'next door' to the retail shop apparently meant the 192 George Street building was T-shaped according to an 1886 article<sup>10</sup>.

⇒ **Cabinetmaking was one of the largest sources of employment for Chinese Australians** along with market gardening for the Chinese for those where gold mining was no longer their favoured toil. In the last twenty years of the 19th century Chinese furniture workers equalled or outnumbered 'European' workers in the industry in Sydney. Compare this to Melbourne where Chinese numbers never exceeded Europeans. In terms of raw numbers Chinese furniture workers in Sydney peaked at around 850 before declining in the early 1910s and then collapsing to just 21 by 1931<sup>9</sup>.

### **3. CHINESE-AUSTRALIAN CABINETMAKERS - A FOCUS OF ANTI-CHINESE REGULATION**

⇒ In brief, there was labour agitation and restrictive laws in the period 1860-89, followed by official inquiries and more laws and restrictions in 1890-1900 against the Chinese cabinetmakers. The White Australia laws of 1901 followed with Federation, with more of the same targeted action against them. In some states mandatory stamping of all furniture needed to state if the Australian-made item was made by Chinese or European hands. Such restrictions combined with the Great Depression led to the almost total collapse of Chinese Australian firms by 1933.<sup>9</sup>

### **4. LOCATION - THE REAR OF AH TOYS IS VERY CLOSE TO THE SOUTHERN END OF LANE 2**

⇒ **Ah Toy's former eastern wall was very proximate to the southern end of the proposed Lane 2, and any former yard east of the wall would have adjoined Lane 2.** See Figure 1 where the building is indicatively marked based on contemporary descriptions<sup>2</sup>.

### **5. THE SEVERAL WAYS 'AH TOY PLACE' IS SUPERIOR TO 'CABINETMAKERS PLACE'**

⇒ How many of the general public would realise that 'Cabinetmaker Place' is an attempt to give a nod to Chinese Australian heritage? As that English word does not clearly enough evoke Sydney's Chinese Australian history.

⇒ Ah Toy is unmistakably a Chinese name and therefore a much bolder action to mark Sydney's Chinese Australian history.

⇒ Naming the laneway with a Chinese Australian family name 'Ah Toy' (and 'Sai Ying') will be a gift from Council to a significant part of the Sydney community, and be received with a little pride and some gratitude by the community. Compared to 'Cabinetmaker Place' being more like an unseen-by-others wink to Chinese Australians.

⇒ There were European as well as Chinese cabinetmakers in Sydney including the site in question's precinct.

- ⇒ 'Ah Toy' has multiple significant references as above, whereas 'Cabinetmaker' refers to just one aspect of Sydney's past, and doesn't do that one well anyway.
- ⇒ A technical point: Will the quite long name 'Cabinetmaker Pl' fit on the short lane on maps of typical scale?

### C. REASONS FOR THE STREET NAME "SAI YING PLACE" FOR LANE 1<sup>11</sup>

#### SECTION C INTRODUCTION

Sai Ying Place will reference Sydney & Greater Sydney's history and Australian history in several ways, particularly but not only, by recognising Mak Sai Ying - a classic Sydney character. Sydney's Chinese Australian community will take a little bit of pride and happiness from such a street name.



Figure 3 - Many of Shying's descendants became undertakers and cabinetmakers. This is J. & G. Undertakers at George Street. Image: State Library of NSW

### 1. MAK SAI YING - FIRST CHINESE AUSTRALIAN OF RECORD

- ⇒ **Mak Sai Ying (or John Shying) was one of the very first Chinese-Australians to disembark at the Port of Sydney, entrepôt of the colony of New South Wales, and the first of whom we know anything more than a name and a date.** He disembarked from the ship *Laurel* which sailed from Calcutta to Canton and reached in Australia on 27 February 1818. Mak Sai Ying's home village may have been in

Dong Guan county, one of the 'four counties' (Sze Yup) of the Pearl River delta. The New South Wales colony would record his home address as 'Canton', the anglo name for the modern Chinese province Guangdong for the enlightenment of future descendants<sup>7</sup>.

- ⇒ **Mak Sai Ying is more associated with Greater Sydney than the port town** as either immediately or after a short stay he boarded a vessel on Sydney Harbour to sail or be rowed up Sydney's estuary, the Parramatta River, or alternatively travelled by road, first to Newington, and three years later to Parramatta.
- ⇒ **Sai Ying has a great Sydney biography - a tradie first & a go-getter who was successful as a property developer, publican and perhaps his greatest achievement, father to a very large clan of Chinese Australian descendants.**
- ⇒ **His story also has both colour and mystery - an eye for the deal, various names, missing years, a death unrecorded.** The colour of about 5 different names and an eye to working the system for personal gain, and the mystery of two periods of missing years - the first where he may have returned to China (at a time when the common reason for doing so was that there was a Chinese wife back in his home village), the second his final years resulting in that it is not even known if he died in Australia or China, or what name he had at his time of death.

## **2. THE SAI YING FAMILY - INCLUDING THE 2ND GENERATION - CABINETMAKERS (ETC) OF SYDNEY CITY**

- ⇒ Mak Sai Ying was blessed with four sons, several of whom established carpentry-related businesses in different parts of Sydney Town - undertakers/coffin makers & cabinetmakers.
  - ⇒ The two eldest John J. & George H. Sai Ying formed J & G Undertakers where the service included coffin-making, with premises at Abercrombie Place (now Lane), ~300m from the subject pair of laneways; 719 George Street, Haymarket (see Fig.3); Riley Street, Surrey Hills; and 120 [Old} South Head Road, Bellevue Hill.
  - ⇒ J. Henry Sai Ying was a cabinetmaker at 477 Pitt Street, Sydney.
  - ⇒ While Thomas J. Sai Ying, the youngest was the odd one out - a butcher at Crown Street, Pyrmont<sup>12</sup>.
- ⇒ **Family visits to & fro between Sydney to Parramatta likely took place** between the Sydney Town-based sons and their four broods of Mak's 31 grandchildren and the Parramatta-based patriarch. Until his death c. 1880 [?] or earlier if he returned to China in retirement as some successful immigrants did.

## **3. THE CLAN OF ALL THE DESCENDANTS OF MAK SAI YING NUMBERS IN THE THOUSANDS AND MAY POSSIBLY BE AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST CHINESE AUSSIE CLAN**

- ⇒ **Mak Sai Ying is the patriarch of a clan of descendants numbering thousands, possibly the largest such Chinese Australian clan in Australia**, as he had a one or two generation head start on the gold rush Chinese and later immigrants. He and his four sons, who between them had at least 31 children. As well as Sai Ying &

variants, their clan includes families named, for example, Dunn, Slayford, Owens, Proctor and Murphy.

#### **4. WHY 'SAI YING PLACE' IS SUPERIOR TO 'CRANE PLACE'**

- ⇒ **Sai Ying Place is a much better historical reference to Sydney and Greater Sydney's past than Crane Place.**
- ⇒ Naming the laneway with a Chinese Australian family name 'Ah Toy' (and 'Sai Ying') will be a gift from Council to a significant part of the Sydney community, and be received with a little pride and some gratitude by the community as a sign of progressiveness & inclusion. Compared to 'Crane Place' signifies status quo or even a rearward step.
- ⇒ **'Crane Place' - A nod to Sydney as a city of skyscrapers where the developer activity is measured by the number of cranes on the skyline, yes?**
- ⇒ **There are already 12 streets in Greater Sydney with the name 'Crane' - how many Sai Ying Places?** Including four 'Crane Place's, two of which are in neighbour LGAs to the City - one in Double Bay, the other Bellevue Hill.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**

##### **1. WHAT'S IN A [CHINESE] NAME?**

- ⇒ **Shying or Sai Ying: The spelling 'Sai Ying Place' is herein proposed**, as while Mak Sai Ying went by both (& other) surnames, the 'Shying' name is not felt to be appropriate as it is also an English word (the shying horse). Acceptable alternatives, subject to meeting other requirements or their approved waiving may be 'Mak Sai Ying Place' or 'John Shying Place'.
- ⇒ **The various names of Mak Sai Ying:** [This section may be added at a later date.]
- ⇒ **The Ah in Ah Toy:** [This section may be added at a later date.]

#### **ABOUT THE CHINESE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CAHS)**

Website: <https://chineseaustralianhistory.org/cahs-2/>

A national, non-profit, member-funded, volunteer run incorporated organisation with its roots in the CBD of SYDNEY AU.

Objectives in brief:

- To advance education in the field of the history of the Chinese in Australia
- To encourage and promote research in and the study of the history of the Chinese Australian families, institutions, and communities, and the preservation of Chinese Australian heritage
- To promote the collection, compilation and preservation of authentic records relating to the Chinese in Australia
- To promote the preservation of objects, buildings, or sites of significance to the heritage of Chinese Australians

- To promote interchange of information among members of the Society by lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences and exhibitions
- To publish (in any media) newsletters, journals, periodicals, books and other literary or other undertaking as may seem conducive to any of the objects of the Society.

CAHS has some expertise in Chinese Australian history and access to eminent historians in this field. In addition to this expertise the executive and membership of CAHS are of course members and friends of the Chinese Australian community of Sydney and Australia, and so in this document speak not just with historical expertise but also with a deep knowledge and experience of the feelings of this part of Sydney's and the Australian community.

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

1. This submission will be communicated to CITY OF SYDNEY as an attachment in an online response to City of Sydney Sydney Your Say survey 'Your say on proposed names for 2 lanes at 180 George Street Sydney' - <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/public-notice/your-say-on-proposed-names-for-2-lanes-at-180-george-street-sydney> for the use of the Lord Mayor Clover Moore & Councillors, and CEO Klohs & staff.
2. This version of this document is Copyright Glenn Mar 2022. The author intends that a future version shall be published under CREATIVE COMMONS license.
3. This document is largely written by Glenn Mar for use by Chinese Australian Historical Society (CAHS) initially as the laneway submission document. And for City of Sydney's use that the City of Sydney & CAHS agree. A future version may be produced for wider use or interest, such as Facebook at appropriate groups & pages.
4. The main author Glenn Mar acknowledges all assistance from fellow CAHS Committee members, historians Michael Williams & Peter Gibson, Facebook contributors to the comments to related Facebook such as Brad Powe, Lao Gui (Sai Ying clan elder), Juanita Kwok & Linda Coonan. All mistakes, etc are Glenn Mar's, who welcomes any further feedback to improve any later versions. Note the main author is a layperson and not a historian.



## NOTES & REFERENCES

1. City of Sydney, 2022 Webpages:
  - a. *Have your say: Proposed names for 2 lanes at 180 George Street Sydney*  
<https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/have-your-say-proposed-names-for-2-lanes-at-180-george-street-sydney>
  - b. *Public notices - Your say on proposed names for 2 lanes at 180 George Street Sydney* <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/public-notice/your-say-on-proposed-names-for-2-lanes-at-180-george-street-sydney>
2. Figure 1 notes: Base map in Fig.1: H Percy Dove, Plans of Sydney, 1880 Block 45 (Map 19) [detail] City Archives, A-00880118,  
<https://archives.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/nodes/view/1709045> ; "[T]he entrance to Ah Toy's factory in George-street is through a small shop in the street, but behind the "show room" the factory branches out to a considerable size in the shape of the letter T" ... "Ah Toy, 192, George-street." So based on this 1886 information, the tee shape drawn on the historic map is with an assumption of the start & breadth of the 'T' head. Quote from: "THE FURNITURE TRADE." The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) 1 November 1886: 4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28351414> >.
3. City of Sydney news article, 9-Mar-21, *Racism Not Welcome in the heart of our communities*, <https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/racism-not-welcome-in-the-heart-of-our-communities>
4. The City of Sydney commenced its Laneways Revitalisation Program in 2007 recognising the importance of the city's many historic laneways.  
<https://meetings.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/documents/s56037/Laneways%20Revitalisation%20Program%20Review.pdf> . Then in 2013 OPEN Sydney, the city's Nightlife Economy strategy featured laneways in its Action Plan.  
<https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/strategies-action-plans/open-sydney>
5. See for example: Shirley Fitzgerald, 2008, *Chinatown*, article in the Dictionary of Sydney, <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/chinatown>
6. See for example: Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, 2016, webpage, *The Rocks Conservation Area Statement of Significance*, [http://www.shfa.nsw.gov.au/sydney-About us-Heritage role-Heritage and Conservation Register.htm&objectid=170#:~:text=The%20Rocks%20was%20given%20its,military%20camp%2C%20bakehouse%20and%20hospital](http://www.shfa.nsw.gov.au/sydney-About-us-Heritage-role-Heritage-and-Conservation-Register.htm&objectid=170#:~:text=The%20Rocks%20was%20given%20its,military%20camp%2C%20bakehouse%20and%20hospital).
7. There are two Canton Streets in Greater Sydney. The word 'Canton' is an interesting word for Chinese Australians with ancestors who arrived pre-1920, say, as almost every Chinese immigrant was given this one word address as their origin address, as it was of no import to officials here what their home village, town or even county was - a 'Chinaman' was from 'Canton'. Equivalent to an Australian immigrating into China with

the address requested & recorded as being as vague as 'New South Wales'. With one result being that many of their current generation descendants do not know where their ancestors were from, as there is no record.

7. 7A. There are no images of the night of the Ah Toy incident - this illustration is of a rally later in the same week. State Library NSW image of the cover illustration: *The Chinese Question - Scene in George Street [Haymarket], December 7th - The police dispersing the crowd*. <https://collection.slnsw.gov.au/.../74VKqO.../lQEKoNzeGpp0N>, used in Page 1 article: "THE CHINESE QUESTION." Illustrated Sydney News and New South Wales Agriculturalist and Grazier (NSW : 1872 - 1881) 21 December 1878: 1. [<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63335305>](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63335305).
7. 7B. Evans, Raymond. Undated, (2004 or later), Anti Chinese Riot: Lower Albert Street [Brisbane QLD AU] from: Evans, Raymond and Carole Ferrier with Jeff Rickertt (eds.) Radical Brisbane: An unruly history, Carlton North, Vic., Vulgar Press, 2004, [http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/doc/evans\\_anti-chinese\\_riot.pdf](http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/doc/evans_anti-chinese_riot.pdf)
8. Glenn Mar, 9-Oct-22, *Ah Toy - An "Under-Known" Incident at 192 George Street Syd AU*, Facebook post, reproduced in this submission as APPENDIX A. <https://www.facebook.com/glenn.mar.oz/posts/pfbid0fKEzEetooCsGhEMqyk1MgLGYM1HZMwuBZQTJd6HfmoWVScxXYBDwpLxdSACP81Ftl>
9. Peter Charles Gibson, 2022, 'Made in Chinatown - Chinese Australian Furniture Factories, 1880-1930', <https://sydneyuniversitypress.com.au/products/163127>
10. "THE FURNITURE TRADE." The Sydney Morning Herald 1 November 1886: 4. [<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28351414>](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28351414).
11. For this section, this document relies on the following document, which is a great long summary of Mak Sai Ying complete with illustrations & further references:  
Valerie Khoo, undated, podcast & webpage, *New Stories Bold Legends - Sydney Lunar Festival Season 2, Episode 1: John Shying – The story of Australia's first known Chinese settler*, <https://newstories.net.au/john-shying-the-story-of-australias-first-known-chinese-settler/>.
12. For the names used info here which includes family history bio: Peter Jones, undated, *Sai Ying (Mak) Shying (abt. 1796)* webpage on Wikitree website, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Mak-67>



## APPENDIX A. THE AH TOY INCIDENT 1879



### AH TOY - AN "UNDER-KNOWN" INCIDENT AT 192 GEORGE STREET SYD AU

Wednesday evening, December 4, 1878, SYD AU: "A mob of about 2000 larrikins, of ages ranging from 17 to 19, marched with torches down to Lower George-street ... and going to Ah Toy's place thrust a lighted torch through a back window"

Ah Toys at 192 George Street was a cabinetmakers factory, and as per the Chinese Australian fashion at the time the workers, all males, perhaps 40 resided in the upstairs dormitory.

In this post, here is a deep dive into this incident - perhaps the most significant example of urban anti-Chinese violence in Australia's history, from this humble layperson's brief search.

The larrikins had split off after a larger rally with speeches at the Cook statue, Hyde Park which then marched to Parliament House to present a petition requesting a ban on Chinese immigration, sparked by a shipping company employing Chinese seamen in response to striking local seamen.

"Kill him."

Later "the mob retreated, and up George-street they swept, with the old Lambing Flat cry, 'Roll up! no Chinese!' resounding.... Eventually the mob met two unoffensive Chinese, who were quietly returning to their homes.... surrounded by the larrikins... the terrified Celestials ... the rabble, several of whom dealt him violent blows with their fists.... Some of the number were even heard crying out 'Kill him!' "

The outcomes of the torching of Ah Toys and serious injury or death of Chinese Australians was avoided by exemplary planning and actions of the police force including having plain cloth policemen at high risk locations. This police presence was no doubt informed by intelligence and the climate of inner Sydney where there was a serious problem with "larrikins". Larrikins were no laughing matter - think "skinheads" a la 1980s and multiply by a factor of, say, 100.

The main records of this week in Sydney's history are two detailed reports in newspapers the next day, and an editorial a fortnight later. There does not seem to be any subsequent detailed history writing of the incident apart from brief mentions without any detail.

While there are no images of the night of the 4th December 1878, the editorial was accompanied with this drawing of police at a large gathering in Haymarket on the Illustrated Sydney News' cover. The second picture shows Ah Toys at 192 George St.

1. [Re the laneway naming]

Detail follows - enjoy:

+ Reports the next day:

2. "ANTI-CHINESE DEMONSTRATION." The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) 5 December 1878: 6. <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13425819>>.

3. "Alarming Raid on Chinese." Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931) 5 December 1878: 3. <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article107939912>>.

+ Editorial & cover illustration. The writer "pointed out the necessity of calm and well-considered legislation in reference to [the Chinese question]" [Maybe next time? 🙌]:

4a. "THE CHINESE QUESTION." Illustrated Sydney News and New South Wales Agriculturalist and Grazier (NSW : 1872 - 1881) 21 December 1878: 1. <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63335305>>.

4b. State Library NSW image of the cover illustration:

<https://collection.slnsw.gov.au/.../74VKqO.../lQEKoNzeGpp0N>

+ Prior meeting where Ah Toy is mentioned: "No, it would be A Chong and Ah Toy" quoting a speaker imagining a future where the Chinese overrun Australia:

5. "ANTI-CHINESE MEETING AT BALMAIN." The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) 3 December 1878: 6. <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13425700>>.

+ Report of a later meeting where a speaker alleges 'fake news' re the 4 Dec reporting.

6. "Anti-Chinese Question." Evening News (Sydney, NSW : 1869 - 1931) 9 December 1878: 2. <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article107948131>>.

+ Archaeological/historical report on Ah Toys 192 George St that does not mention its attempted torching:

7. <https://200george.mirvac.com/.../building-overview/history>

+ Picture #2 link (image here is cropped):

8. State Library NSW - Photographs of Francis O'Brien and O'Brien family properties, ca. 1870-1922 / Southern Cross Photo Co.

<https://collection.slnsw.gov.au/.../74VKqO.../lQEKoNzeGpp0N>

+ In this book the 1878 incident is mentioned, but I would say the author misses the opportunity to analyse how the larrikins were opportunistic in their actions and how their actions impacted on concurrent events such as the Chinese question & the seamen's strike.

9. Larrikins: A History Paperback, 2012 by Melissa Bellanta (Author)

<https://www.google.com.au/.../Larrikins/JFsJWIBE3qkC...>

+ The most significant document on The Chinese Question from the Chinese side is this, written by prominent Melbourne Chinese Australian merchants - written in 1879 but no mention of Sydney. I am not aware of a similar NSW/Sydney document of the time:

10. The Chinese question in Australia, 1878-79 by L. Kong Meng, Cheok Hong Cheong, Louis Ah Mouy <https://ia802604.us.archive.org/.../ChineseQuestion.pdf>

+ Article including description of the Ah Toys building:

11. "THE FURNITURE TRADE." The Sydney Morning Herald 1 November 1886: 4.  
<<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article28351414>>.

+ See this book for more on the Chinese furnituremakers of AU. On pp. 133-134, the author writes of the anglo cabinetmakers' support for the strike, and the Ah Toy incident (the index entry for the incident is missing).

12. Peter Charles Gibson, 2022, 'Made in Chinatown - Chinese Australian Furniture Factories, 1880-1930', <https://sydneyuniversitypress.com.au/products/161327>

[ENDS]-----



12 October 2022

Yvette Andrews | Manager, City Engagement  
City of Sydney  
Town Hall House  
456 Kent Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

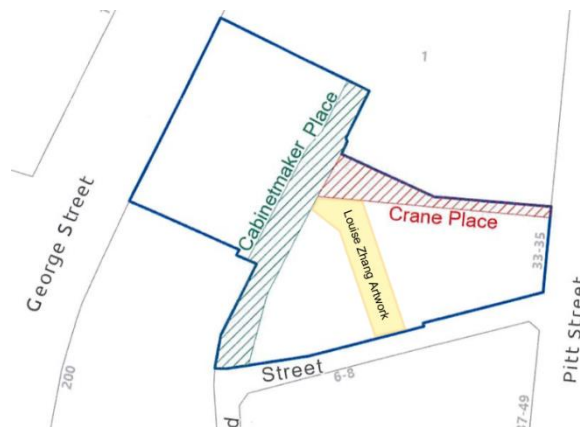
Dear Yvette,

**Proposed names for two lanes at 180 George Street Sydney.**

On behalf of the owners of the Sydney Place site located at 180 George Street Sydney, Lendlease would like to provide its support of the two new lane names provided by the City of Sydney being ***Cabinetmaker Place*** and ***Crane Place***.

Throughout the process of development, Lendlease has engaged deeply with the history of the site. This includes significant research, community engagement and archaeological excavation in partnership with professional consultants.

We are particularly supportive of the name *Cabinetmaker Place* as it celebrates the contribution of Chinese artisans in the 1800s. Louise Zhang, one of the artists engaged to create a piece for Sydney Place, was similarly inspired by this history when formulating the concept for her artwork, which is located adjacent to the new laneway.



Louise Zhang's piece titled '*Hidden Realms*' is influenced by archaeological evidence from the site including Chinese ceramics from the same time period as well as her own experience as a first generation Chinese Australian.

We are pleased that the City of Sydney have selected place names that draw from this rich history.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven McGillivray'.

Steven McGillivray  
Project Director, Lendlease Australia  
On behalf of the joint owners

## City of Sydney

### Proposed naming of lane behind 192-170 George Street – Fan Tan Lane

I would like to propose that the new name for the lane running off Underwood Street and behind numbers 192 to 170 George Street be called **Fan Tan Lane**. [For connection see below]

The area surrounding this new lane undoubtedly has strong historical Chinese Australian connections and the City of Sydney is to be congratulated for recognising this and proposing names related to this history. Unfortunately, the good intention seems to have been lost in a flurry of bureaucratic considerations of dubious value that has resulted in a watery compromise suggestion in **Cabinetmaker Place**.

The suggestion that the historic connection of this locale with Chinese Australians can be maintained through a generic job description is both weak and not likely to meet with much approval from anyone who considers themselves part of the Chinese Australian community. (I will leave this last aspect for others to voice but certainly that is the strong feedback I have received.)

The area was used over many years by businesses and people of various types including not only cabinet making but also importers, fruit shops, accommodation and gambling. Obviously only one name is possible and any choice, whether the better known Ah Toy or another less well known, is to exclude. Another consideration is that to use any obviously “Chinese” name recorded via their 19<sup>th</sup> century romanisations is to run the risk of conjuring up a “Ching Chong” image before anything else.

The suggested **Fan Tan Lane** of course runs a similar risk of conjuring up images of “Chinese gambling”. But here I would argue we are faced with an historic “white phobia” more than a Chinese Australian reality. That is, the fear and loathing of Chinese gambling was part of the racism and discrimination of the time. To reject out of hand any allusion to gambling by Chinese people would be to perpetuate this discrimination in the cause of contemporary white guilt rather than the perspectives of Chinese Australians.

Gambling games such as Fan Tan represented for the mostly single (even if only by distance) males that predominated in the Chinese community of the period a leisure activity.<sup>1</sup> As such it represents a form of leisure (and occasional addiction) similar to betting on horse racing did for the wider Australian community. If for example Bookmakers Place were an acceptable name then Fan Tan Lane is also.

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<sup>1</sup> See [Leisure](#) in *Chinese Australian History in 88 Objects*. Also “Leisure” in Williams, M., 1999, [Chinese settlement in NSW – a thematic history](#), Heritage Office of NSW, Sydney, pp.51-54.



The new lanes currently under construction are to be throughfares containing eateries. As such there is ample opportunity to include historical signage (after community consultation) that could both explain the game Fan Tan itself and its role in the society at the time, both as a leisure activity and a phobia of the white community.

If **Fan Tan Lane** is not considered a better option than **Cabinetmakers Lane** then I would suggest that **Ah Toy's Lane** is the next option. By location and historical connection Ah Toy's shop and factory and its role in various anti-Chinese agitations makes it an eminently suitable candidate, other commemorations notwithstanding. Once again suitable signage is also recommended.

Thank you for your consideration,



Michael Williams  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### **Fantan Lane – historical connection**

While the lane under consideration runs behind several George Street numbers the proposal has been labelled 180 George Street for connivence sake. However, it was at 180 George Street specifically that a gambling establishment operated. We know this because a police raid and several arrests were made on a group playing Fan Tan in March 1892.

See [Raid on a Gambling Den](#), *Evening News*, 24 March 1892, p.6.

*Australian Town and Country Journal*, Saturday 30 April 1881, p.25.



**Submission by Dr Juanita Kwok, recommending the naming of Lane 1 as Shi Ying Place and Lane 2 as Ah Toy's Place.**

As documented by City of Sydney historian Shirley Fitzgerald, Lower George St (George St North) was the original Chinatown area of Sydney. Chinese businesses in the area first appeared in city business directories in 1858. The area was the site of a number of Chinese cabinetmakers factories, of which there were five such establishments by 1870.<sup>1</sup>

As Fitzgerald argues, Chinese cabinet makers accounted for a quarter of all such workshops in Sydney by the 1880s and “many Sydney households were furnished with Chinese-made hall stands and wash stands, purchased sometimes from Chinese merchants but more often from David Jones or Farmers, the leading European stores.”<sup>2</sup> Chinese furniture factories in Sydney are documented in Peter Gibson’s PhD thesis, published in book form as *Made in Chinatown: Australia’s Chinese Furniture Factories, 1880-1930*.<sup>3</sup>

I write in support of Glenn Mar’s proposal that the two lanes in George St North be named Ah Toy Place and Shi Ying Place after two Chinese individuals Ah Toy and Shi Ying. This naming will clearly acknowledge Chinese Australian history of the area, which is hitherto little known and not acknowledged in the existing names of streets in the area.

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<sup>1</sup> Shirley Fitzgerald, *Red Tape Gold Scissors: The Story of Sydney’s Chinese*, Sydney: State Library of NSW Press, 1997, p. 68.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, pp 83-84.

<sup>3</sup> Peter Charles Gibson, *Made in Chinatown: Australia’s Chinese Furniture Factories, 1880-1930*, Sydney: Sydney University Press, 2022.

**Submission by Dr Juanita Kwok, recommending the naming of Lane 1 as Shi Ying Place and Lane 2 as Ah Toy's Place.**

**Recommended naming of Lane 1 – Shi Ying Place**

I recommend Lane 1 be named after John Shi Ying, one of the earliest known and best documented Chinese persons to arrive in New South Wales. In 1818, Shi Ying arrived in Port Jackson from Canton via Calcutta as a free settler. He worked as a carpenter on John Blaxland's *Newington* Estate for three years after which he worked at *Elizabeth Farm* for Elizabeth Macarthur, before establishing himself as a publican in Parramatta.<sup>4</sup>

As Glenn Mar points out, there are already two streets named "Crane Place" in Sydney - Crane Place Bellevue Hill, and Crane Place Bellevue Hill. There are in addition a number of streets/places in Sydney with the name Crane. There is Crane St Concord, Crane St Homebush, Crane St Park, Homebush, Crane Ave Haberfield and Crane Crescent Mosman.

Glenn Mar's proposal makes a good argument for the naming of Lane 1 as Shi Ying place, which paired with Ah Toy's Place creates the opportunity for the emergence of a hip new micro-Chinatown or 'Asia-town' in the northern end of the city with benefits to the public, retailers in the precinct, laneways and nightlife and for the city as a whole.

**Recommended naming of Lane 2 – Ah Toy's Place**

One of the oldest Chinese cabinetmakers factories in Lower George Street was Ah Toy's firm. Ah Toy gave evidence in the Royal Commission of 1891 into Alleged Chinese Gambling and Immorality that he had arrived in the 1850s, and his firm was established by the 1860s.<sup>5</sup> In 1878, Ah Toy's workshop was the scene of the largest anti-Chinese mob violence incidents in Sydney.<sup>6</sup> Early maps show that Ah Toy's workshop was located very close to the southern end of Lane 2.

As Glenn Mar argues, Ah Toy's Place is a better name than Cabinetmaker Place as "while 'Cabinetmaker Place' is an attempt to give a nod to Chinese Australian heritage, how many of the public would realise that link?"

The current naming of adjacent streets in the area ignores an important aspect of the history of this area, and our wider history. The naming of two new lanes as Shi Ying Place and Ah Toy's Place presents a unique opportunity to put the names of Chinese Australians and the little-known Chinese Australian history of the area literally on the map.

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<sup>4</sup> Neera Shani, "Mak Saiying aka John Shying" <http://arc.parracity.nsw.gov.au/blog/2017/01/27/mak-sai-ying-aka-john-shying/>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 70, 75.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 76.