

KAMPONG LORONG BUANGKOK

LIM YUN YEE NICOLE

Kg. Lorong Buangkok
(Kg. Selak Kain)

甘傍罗弄万国



Village

KAMPONG LORONG BUANGKOK

Lane

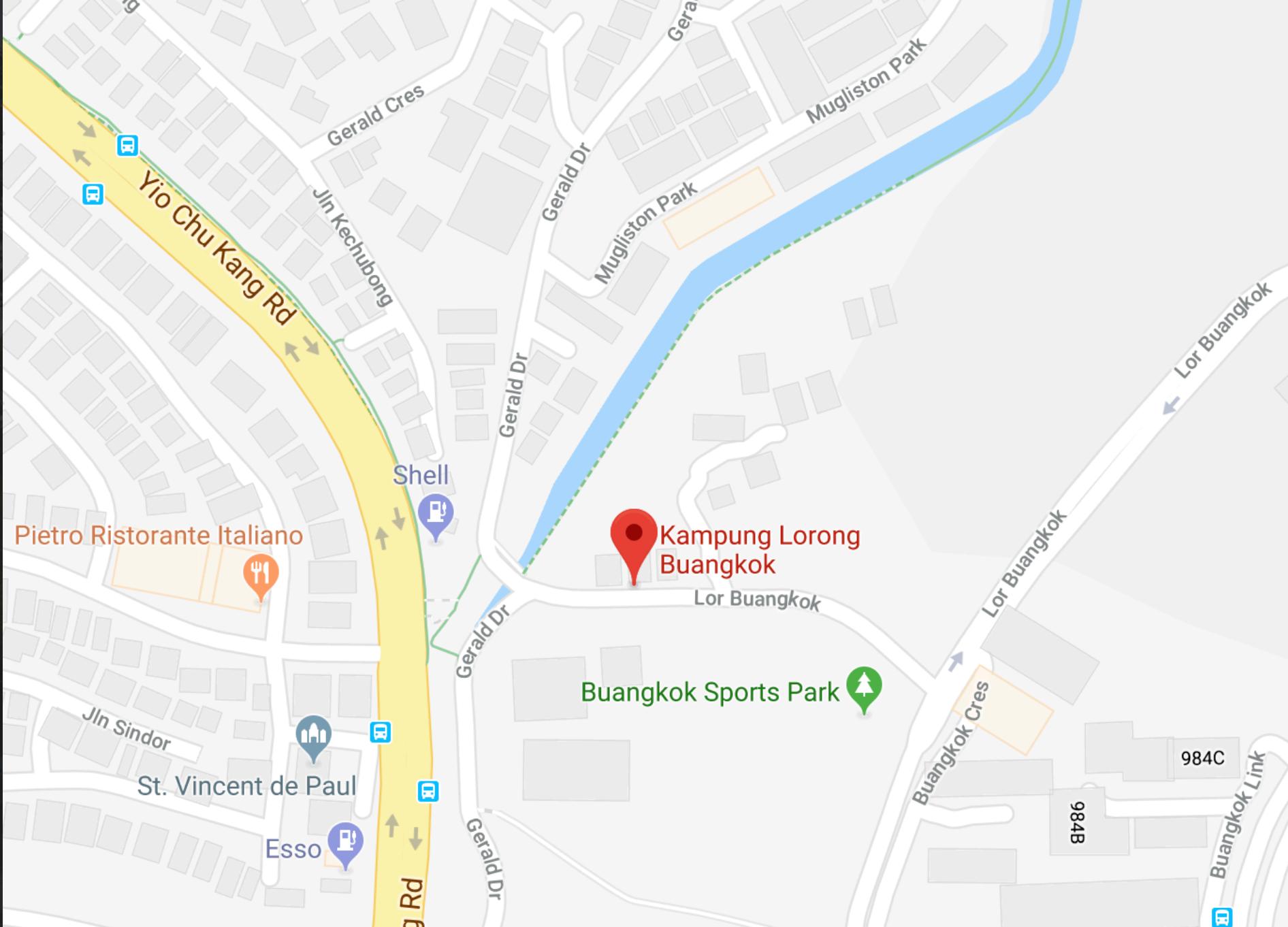
United

KAMPONG SELAK KAIN

“Lift up your sarong”

Kg. Lorong Buangkok
(Kg. Selak Kain)

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THE PAST

Originally a swamp

1956 | Sng Teow Koon Owner

Traditional Chinese Medicine Seller

 Chinese and Malay Families

1956

**6 Football
Fields-Size**

5-6 Families

1960s

**6 Football
Fields-Size**

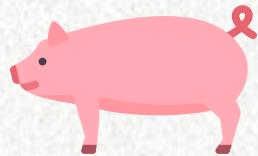
40 Families



THE PAST

Network of Farmways

Buangkok North Farmways 1 to 4 and
Buangkok South Farmways 1 to 4



1960s
Most Work at Nearby Woodbridge
& Factories





THE PAST



THE PRESENT

1956

**6 Football
Fields-Size**

5-6 Families

1960s

**6 Football
Fields-Size**

40 Families

Now

**3 Football
Fields-Size**

**26-8 Families
18 Malay
10 Chinese**

Now | Sng Mui Hong *Landlord*

Awe Bin Ludin *Headman*



MODERNISATION

1962

Modern Amenities Installed
(Running water and electricity)

1980s

New Tarmac Roads
Street Lamps

Now

Television
High Speed Internet



THE PRESENT - HOUSES



DECORATIONS





SURAU

**“Mini Mosque”
Prayer Room
Maintained by Headman
Prayers conducted by Headman**

OTHERS



KAMPONG SPIRIT

“This identification with place may derive from the distinctiveness of place as well as the community ties localised in place.”

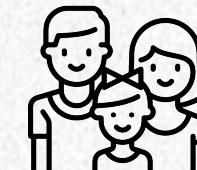
(Kong & Yeoh, p. 22)

Spirit of **Gotong Royong** (Malay for “mutual assistance”)

PAST: Building houses; Weddings; Sickesses; Funeral



Average Rent
**\$6.50 - \$30.00/
Month**
for 140 m²



Residents are familiar with each other and each others' family histories



Borrow ingredients
Babysit children



Mostly keen to share stories and experiences regarding kampong life
Tourists & School Children

REDEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION

Post-Independence: Demolish and Rebuild Philosophy

~~Farms~~

~~Villages around Lorong Buangkok~~

1990

Sengkang New Town

2002 - 2004

Fernvale, Anchorvale & Buangkok Crescent Housing Estate

Late 2000s

Jogging Track & Park Connector

REDEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION

Post-Independence: Demolish and Rebuild Philosophy

2008

URA's 2008 Master Plan:
EARMARKED the Kampong for the development of a major road connecting to Buangkok Drive

2014

URA's 2014 Master Plan:
Largest portion of the site earmarked for **major road**
Two parcels of land for **primary and secondary school**
Last parcel for **neighbourhood park**

2017

Redevelopment will likely **start only “several decades later”**
– Second Minister for National Development Desmond Lee

REDEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION

Sng Mui Hong

“ I own this land, but now **I have to act like a thief, hiding in my own house**, when strangers come knocking on my door. Strange men come calling out my name at my door, so I have to hide. Same goes for property agents. ”

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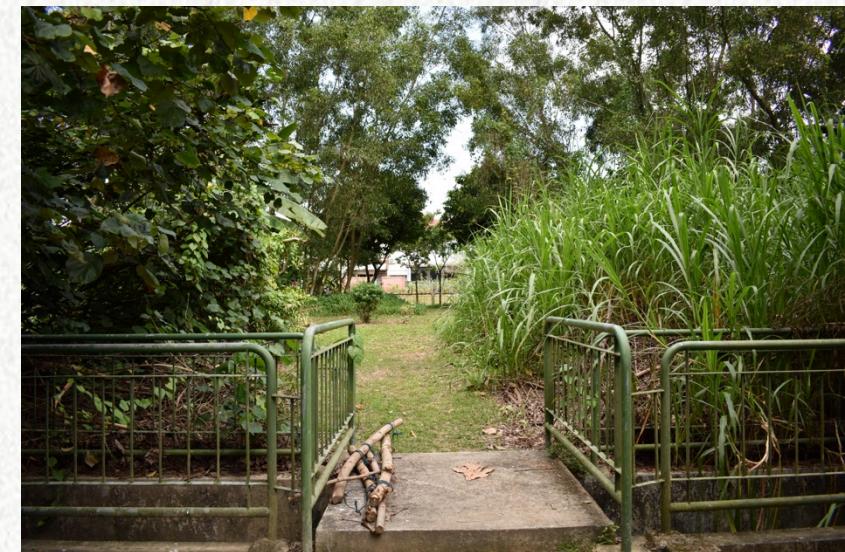
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2018



ENCROACHING URBANISATION

Pictures from within the kampong



ENCROACHING URBANISATION



INTERVIEW WITH A RESIDENT



Nenek Absah

86 years old

Anak doesn't allow
film crews



Loves staying at kampong, refuses to move to HDBs (two closed doors).

Feels that she would not be able to cook properly in a HDB.

Speaks Bahasa and a little bit of English

Has a handful of close Malay neighbours

Can hear the noise from the construction but says that she has no choice

Close to one Chinese lady who is 61 years old and can speak Bahasa

Likes to sit in her porch and watch people jalan jalan and speak to them

Stated that she would be very sad if the kampong would be destroyed / redeveloped. But again, she has no choice.

Spoke about how PM Lee visited her, without any resentment in her voice

Reflection 1: Who decides what to conserve?

GOVERNMENT

- Road will help ease future traffic congestion
- Cannot develop areas surrounding Kampong and isolate it from rest of community

VS

SNG MUI HONG + RESIDENTS

- Neighbourliness
- Preserves past era's life
- Provides young visitors with insights of the lives and traditions of their forefathers.

Reflection 2: Even if it is conserved, is it still authentic?

CONSERVING A HOUSE/AN IMAGE **vs** CONSERVING ITS ESSENCE

Respite from the fast-paced urbanisation of Singapore?

OR

Has urbanisation already infiltrated and occupied the thoughts and mindsets of these kampong dwellers?



Attitudes towards the kampong are mainly those grounded in **pragmatism** ← Live in kampong because of cheap rent



Reflection 3: What is the place of nostalgia in conservation?

NOSTALGIA

Wistful longing for the past

Increases optimism

- Cheung, et al., 2013

Counteracts loneliness

- Zhou et al., 2008

“Rapid urbanisation has removed many familiar landmarks and have left many residents grasping at the remaining holdouts of tradition and history.

- Pan, 2016, p. 49

Satisfies the need

KAMPONG LORONG BUANGKOK

Not fully authentic

BUT

Singaporeans Learn, Slow Down and Breathe



THANK YOU!

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