

ON THE STREETS WHERE YOU LIVE



York's Corner

Marjorie York and her family were twentieth century pioneers of the Riverview area.

In 1996 a Lane Cove Council meeting resolved that **York's Corner** be designated a 'historical locality' within the Municipality. Known to local Riverview residents, it is a group of shops along Tambourine Bay Road, between Hamilton Street and Sofala Avenue.

The land was part of an original 1859 grant of 18 acres to F. E. G. Croft. By 1882 it was owned by Richard Hayes Harnett, an early North Shore land speculator. In 1913 Harnett subdivided the land into three blocks and one block was further subdivided into the Sofala Estate in 1919.

In 1922 Mrs. Agnes Potts purchased two blocks in the Sofala subdivision at the corner of Tambourine Bay Road and Hamilton Street and built a corner store and butcher shop at 53 and 55 Tambourine Bay Road. These shops were sold in 1925, and in the following years leased to various people.

In February 1938, Mr. Roland (Roy) York and his wife, Marjorie moved from Belmore and bought into the grocery business and rented the corner shop with residence above. Mr York a veteran of World War I was an engineer with the railways while Mrs York was a dressmaker. The business was very run down when they took over but within eighteen months they had built it up and were able to purchase the shop and residence.

In 1941 the Yorks bought five acres of land, between their shop and Sofala Avenue from neighbour Myra Clarkson. When Myra died in 1951, the York's also bought Clarkson's house and land on the corner of Sofala Avenue, as they planned to demolish Mrs. Clarkson's house and build shops to the corner of Sofala Avenue. However, the plans were delayed when they found that a park had been incorporated in the Council's planning scheme for that area. In 1956 Lane Cove Council made the decision to purchase the corner block from Mr and Mrs York for Apex Park, and the Yorks were given permission to build five shops along Tambourine Bay Road, adjoining their own grocery store.

After Roy York died in 1969, their daughter Iris Burgess, took over the business from her mother. Marjorie continued to live in her Sofala Avenue home, adjoining Apex Park. She remained a familiar face in the shop run by her daughter. In 1990, at the age of 90 years she moved to a Collaroy retirement village.

When Marjorie celebrated her 100th birthday on 22 July 1999 she was given the surprise news that Lane Cove

Council had resolved to rename **Apex Park** as **Marjorie York Reserve** in honour of her 100th birthday. Marjorie died shortly after on 3 August 1999. Marjorie and Roy York's pioneering contribution as corner shop owners in the district is immortalized in the block of shops at York's Corner.



York's Corner General Store on the corner of Tambourine Bay Road and Hamilton Street, Riverview, 1985.



*Marjorie York Reserve, 2012
(Courtesy of P. Silman)*