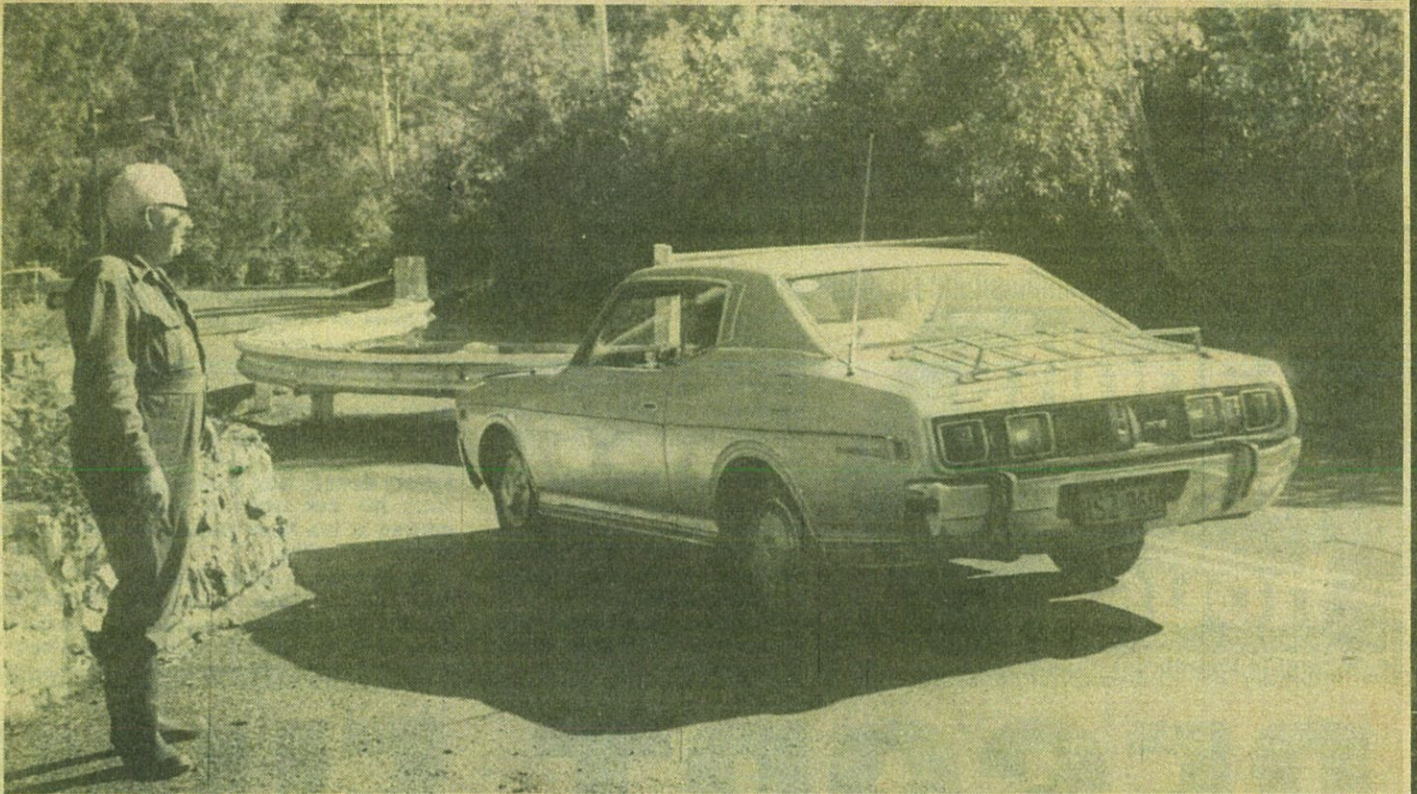


## Motoring oddity may become history



● Leo Foster watches a car negotiate the traffic trap near Reserve Street, Burleigh.

# Resident launches campaign

A quaint piece of Queensland motoring history is destined for the scrap heap if a Koala Park resident has his way.

Leo Foster is about to launch a campaign for the removal of the much photographed but roundly cursed traffic trap near his house.

The former Army sergeant believes that the iron and stone construction near the corner of Reserve Street and Taliban Avenue is nothing but a tourist oddity and a bad joke played on motorists.

Mr Foster said yesterday he was sick of listening to the sound of cars hitting the barriers and getting abuse from drivers who blamed him for its presence.

The trap was erected five years ago to stop truck drivers using a popular short cut between Burleigh and West Burleigh, but according to Mr Foster it has been far from successful.

He said many trucks could still squeeze through but unwary visitors often failed to negotiate the maze-like obstruction and sometimes became firmly wedged.

Other motorists simply circumvented the obstacle by driving across the adjoining footpath and the front yard of a house opposite.

Mr Foster said the Main Roads Minister, Russ Hinze, had said the trap would be removed once the Gold Coast bypass was finished and taking the bulk of inter-state trucks.

"The highway is open, the trucks are using it and it's now time for this car-chewing monstrosity to go," he said.

Mr Foster said he also believed that a 30-metre section of Taliban Avenue should be re-opened to eliminate the need for through traffic to use the steeply inclined intersection near his house.

He claimed Mr Hinze had told him he favored re-opening the street and that other residents in the area also favored the idea.

Ward alderman, Paul Gamin, who inspected the intersection this week, said he believed engineers would favor retaining the trap.

"While it's the most ludicrous thing you'd ever see in a day's march there would be uproar among other residents in Koala Park if it was removed and the estate became a thoroughfare for trucks again," Ald Gamin said.

Mr Foster said he is undeterred by the official reaction and plans to take up a petition to get rid of the unique piece of roadwork.

The trap is severely battered and the metalwork bears the paint scrapes of scores of vehicles which have brushed with it.

An extra gateway was installed and locked with a key given to the fire brigade after it was discovered that the fire tender could not get through the construction.