

For many years my father, myself and the family and other residence of the Koala Park area put to the Councillor of the day, but to no avail, that Council should designate the area from Koala Park to West Burleigh road, from the reservoir to Fleays, an animal sanctuary, and maybe, just maybe with no through traffic and only the private property owners of the Koala Park area using the streets there might today still have been the animals that were common place in the area at one time.

My family has lived in the area since the mid 50's and it was like having a zoo in your back yard is the best way I can describe it. Koalas were abundant in the area and it was the norm to see two, three, four, five Koalas as part of your normal day, you would see Koalas every day in trees or just walking down the dirt street and down your driveway. They would on occasion be sitting in the loquat tree that was just in front of our garage, low enough to give them a pat on our way to school, today Koalas 96% gone, Wallabies which we use to hand feed, all but gone, Peacocks gone, Echidnas digging their holes every where, all but gone, Bandicoots, gone, the lizard population, when once there was an abundance of Goannas, today gone, Blue Tongue and Bearded Dragon lizards, (frilly lizards) nothing compared to what once was, and different types of snakes, all but gone, an abundance of Rosellas, just the occasional sighting today, different species of finches, wedge-tailed eagle nesting, still Kookaburras around but nowhere near the numbers there use to be. The best of all were the thousands upon thousands of fireflies that came out at night, it was truly a spectacular sight, gone. I remember on many occasions seeing a few fireflies flying around in the back yard at night so my brother and I would run up to the bush dragging our little sister behind us so that she could see the swarm of fireflies also. It was truly a wondrous place for kids to grow up.

As said earlier what should have been done, but unfortunately fell on deaf ears. Unfortunately today, Council use fauna and flora as an excuse, when it suits them. It's all part of their policies and procedures, not for the people but for themselves.