

We The People
Program 218 August 29, 2016
We the People The Koala Casino on the Tweed



Good day to you. Soon the people of the Tweed were to vote in their Council elections. However due to the unexpected passing of a candidate the election has been set back. Nonetheless it's an important moment in time and I think Tweedundians can learn a lot from the Gold Coast, particularly in what not to do. Here we have the Council of Secrecy and developers run wild and the very reason the place has been popular is systematically being destroyed and I see early parallels within the Tweed Valley. More concrete and high rise seems to be the illogical measure of progress and of course it's not. A bottle of Grange goes a long way here on the Gold Coast. My regular visits to the Tweed Valley have put me in touch with citizens, rate payers and councillors. I can tell you that more development of residential areas is a fool's paradise in that it just generates a mighty need for unaffordable infrastructure and in the end only short term jobs are created. It will not fix the unemployment problem but it will ruin your beautiful valley. The environment is your greatest asset and in my view you should do all you can to protect, preserve and restore it for an array of reasons including your children and grand children.

The Tweed has a wonderful asset in wild life and geography. In this the Koala is paramount and unfortunately the Tweed Council seems intent on driving them to extinction through inadequate, poorly conceived plans which will not save them. Yes you heard correctly.....extinction because don't listen to what they say rather watch what they do. Now some of your Councillors care a great deal and some just pay lip service and have no idea what they are talking about with respect to the Koala and wildlife. These are the people who see development as a 'cure all' and yet the Gold Coast is living proof it's not. So today I am offering our Tweed friends some poetic verse to encourage you to vote for those who genuinely want to save the Koala and look after the Tweed Valley when your elections are held. I have called this piece [The Koala Casino on The Tweed](#).

The Koala Casino on the Tweed WTP 218

*Opening night was stunning, everyone was there,
Champagne corks a plenty and music in the air,
Tweed's new Casino opened, a glittering affair
It was the herald of the future with style and class and flair.*

*The vision for the valley is one they must pursue
There's gold for all Tweedundians and jobs for all anew,
There's just one thing we must remove, before the betting starts
And that's the damn Koala that lives around these parts.*

*The furry little critter is a charmer and lovely to extol
The country's national emblem or should be so I'm told,
But Boorabee is selfish and just wants the forest green
So let's use it as collateral and spin the roulette wheel.*

*The gamblers ball raced round and round, the punters held their breath,
It rolled and bounced and finally slowed and then it came to rest,
The breathless crowd of gamblers watched with eyes transfixed,
For the little ball had landed on black and triple six.*

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*It's the 'devil's number' shouted one with excitement to behold,
The Koala's finally finished and the developers can control
All the land before them and the hills and forest tall,
We'll erect a memorial while the chainsaws timber fall.*

*So to all of you who live in Tweed you should vote with care and pride,
Find the Councillors who really care and not the ones who hide
Behind the coat tails of developers or those who do not know,
For your Koalas are in peril with little time to go
Don't lose the Icon of Australia while on your families' watch
It's tantamount to treason and a legacy of loss,
Don't leave it to the gamblers and those who deal the hand
You are custodians of the Valley and the future of your land.*

Kent Bayley August 20, 2016 WTP 218

