

RSL vows to complete vision

Anzac Plaza creator dies on day his dream brought to public

By **ADRIAN TAYLOR**
adrian.taylor@capnews.com.au

EMU Park RSL president Barry Vains has vowed to keep alive Ross Coulter's vision.

Mr Coulter, an RSL stalwart in the town for 32 years, died on Saturday – the day on which his proposal to redevelop an iconic section of coastline was made public.

The 65-year-old Vietnam veteran and retired art teacher had worked for years on his plan to transform wasteland near the

RSL Memorial Hall into an attractive park.

Last week he received an enthusiastic response from councillors as he unveiled his design for what he called Anzac Plaza.

It was his dream to see his vision realised in time for the 100th Anzac Day celebrations in 2015 and he was looking forward to engaging residents and getting them to support his plan.

Ironically Mr Coulter, who had a history of heart problems and wore a pacemaker,



SHOCK DEATH: RSL stalwart Ross Coulter was a talented artist who taught at schools throughout Central Queensland. PHOTO: FILE

never saw the full-page article in Saturday's Morning Bulletin which explained his vision.

Mr Vains said the Emu Park community would be deeply shocked at the news. He said Mr Coulter

had gone for a game of golf on Saturday morning.

"We understand he complained of feeling ill after his round of golf and when he got home he collapsed. He died later in hospital," he said.

"I spoke to him before he went to the golf course and told him he had to get the Bully. He would have been really pleased to see his ideas in print."

Mr Vains said Mr Coulter had been a tireless worker, not just for the RSL, but

for a number of good causes in Emu Park.

"He had a deep love of Emu Park. The whole community will miss him," he said.

"I think the RSL will be motivated to get this project done to honour his name and there will be a determination to keep his dream alive.

"The next stage was to have been a promotional campaign to seek support from the community and we will certainly continue with that."

Mr Coulter, who

taught art in Central Queensland at schools including Biloela and North Rockhampton High, was a national serviceman with the First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

During the Vietnam War he saw action in the battle of Fire Support Base Coral, a larger scale action than the more famous Long Tan conflict.

He was proud of his military connection and believed the RSL should be at the centre of the Emu Park community.



SUDDEN STOP: A truck comes to a stop after crashing through a fence in North Rockhampton yesterday. PHOTO: ALLAN REINIKKA ROK071111ACRASH2

Crash cuts power and starts a fire

AN elderly motorist who police said drove through a give way sign caused a series of events felt across the Rockhampton region yesterday morning.

The man, aged in his 70s, was taken to Rockhampton Hospital with minor injuries after colliding with a truck on the corner of Alexandra and Maloney Streets.

The truck subsequently destroyed a power pole stay wire before going through the fence of a nearby business and coming to stop after hitting another vehicle.

A series of power lines in the area came down, causing the loss of power for a period to more than 800 customers.

While most customers had power restored in about an hour, about 200 had to wait to the late afternoon.

The fallen lines started a couple of grass fires in the area, which fire crews quickly had under control.

And the power dimmed momentarily across the Rockhampton region because the incident had occurred on the primary 66,000 volt network.



LOADED UP: The Ford is loaded onto a tow truck after a crash with a truck in North Rockhampton yesterday. PHOTO: ALLAN REINIKKA ROK071111ACRASH1

A Rockhampton police spokesman said the crash would be investigated.

He said the truck was heading south along Alexandra St, while the Ford sedan was moving

north along Maloney St.

It appeared the driver of the car had gone through a give way sign, police said.

Ergon Energy corporate communications

spokesman Bob Pleash said Ergon crews were quickly on scene to make sure the area was safe. Mr Pleash said they worked to restore power to affected customers.

Fire crews work hard to control large burns

NINE rural fire crews were containing large fires burning on the Capricorn, Burnett and Leichhardt Highways yesterday, which were burning in near each other.

Authorities said the Westwood fire on the Capricorn Hwy was likely to join with the Burnett Hwy fire, south of Mt Morgan near Walmul.

Area director of rural operations for Rockhampton area, Brian Smith said back-burning and monitoring was being conducted by the crews.

"These fires have been burning since Thursday or Friday last week but have been inaccessible to crews, but now they are able to access and contain them," Mr Smith said yesterday.

Mr Smith said they

HOT SPOTS

- Fires burning include:
- A large fire at Mt Hopeful
- Biloela
- Capricorn, Burnett and Leichhardt Highways fires

were still investigating whether spot fires around one of the main fires had been caused deliberately.

"There have been six other fires from one of the main fires that are believed to be lit deliberately but we are still unsure," he said.

"A fire spotter aircraft is in the area observing the fires."

Mr Smith said there is still a fire ban and a high fire danger in the region for the next four days.

BULLY BRIEF

CQ MRF holds an open day

The CQ Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is celebrating its first birthday on Saturday, just in time for National Recycling Week.

As part of the festivities, the CQ MRF will hold an Open Day. The day will be a celebration of the CQ MRF's first birthday as well as the launch of the CQLGA Community

Calendar.

The day will host a range of activities to celebrate and promote recycling in CQ. It will be held at 204 Wade Street, Parkhurst, Rockhampton from 10am to 2pm.

The cutting of the birthday cake and launch of the CQLGA Community Calendar will be at 11am. For more visit www.facebook.com/recycle-rightcq.