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# First step for walkway



**BROUGHT TO LIFE:** Barry Vains has been instrumental in making his good friend Ross Coulter's vision of an Anzac Commemoration Precinct at Emu Park a reality. PHOTO: CHRIS ISON

Project a fitting memorial to our proud war heritage

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EMU Park's beach front will become even more extraordinary when an historic landmark is created to honour the Spirit of Anzac.

The estimated overall cost of Stage One of the project will be about \$1.2 million with \$875,000 in funding already secured.

Member for Keppel Bruce Young was able to contribute \$250,000 from the State Government, Homecorp put forward \$100,000 and Emu Park's Bendigo Bank donated \$150,000.

As part of the Centenary of Anzac Celebrations in 2015, Livingstone Shire Council in partnership with

the State Government, Emu Park RSL Club, Bendigo Community Bank, and Home Corp Pty Ltd announced the launch of the Emu Park Centenary of Anzac Project.

An Anzac Commemoration Precinct will be created to feature integrated street-scaping, rotundas, parkland enhancement, and an interpretive "memorial walkway" around Emu Park's scenic foreshore headland. The interpretive walkway will also provide a strategic link connecting the Town Centre and Bell Park with the iconic Singing Ship Monument, RSL Cenotaph, and Surf Lifesaving Club.

Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Bill Ludwig acknowledged visionary artist Ross Coulter and all of those involved with the



**IT'S OFFICIAL:** Dignitaries turn the soil at the official start of the Emu Park Anzac Commemoration Precinct boardwalk. PHOTO: CHRIS ISON ROK250714CANZAC2

### COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- The interpretive memorial walk will give Emu Park RSL members the opportunity to host tours for school groups in our region, further educating students and providing them with a deeper insight into this important and colourful facet of our history.
- Through a consultative process with our local RSL members, and research from historians, the precinct will recount, preserve, and honour the history of our proud war heritage and those who created it.

project.

"When I looked at today I said what a perfect day, and it would be even more perfect if Ross was here to see his vision coming to fruition," Cr Ludwig said.

"This all about our service men and women and honouring their memory.

What we've come up with, we believe is going to be a sensational regional project which started with Ross's vision."

Parts of the shoreline have already begun being cleared, with bigger construction to start within the next two weeks.



**SPECIAL DAY:** Kate Coulter at the ground breaking ceremony for the Emu Park ANZAC Commemoration Precinct her late husband Ross (below) initiated. PHOTO: CHRIS ISON ROK

## Vision of shoreline was Ross's dream

YOU could see the joy and relief in Kate Coulter's eyes yesterday as her husband Ross's dream for the Emu Park shoreline was finally realised.

After a lot of hard work and tireless hours pushing for the project since 2011, Kate and the Emu Park RSL Centenary of ANZAC steering committee celebrated the success at the announcement yesterday.

Kate said Emu Park was a very special place to her and Ross, who has since passed on, and this would be something she and everyone else involved in the project and the community could remember him by.

"It is such a relief because for a long time I thought it may never happen," Kate said while overlooking the ocean.

"But Barry Vains has worked really really hard on this. And then the steering committee formed with the new council and we've been meeting monthly



sometimes fortnightly to get it all up and running."

Barry, who was with Ross during the time he came up with the concept, said he pledged to Kate that he would make this dream of Ross's come true.

"We adopted the idea and five days after we presented it to council Ross sadly passed away," Barry said.

"It's been very frustrating at times, but it's a great feeling to see it reach this point."

Kate said Ross formed a foreshore committee just for Emu Park to try to beautify the foreshore.

"This was one area I think he had in mind for a long, long time," she said.

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