

# Memories of teacher

## Tributes flow for innovator

FORMER Bundamba State High School art teacher Ross Coulter has been farewelled in his home town of Emu Park after passing away on November 5 following an illness.

Mr Coulter was a foundation staff member of Bundamba High working at the school from 1971 to 1978.

Lifelong friend and former colleague Bob Christopherson said Mr Coulter was “a great artist, an outstanding teacher, very well respected by staff and parents and adored by his students.”

Mr Christopherson who is currently head of mathematics at Ipswich Girls Grammar School, said Mr Coulter was a “very innovative teacher”.

He got the kids to make a movie—on film—which was almost unheard of back then.” he said.



AN INSPIRATION: Ross Coulter

He also held a working bee over several weekends and built an outdoor amphitheatre which was used for art and drama performances.

Mr Christopherson also credits Mr Coulter with introducing baseball to the school’s sporting offerings and said the enthusiastic teacher was never one to sit by and accept the status quo.

“He showed up at work one day with a circular saw and proceeded to cut out the wall between two poky classrooms, turning them into one big open art studio space.

He also had a great social conscience—he started up a Gales-Goodna youth camp and organised a lot of weekend activities for young people at a time when there wasn’t a lot for kids to do in the western corridor.

“I think a lot of people will be saddened by his passing”.

Hundreds of people gathered at a memorial service at the Emu Park RSL on November 10, where army buddies from Ross’s Vietnam days joined friends, family, community leaders and art associates in paying tribute to the 65 year old artist.

An active member of the Emu Park Gallery, Emu Park Lions Club and RSL, Mr Coulter was remembered for his community service, his love for his family and his passion for his seaside home.

The much loved artist died on the same day the local Morning Bulletin newspaper revealed his designs to reshape the RSL precinct and adjoining foreshore into a community memorial park.

Linda Brady