



2015 John Armstrong Memorial Service Award : Bill Hodgetts

This annual award is aimed to recognize Guild Members who have demonstrated a strong and continuing commitment to the Guild objectives through their activities.

Bill Hodgetts - is one member who has given a range of contributions to the Guild and continues to do so despite his serious health issues over the past several years. In summary, these include:

- **CHAINSAW COURSES** – Bill is a long serving member of the NSW SES, including being one of a few qualified to teaching the safe and effective use of a chainsaw. He has conducted a couple of two day courses (at no cost) which provided participants with both extensive notes on safety as well as long hours using a chainsaw and learning the several basic cuts.
- **PREPARING WOOD FOR SALE** – Bill over an extended period did chain sawing of logs to help in the preparation of wood for sale (until his back problems have now prevented him from using a chainsaw). He participated in the collection of a large supply of Oak and Osage Orange from a Braidwood property some years ago.
- **COORDINATING GUILD EVENTS**. For several years Bill has taken the lead in coordinating our participation in the following events:
 - National Folk Festival
 - Canberra Show
 - Home and Leisure Show
 - TWW & Exhibition (in 2015)
 - Old Bus Depot Markets

His role in the NFF includes negotiating with the event organizers the Guild contribution to the Community Activities Program, the provision of the NFF trophies, and support for participants in the NFF (e.g. instrument repairs);

He also liaises with the DNCAS on the H&L Show as well as the Royal Canberra Show.

He prepares the roster for all the events and arranges for volunteer tickets and show set up and tear-down logistics

- **CHRISTMAS BBQ** – Bill's donation and cooking of fresh fish for the breaded fish appetizers has become a popular start to our annual Christmas BBQ
- **BILL'S WALKING STICKS** – These have become legendary. Bill has developed skills in fine stick making and bespoke service in unique and quality sticks, crooks and wands

Bill has given many hours to support the Guild and often this is at home and in meetings that Members never see. He has been a quiet achiever which, we believe, deserves recognition from the Membership.