



Retiring: Mr Kim Hilton.

36 year career

GENERATIONS of students at Chatham High School have learned the art of woodcraft under the guidance of Mr Kim Hilton, but after a rewarding 36 year career, Kim has decided it's time to retire.

Mr Hilton had his last day on the Friday of last term and spoke fondly of his long teaching career, spent entirely at Chatham High School.

"This was my first school and I didn't ever want to leave. It's unusual for a teacher to spend their whole career in one school, so I am glad I was able to," Kim said.

Over his 36 years, Kim said he has seen many changes within the profession, but the core work of helping kids is still the same.

"I've always loved being with the kids and watching them create. It's a great hands-on subject. Sometimes their project doesn't go the way they expect and then it is a matter of helping them fix it. When it's done they feel they've really achieved something," he said. Kim said when he looks back on his career

he will always consider himself lucky to have been associated with many terrific students over the years.

"As a teacher it's incredible to see what students do with their lives once they leave school. It's one of the privileges of the job," he added.

There is a current shortage of Industrial Technology teachers in NSW and Kim feels it's a shame more people aren't considering it as an option.

For now, Kim is very much looking forward to his retirement.

"It's a new stage of life. We have some overseas trips planned for next year. I think it's going to be a wonderful time for us."

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