



Naturally high-tech

Bio-Weave®, Stencil's newest natural fibre, combines traditional techniques with high technology to create a fabric unlike any other.

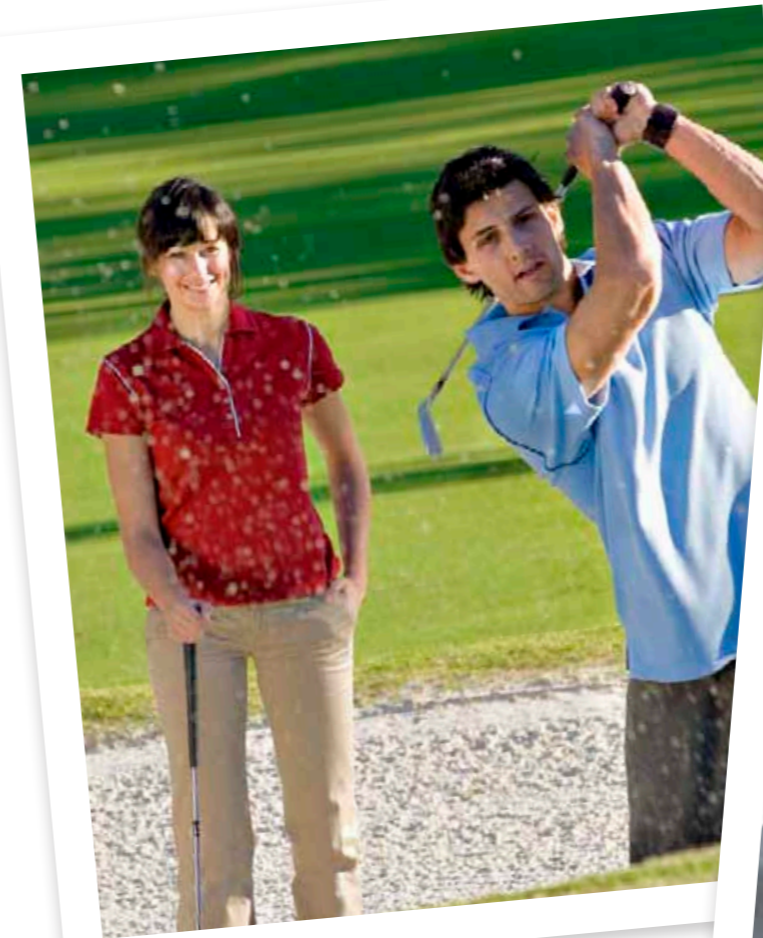
Article by Matthew Smith

In the 10 years since they entered the competitive Australian corporate promotional sportswear and uniform market, Stencil has developed a reputation for producing innovative, hard-wearing fabrics and clothing of the highest quality. The latest addition to their range, Bio-Weave®, has proven to be no exception.

A silky blend of plant cellulose, Cool-Dry® and cotton yarn, Bio-Weave® is a moisture wicking, static-free fabric suitable for even the most sensitive skin. A close cousin of Rayon and Lyocell, Bio-Weave® utilises a revolutionary manufacturing technique to produce a fabric with qualities unmatched by any other fabric, combining the best qualities of cotton, polyester and Cool-Dry®.

If you're looking for attractive colours and hues, Bio-Weave® is a great answer. Created to accept color more readily than natural fabrics, Bio-Weave® can be dyed almost any colour, from the palest of hues right through to the most vibrant, dark and rich colours. Bio-Weave® has great potential for many applications, as its fibers can feel like silk, cotton or wool, and still maintain a washable quality. Stencil currently produces a soft-wearing polo made of Bio-Weave®, which features side splits and contrast piping on sleeves & edge of placket.

Bio-Weave®'s easy-care credentials are substantial too, thanks to the addition of Cool-Dry® in the production of the finished cloth. Highly



wrinkle resistant, static free and quick to dry, Bio-Weave® makes a fantastic addition to any relaxed wardrobe.

For many people, Bio-Weave®'s eco-friendly manufacturing technique is one of its most attractive qualities. To make the cellulose fibre which forms the basis of Bio-Weave®, Stencil uses wood pulp from sustainably-farmed plantations. Wood is an ideal raw material – carefully managed tree cultivation uses very little water, has a minimal ecological impact, and takes up much less space than the cultivation of other natural materials.

During manufacture, the pulp is worked into extremely fine, regular fibres, using a self-contained process which isolates and re-captures the active ingredients for re-use while trapping and decomposing the associated emissions. The fabric emerges completely free of chemical contamination, making it much kinder on sensitive skin than most natural fibres, many of which come into contact with large quantities of bleach during their refinement.

The manufacturing technique used to make Bio-Weave® has garnered significant praise in Europe, where its long-term sustainability and low long-term impact has earned a number of awards. As an added bonus for the ecologically minded, clothes made from Bio-Weave® can even be recycled!

Bio-Weave®'s kindness to sensitive skin is another of its notable characteristics. With a microscopically smooth surface, the cellulose in Bio-Weave® is much gentler on sensitive skin than a traditional fabric such as pure cotton, which has an irregular, scaled surface. Once blended with small quantities of Cool-Dry® and cotton for additional moisture-wicking and strength, Bio-Weave® almost completely eliminates potential 'moisture irritation' and the bacterial growth that can occur with polyester blends. Bio-Weave® is also rated at UPF 50+, making it ideal for Australia's harsh sun and unpredictable conditions.

Of course, Stencil still produces other high-tech fabrics, and the classic fabrics too – Poly/Cotton blends, 100% combed cottons, drills, cotton piques, micro fleeces and any number of blends designed for optimum comfort and wear. However, it is Stencil's relentless pursuit of new fabric technologies, and a refusal to compromise on their standards of quality, comfort and wear, that make Stencil's garments the success story they are. While there's no telling what Stencil will be making five years from now, there's one thing you can be sure of – they'll be working hard to stay a step ahead of the market.

If you are interested in seeing Stencil's range of Bio-Weave® garments, please visit www.stencil.net.au or contact your local Stencil distributor.