



**AUSTRALIAN FOUNDRY INSTITUTE  
(VICTORIAN DIVISION) INC**

[www.australianfoundryinstitute.com.au](http://www.australianfoundryinstitute.com.au)

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Annual General Meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

<b>President:</b>	<b>Amber Maxwell</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Wolfgang Maier</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Alan Cooke</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Murray Brown</b>

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## 1. PAST OFFICE BEARERS

	<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
1998-99	Doug Maxwell	Robert Torcia	Brendan Davies	
1999-00	Doug Maxwell	Robert Torcia	Brendan Davies	
2000-01	Doug Maxwell	Robert Torcia	Brendan Davies	
2001-02	Doug Maxwell	Robert Torcia	Steve Scott	
2002-03	Doug Maxwell	Robert Torcia	Steve Scott	
2003-04	Dean Mortlock	Robert Torcia	Steve Scott	
2004-05	Dean Mortlock	Mark Walker	Steve Scott	Murray Brown
2005-06	Murray Brown	Mark Walker	Steve Scott	Simon Morgan
2006-07	Ron Geurts	Mark Walker	Steve Scott	Simon Morgan
2007-08	Ron Geurts	Mark Walker	Steve Scott	Simon Morgan
2008-09	Jo McKeown	Mark Walker	Steve Scott	Simon Morgan
2009-10	Jo McKeown	Caitlin Granowski	Steve Scott	Garry Yeates
2010-11	Garry Yeates	Caitlin Granowski	Steve Scott	Mark Walker
2011-12	Garry Yeates	Caitlin Granowski	Steve Scott	Mark Walker
2012-13	Garry Yeates	Caitlin Granowski	Steve Scott	Mark Walker
2013-14	Garry Yeates	Caitlin Granowski	Steve Scott	Murray Brown
2014-15	David Sykes	Amber Maxwell	Murray Brown	Paul Bowden
2015-16	David Sykes	Amber Maxwell	Murray Brown	Alan Cooke
2016-17	David Sykes	Amber Maxwell	Murray Brown	Alan Cooke
2017-18	David Sykes	Amber Maxwell	Murray Brown	Alan Cooke
2018-19	Amber Maxwell	Alan Cooke	Murray Brown	
2019-20	Amber Maxwell	Alan Cooke	Murray Brown	
2020-21	Amber Maxwell	Alan Cooke	Murray Brown	
2021-22	Amber Maxwell	Alan Cooke	Murray Brown	Wolfgang Maier
2022 - 2023	Wolfgang Maier	Alan Cooke	Murray Brown	Amber Maxwell
2023 - 2024	Amber Maxwell	Alan Cooke	Murray Brown	Wolfgang Maier

## 2. AFI (VIC) LEGENDS

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
2004	Bill Johnson			2015	John Zach	Peter Klein
2005	Brian Backwell			2016	Jim West	Garth Keech
2006	Jack McCahey	Neil McGaw		2017	Kevin Beasley	Roger Lamb
2007	Keith Crofts	Ken Jessel		2018	Murray Brown	
2008	Dennis Keenan	Ron Mulholland		2019	Terry Beckwith	
2009	Doug Maxwell			2020	Jim Artso	Kuno Brautigam
2010	Ray Goodwin			2021	Craig Ditchfield	
2011	Dean Mortlock	Don Carter		2022	Alan Cooke	
2012	William Pratt			2023	Stephen Scott	
2013	Brian Latimore			2024		
2014	N/A					



### **3. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Alan Cooke**

#### **The 2023 AGM**

The 2023 AGM was held on 15th of November in conjunction with the 2023 Legends night celebration. At the meeting, and as per the minutes 4 Executive Office bearers and 7 ordinary and Committee members were elected to the AFI-Vic Committee of Management. In total we had 16 members in attendance.

#### **The 2023/24 AFI(Vic)- Committee**

With the 2023 National Conference behind us, our President Wolfgang Maier took the decision to step down from the role. We weren't losing Wolfgang entirely though, as he was prepared to remain on the Executive and nominate as Vice-President. Unfortunately we also lost Matthew Pinczes from the committee early in the new year, as he exited the metal casting industry.

It was with great pleasure that we accepted the return of Amber Maxwell and her nomination as the incoming President of AFI(Vic). We have benefited from Amber's strong leadership for many years in the past, so had no hesitation in accepting her nomination. We also welcomed a new committee member in Oliver Perkins and returning committee member, Adam Hassell, giving us a very strong committee – albeit still 1 short of a full complement.

The Committee has met 5 times since the last AGM, a significant reduction from the previous conference hosting year. In addition, the Executive has had regular contact over the year, to ensure that the various activities of AFI (Vic) have been able to progress smoothly. As in every year, there is a lot of activity that we engage in. The Melting Moments quarterly newsletter has effectively become a national communication tool. Amber and myself gratefully accepted David Sykes offer to take on the lead role in compiling the newsletter for 2024. FiaB activity continued at a strong pace, with committee members David Sykes, Sean Boswell, Sam Tyagi, Amber Maxwell and Adam Hassell assisting me in this activity at various schools and events in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Greater Melbourne. Committee member Sam Tyagi, assured the smooth transition of our apprentices from GOTafe to AIE early in the year. Importantly – and with industry consultation – Sam has progressed the development of a Pattern Making apprenticeship course.

#### **The 2024 Program**

The 2024 Program began with a presentation from ICN (Industry Capability Network). This led to further engagement with ICN through the year and importantly raising awareness of the Australian metal casting industry with prospective castings buyers. With the following months delivering 4 presentations (Skilled Migration, Energy contract options, a humorous look at AI and Bi-films) and 4 site visits (Nissan, Goldacres, ManuFutures, Dunbier Marine), we had a broad range of topics covered to inform and entertain our members. The 58<sup>th</sup> National Conference in Christchurch, NZ was hugely successful, with high levels of registration and most importantly high levels of engagement in all aspects of the conference.

#### **2023 Membership**

This year our individual membership stands at 55 financial. These members represent 30 companies. AFI (Vic) have inducted a total of 26 Legends to our Hall of Fame with another nomination to be inducted on Wednesday 18/11/2024.

#### **2025 Program**

Planning for the 2025 Program will begin in earnest at our 4<sup>th</sup> of December meeting. It is likely that we will again offer a combination of presentations (either live or online) with site visits. For several years we have worked closely with ADCA, having many joint activities. This relationship is again expected to be reflected in the 2024 Program.



#### **4. President's Report – Amber Maxwell**

And so, we come to the end of another jam-packed year. At the risk of repeating ourselves I am so proud of the stellar year we had. This year our amazing team put together an excellent series of presentations alternating between a fascinating series of Site tours and plant visits both within the Metro Melbourne area and out to Ballarat and Geelong. Thanks to all the companies that allowed us to tour, it is always appreciated and if you know of anywhere, we could visit, please see one of the committee members.

Sadly, this year we have farewelled some very special, nay, legendary members of our Victorian metal casting community. Bill Pratt, Malcom Snowden and Doug Evans.

The year began for most of our member and associated businesses with full to overflowing order books. However, we were all faced with the challenges of increasing pressures on the cost of doing business through price increases on consumables, freight and energy pricing continuing northwards. These issues and the level of interest rates all continuing to contribute to inflationary pressures.

AIE (our RTO) have had an incredibly successful year not only expanding training of our Foundry Apprentices in Casting and Moulding into other states but also working on the module for delivery of the Patternmaking Apprenticeship. AIE have also been awarded the Small Training Provider of the Year at the Victorian Training Awards late August. Furthermore, they are now in the running and representing Victoria at the Australian Training Awards to be announced on Friday 6th December 2024. We wish them every success.

This achievement is not just a win for AIE but a testament to the collaborative efforts and unwavering support between AIE and the AFI. It is also testament to what hard work, diligence and dedication no matter the size of the organization can achieve !

Alan Cooke (Secretary) - Another year of extraordinary work and engagement, continuing to represent AFI at both a State and National Level, participating in various Industry and Training meetings, our lead in Foundry in a Box Demonstrations at Trade and Industry Fairs and in educational facilities around the State, co-editing our Quarterly Melting Moments Newsletter and ensuring our AFI Website continues to be updated, just to name a few. Thank you.

Murray Brown (Treasurer) - Again, and for the 10<sup>th</sup> year, Murray ensured we remained on track, financially throughout the year. Thank you.

Wolfgang – (Vice President) after a long and extraordinarily successful Conference year Wolfgang remained a critical part of the AFI Vic committee in the Executive role of VP. For several months he also managed to travel around our wide brown land hiking, paddling, swimming, eating and even sampling the odd home grown vino or two. As a result of the fabulous experience he wants to spend more time on these adventures, so sadly we say goodbye to Wolfgang as an Executive Team and Committee member. For 16 years Wolfgang has been a hard working AFI Victorian Committee member, Office bearer including President ensuring our Conferences - in particular the golfing days and other social functions retained the high standard expected by all. Your enthusiasm and willingness to engage in and promote all aspects of our industry over this time has been much appreciated – don't be a stranger!

To the rest of our amazing committee, each and every one of you have willingly taken on extra tasks throughout this year to ensure we have continued to thrive and grow. Without each of your ideas, commitments and contributions AFI VIC would not have achieved what we have this year. We look forward to what we can achieve together next year.

As always our planning meeting for 2025 will be held next month at Errol's Café - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December from 5:30pm . All members are welcome to attend and contribute on this night. If you do wish to join the committee, please let us know for catering purposes.

For 2025 I look to achieving many more milestones together and furthering our mission to enhance the skills and opportunities available to our metal casting community.



## Australian Foundry Institute (Vic Branch) 2024 Program

Month	Date	Location	Topic	Presenter	AFI / ADCA Contact
Feb	Wed 21st	The Village Green Hotel	ICN - presentation		Amber M
Mar	Wed 20th	Dandenong	Nissan Diecasting - site visit		Craig A (Lost Trades 9/3 - 10/3) (Careers Expo 14/3 – 16/3)
Apr	Wed 17th	The Village Green hotel	Skilled Migration - presentation		Sean B / Amber M (School Hols 29/3 to 14/4)
May	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ballarat	Goldacres agricultural equipment manufacturer - site visit		Adam H (Trade Fit Expo 8/5 – 9/5)
June	Wed 19th	The Village Green Hotel	Choice Energy - online presentation		Alan C (School Hols 29/6 to 14/7)
Jul	Wed 17th	Deakin University, Geelong	Manufactures Automation (site visit) plus Richie Smyth – Aluminium (presentation)		Sean B / Alan C
Aug	Wed 21st	The Village Green Hotel	Bifilms – a Personal Perspective - presentation		Gary S
Sep	Fri 6th	Sovereign Hill, Ballarat	Annual Technologists Picnic	<b>Deferred until Q1 2025</b>	Gary Bunn – MA
Sep	Wed 18th	Braeside	Dunbier Marine Trailers metal fabrication - site visit		Amber M (School Hols 21/9 to 6/10)
Oct	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 19th		AFI / CTNZ National Conference, Christchurch, NZ		
Nov	Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Village Green Hotel	Legend and Achiever Night and AGM		Alan C
Dec	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Errols, Nth Melb	Planning meeting		Alan C

## 7. APPRENTICE TRAINING

### Casting and Moulding Apprentices

#### Cast Bonding Australia Apprentice

Michael Booth

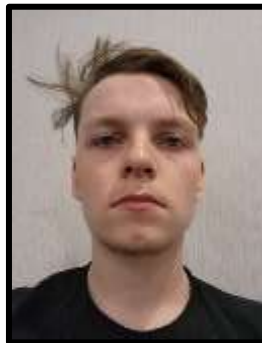


#### IXL Apprentices

Pierre Meyer



Lachlan Rollo



Jacob Robinson Marbas

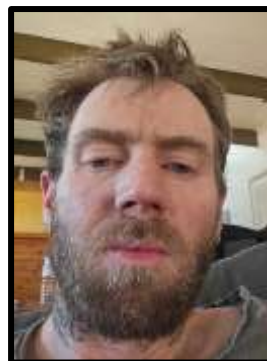


#### Derwent Industries Apprentices

Bryce Martin



Matthew Aherne



Ryan Herbert



**Billman's Foundry Apprentice**

Justin Daniel Mckeone



**Hasco Foundry Apprentice**

James Maurice Stewart



**Patternmaking Apprentices**

**Derwent Industries Apprentice**

Tamika Lee Penrose



**Heritage Patternmaking Services Apprentice**

Mitchell Fowler



**Castings Tasmania Apprentices:**

Will Elliot

Patternmaking Apprentice



Toby Lucas

Patternmaking Apprentice







# 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Minutes

15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Village Green Hotel

## Members Present:

Amber Maxwell, Gary Savage, Rob Dalla Via, Murray Brown, Adam Hassell, Craig Ditchfield, Garry Yeates, David Sykes, Dean Mortlock, John Zach, Dennis Keenan, Doug Maxwell, Garth Keech, Kevin Beasley, Mark Walker, Alan Cooke

Guest: Stephen Scott and his wife Dianne

Chair: W. Maier

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023      Opened: 6:08pm  
Minuted By: A.Cooke      Meeting No.: 24  
Minutes:

1. Apologies — Sam Tyagi, Sean Boswell, Bala Hebbar

2. Previous Minutes — 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Moved: Murray Brown      Seconded: Adam Hassell

All agreed the minutes were a true reflection of meeting proceedings. Motion Accepted.

3. Presidents Report – Wolfgang Maier – summary presented.

4. Secretary's Report — Alan Cooke — summary presented

5. Treasurers Report — Murray Brown tabled financial statements for year ended 30 June 2023

That the Annual Report for 2023, comprising the President's report, Secretaries report and Treasurer's report be received and approved.

Moved: Wolfgang Maier      Seconded: David Sykes      Motion Accepted

6. AFI-Vic Committee of Management — all positions were declared open.

2022/23

Members of the AFI-Vic Committee Executive:

- President      Wolfgang Maier - LMW
- Vice President      Amber Maxwell — Hayes Metals
- Treasurer      Murray Brown — Beckwith Iron & Steel
- Secretary      Alan Cooke — Retired Foundryman

Ordinary Members

- Gary Savage
- Rob Dalla Via      Beckwiths
- John Zach      Retired Foundryman
- David Sykes
- Craig Evans      Derwent Industries

- Sean Boswell      Backwell IXL
  - Sam Tyagi          AIE
  - Matthew Pinczes   Arrow Bronze
  - Bala Hebbar        Consultant
- and Dennis Keenan as Historian.

The Chair expressed thanks to the Committee Members for 2022/23.

Special thanks to all retiring Committee Members – Bala Hebbar, John Zach and Craig Evans.

The following nominations were received for the 2023/2024 Executive

- ▲ President            Amber Maxwell – Hayes Metals
- ▲ Vice-President      Wolfgang Maier - LMW
- ▲ Secretary            Alan Cooke - retired foundryman
- ▲ Treasurer            Murray Brown — Beckwith Iron and Steel.

The following nominations were received for Ordinary Members

- Adam Hassell – Hasco Foundry
- Oliver Perkins – APCO Foundry
- .
- .

The chair opened the floor to nominations.

nominated.      Moved:                      Seconded:

With no further nominations, motion moved to accept the nominations as listed

Moved:    David Sykes    Seconded:    Gary Savage    Motion accepted: Passed Unanimously

The Chair opened the floor for any questions or comments.

No other business being forthcoming the AGM meeting closed at 6:17pm

Signed

President

Secretary

Date:            15 November 2023