



**Casting Industry –
the career choice for
makers, creators and
innovators**

Melting Moments – December 2019 Edition

Presidents Report

As we come to the end of another year, in fact another decade, we are afforded the opportunity to reflect on the highlights and yes, the low lights, of the year that has just passed us by. 2019 has been super eventful with AFI Vic continuing to grow and develop as an industry body, and we trust, providing even more value to our membership. GoTafe joined us as the Victorian Foundry Industry's registered training provider and we have finished the year with 10 newly appointed Apprentices in both Patternmaking and Moulding. We celebrated a "white" Christmas in July in Ballarat and recognised yet another AFI Vic Foundry Legend - Terry Beckwith. We hosted several tremendously successful Plant tours in conjunction with ADCA and have presented some extremely interesting and informative technical sessions. We also welcomed Cast Technologies New Zealand (CTNZ) to join AFI Conference rotation as voted at our AGM in October, and to kick it off we are excitedly preparing for the 55th National AFI Vic & CTNZ Conference in October 2020.

On behalf of myself and the AFI Vic Committee we wish to thank all of our members, legends, associated organisations, friends and families for your attendance and support at meetings, presentations and plant tours. Without your collaborative effort and help we may not have experienced the success and growth we have again in 2019. We now look forward to sharing even more rewarding, informative and interesting opportunities for all. Have a wonderful, safe, happy and healthy break over the coming month and we look forward to a bigger and brighter 2020!

AFI National

Congratulations to Keiran Slattery and the AFI(NSW) team on a massively successful National Conference last October. Well attended, interesting and challenging presenters, a great social program – a truly memorable event all round. The conference is also the time for the National Council meeting. A major decision to come out this meeting is to again produce an Industry Report. For this, I'll use the same methodology as I did for the first, with some variance on the

survey questions. Businesses will be receiving these survey questions early in the new year.

To ease the workload on individual States, future conferences will have a central committee having primary responsibility for the Technical Program and Sponsorship, with the host State having primary responsibility for the Social Program and venues. Casting Technology New Zealand have now formally joined the Conference roster.

The Carbon Emissions manual is now on the website. Please consider how this might be used in your business. An industry Sustainability Statement is still in its infancy. Through Deakin University and other avenues, I'll continue to investigate the possibility of research projects aimed at repurposing of foundry waste materials.

I recently met with my local Federal MP. My aim was to let them know about the metal casting industry, the challenges we face and the importance of our industry to the Australian economy. You can help by doing the same thing with your local MP.

Lots happening, but importantly everyone should enjoy the summer break and return to work in 2020 with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and vigour!!

Apprentice Training



A highlight of 2019 has been the reintroduction of Foundry Apprentice training in Victoria through GOTAFE. It was especially pleasing to have Kyle Clarke a Patternmaker Apprentice from Bradken Wodonga awarded the AFI(Vic) Young Achiever at the National Conference. Kyle is a credit to himself, his young family, his employer and to the AFI as a

whole. Well done.

As a 3rd year apprentice, Kyle is currently learning about methoding

A feature of the new apprentice intake is the diversity – age is certainly no barrier to choosing a new career path. For those that can stay the distance and complete their apprenticeship, there are great prospects for a long and rewarding career. The following briefs introduce the new apprentices to the wider cast metal industry –

Keech Castings –



Mark Scott – Moulding Apprentice
(55 years young !!).



Bryce Martin –
Moulding
Apprentice



Lyell Draper – Moulding Apprentice



Matthew Aherne
– Moulding
Apprentice



Simon Cole – Patternmaking Apprentice

Bradken Wodonga –



Chris Mammone – Patternmaking
Apprentice

Backwell IXL –

Sean Gardiner – Moulding Apprentice



Billmans –



Justin McKeone – Moulding Apprentice

Beckwith Group –

Heath Facca – Moulding Apprentice



Congratulations to all of these apprentices. We look forward to seeing you active in the metal casting industry for many years to come.

Are you interested in an apprenticeship?? Applications are now open to study a Certificate III in Engineering – Moulding and Patternmaking at GOTAFE. For a full list of available courses, visit gotafe.vic.edu.au or phone 1300 GOTAFE (468 233).

2019 AGM

AFI(Vic) held the AGM on Wednesday 20th of November. We will again have the strong leadership of Amber Maxwell as our President, with the brilliant support of Murray Brown and Alan Cooke continuing as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Returning Committee members are as follows – Kevin Beasley, Gary Savage, Bala Hebbar, Rob Dalla Via, Adam Hassell, Wolfgang Maier, John Zach and we welcome back David Sykes. Dennis Keenan will continue as our Historian.

The full AGM report is available on the AFI(Vic) website. www.australianfoundryinstitute.com.au go to the VICTORIA page.

World Foundry Organisation (WFO)

Dr Pam Murrell is the Chair of the WFO Training and Professional Development Working Group. The WFO website is being updated in two areas – one with resources and information around the promotion of careers in the industry and the other to provide some of the information we gathered during the survey about technical short course providers. In the future we can expect to have access to the many on-line training courses available through the WFO.

Energy Costs

On the night of our AGM we also had a presentation by Matthew Warren, an independent journalist and commentator on the Australian Energy system. An important out take from his presentation is the presence of Renewable Energy Retailers in the market. As a consequence of the high number of renewable energy generators that have come into the market in recent years, there is currently a high level of renewable energy supply available through retailers or brokers who are all chasing market share. Matthew's view is that in lieu installing solar panels yourself, you should consider purchasing directly from one of these renewable energy brokers.

The following is a communication from Matthew for your consideration – "As discussed, a couple of leads for your members who might be interested in following up on whether a retail broker can help reduce their energy costs. There are around 50 businesses like this that I'm aware of, some big, some small, some great some not so great. I have no commercial links to any of them.

They can provide services from more exotic contracting of electricity, gas and renewables etc to supply and advice on energy management technology, energy efficiency services etc.

1 circle

<http://1circle.com.au>

Schneider electric

<https://www.se.com/au/en/about-us/careers/our-teams.jsp>

Energetics

<https://www.energetics.com.au>

There are many others. Just google commercial energy broker.

Also, you might want to explore working with ARENA as an industry on industry-wide R&D on load shifting etc.

<https://arena.gov.au>

and the RERT is being contracted every year through AEMO which pays businesses to switch off load at critical times.

<https://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Emergency-Management/RERT/RERT-Tendering>

Finally another link to a recent newspaper article speaking of individual companies and groups of companies that are entering long term contracts to purchase their electricity needs directly from the renewable generator.

<https://apple.news/Ayu6mmHMNQoa6dFayVanpow>

Australian Apprentice Support Network

Apprenticeship Support Australia is contracted by the Australian Government to provide skills development advice and solutions to businesses across Australia as part of the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN).

We offer employers advice on Government funding for training, suitable qualifications, access to recruitment solutions, as well as mentoring and support for apprentices and trainees.

Should you require any additional information please contact our Industry Training Consultant Daniele Walker on 0419 754 791.

In Brief

Sustainability Victoria has a tool available which makes it easier for businesses to –

1. Find a grant that for their energy saving project.
2. Calculate grant amounts and ROI.
3. Recommend finance options

Click on the link to learn more <<https://vic.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7d931793dd6e7eb107265dc3d&iid=3b0be45792&e=0d222ceecf>>

Foundry Memorabilia Collector

We've been contacted by a collector of foundry memorabilia. If you want to talk to him get in touch with Amber or Alan.

" I like collecting unusual things that are very specific to their industries that aren't very common in the 'outside' world, when it comes to foundries, it's things like: interesting old foundry patterns, particularly ones of a well-known or obvious part, old engineering drawings, particularly general arrangements, old trade literature, interesting samples, moulders tools, pattern makers tools/chests, metrology, testing, antiquated machinery, interesting industrial relics like gauges, taps, signs, etc. I particularly like the history side too and love hearing peoples and businesses stories, and how in a city like Melbourne the connection between a lot of the makers was strong and intertwined."

There are many video's online promoting careers in various industries. Follow the attached link to view a video promoting Engineering. Imagine a video promoting careers in the cast metal industry !!

you[https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6597792781056385024/?commentUrn=urn%3Ali%3Acomment%3A\(ugcPost%3A6597792514504183808%2C6600500434736041990\)](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6597792781056385024/?commentUrn=urn%3Ali%3Acomment%3A(ugcPost%3A6597792514504183808%2C6600500434736041990))



Summary of Australian Foundry Institute (AFI) 54th National Conference

This year's Annual Conference was held in the historic City of Parramatta (Central Sydney). The Venue for the Speaker's Presentations was The Park Royal. The Conference was well attended with 152 delegates and partners (117+35) taking part in the two days of presentations and social activities. The President's Reception was held in World Heritage Listed, Old Government House and the end of Conference Dinner was held aboard the "Captain Cook III" Cruise Boat on Sydney Harbour at which 5 long serving, passionate foundrymen were inducted as "AFI Legends".

As with past AFI National Conferences, the host State organising committee put together an interesting and industry specific array of speakers aimed at motivating and educating our members from Shop Floor Foundry Operators, Managers and Business Owners and Suppliers to the local metal casting industry.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Pam Murrell, Chief Executive of the Cast Metals Federation, UK MF, the Trade Association for the UK castings industry spoke about the current challenges to our industry. She identified UK and European issues that virtually mirror those facing the Australian and New Zealand metal casting industries with respect to introducing young people to careers in foundries. She went on to say that at a time when the industry is facing significant change, the need for a skilled workforce capable of adapting has, arguably, never been greater.

An aging workforce, shortages of skilled workers and a lack of training programmes are all cited as challenges for the global industry and may limit the ability of the industry to capitalise on the opportunities. In addition, the prevailing image of the industry, as dark, dirty and dangerous, can make it hard to recruit new employees. Yet casting is a vital part of any advanced manufacturing supply chain and has a role to play in the circular economy, so perhaps there is a more positive image that can be presented to help increase the pipeline of talent.

Altogether, 16 Speakers presented a wide range of foundry and related business topics including:

- **AFI INDUSTRY REVIEW:** Snapshot of current state of our industry.
- **CASTING:** Developments in Resins; Coatings; Feeder Systems & Computer Modelling.
- **ENERGY:** What relief, if any, is in sight for power costs?
- **BUSINESS SUPPORT:** Government Entrepreneurs Program; Ai Group Member Services.
- **SAFETY:** Changing Safety Culture; Improved Protective Clothing & PPE Gear.
- **TRAINING:** New TAFE Training & On-Line Courses.
- **WORLD:** Update on overseas foundry trends; Industry 4.0; & Robotics.

Feedback after the Conference was very positive with general consensus that the objectives outlined above were well met.

Keiran Slattery

AFI NSW President



Australian Foundry Institute (Vic Branch) 2020 Program

Month	Date	Location	Topic	Presenter	AFI / ADCA Contact	Committee Meeting	Availability
Feb	Wed 12 th	Errol's	GIFA Presentation	Rob Dalla Via	Amber Maxwell	Yes	
Mar	Fri 6 th		AFI National Council meeting, Brisbane				
Mar	Wed 11 th	Thomastown locale	Sutton tools Site Visit	TBC	Amber Maxwell		
Apr	Wed 15 th	Village Green	Update on Apprentice Training curriculum. Foundry in a Box	Brett Ambrosio/John Zach	Amber Maxwell/ Alan Cooke	Yes	AM away 1-9/4
May	Wed 13 th	Dandenong South	Viridian Glass/Macbro/IXL	TBC			
Jun	Wed 10 th	Village Green	Structural automotive HPDC using recycled Al Wheels	Roger Lumley	Graham Wilson	Yes	AM away 20-27/6
Jul	Wed 15 th	Village Green	Legends Night				
Aug	Wed 12 th	Carrum Downs	Australian Brass Forging /Macbro/Thales	TBC	Amber Maxwell/Graham Wilson/Adam Hassell	Yes	AC away – 27/7 to 29/9 AM away 23-30/8
Sep	Fri 4 th	Sovereign Hill, Ballarat	Annual Technologists Picnic		Gary Bunn - MA		
Sep	Wed 16 th	Village Green	Foundry Waste Recycling Opportunities		Allan Cooke/ Wolfgang Maier/Graham Wilson	Yes	
Oct	8 th – 11 th	Christchurch NZ	National Conference		AFI Vic & CTNZ		
Nov	Wed 11 th	Village Green	AGM and Worksafe – Update on Compliance Code	Worksafe	Alan Cooke	Yes	
Dec	Wed 9 th	Errol's	Planning meeting		Committee		