



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

Melting Moments – December 2021

Presidents Report

Christmas seems to have once again snuck up on us. As we navigate our way to the end of yet another challenging but prosperous year for our industry here in Victoria, we are finally free !! To celebrate our most recent release we gathered together and celebrated the induction our 2021 Legend - Craig Ditchfield, what a fantastic night it was. We have also been active in show casing Foundry in a Box. Last week the FiaB committee met at Beckwith's in Coburg and toured the foundry with the key teaching staff from Harvester Technical College (the only Tech school in Victoria) with the view to introduce them to skills and capabilities required for the continuity of our industry. Harvester contacted us (from the website details) as they wish to add Metal Casting and Pattermaking to their curriculum. The staff were most appreciative of the time taken by all who attended and they were enlightened by what our industry does and how the metals casting industry impacts our lives in many ways every day. Enormous thanks to Rob Dalla Via, Murray Brown and Garry Yeates for allowing us to bring the teaching staff through their plant at this very busy time of the year and for the time all gave up to discuss future opportunities for both organisations. <http://harvestercollege.vic.edu.au/>.

At our AGM we welcomed two newcomers to the AFI Victoria Committee and we look forward to seeing them at our meetings, tours and presentations. Look out for Sam and Matthew.

Finally wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Safe, happy and prosperous 2022.

Amber Maxwell – AFI Victoria President

AFI National

As 2021 comes to an end we will reflect on another 12 months impacted significantly by the pandemic and variations in approach by each State & Federal governments. From a business perspective the results from the past year are generally fairly rosy, with order books full and energy costs returning to more sustainable levels. However, being busier has seen a chronic shortage of labour, both skilled and unskilled, impact growth opportunities.

From an AFI National perspective the impact was to defer the Brisbane national conference from October 2021 to May 12-14, 2022 and the November National Council meeting to an online meeting.

On behalf of National Council, I would like to thank Alan Cooke for his exemplary effort & output as National President for the past 3.5 years. We all look forward to the opportunity to toast him in person in May '22 at the Brisbane conference. In addition, a special mention to Alan Cooke, Amber Maxwell & Keiran Slattery for their effort in coordinating the new AFI National website and the industry video. It acts as a great way to promote our industry & members to suppliers, customers and employees.

The National Council also confirmed we will continue to publish an annual Foundry Industry Report. This will continue to be the key source of information for State & National committee members to lobby Council, State & Federal government for topics such as a National Training program which works effectively for the needs of the industry, energy costs and usage, particularly with the push to 'net zero', and waste costs / recycling opportunities.

National Council have also recently agreed to investigate opportunities of mutual benefit with Australian Steel Institute (ASI) via the signing of an

MOU. As information comes to hand it will be tabled through the various State & National AFI committees.

Finally, I would like to thank the National Council members in supporting my nomination to AFI National President. On behalf of the National Council, I wish all members, their family and friends a safe and happy festive season. See you all in 2022 refreshed & ready for another big year of making, creating & innovating!!

Brett Lawrence – AFI National President



AFI Victoria

The 2021 AGM was held on 8th Dec 2021 and the following members were elected as 2022 Committee Members

Amber Maxwell – President,
Alan Cooke - Secretary,
Murray Brown – Treasurer,
Wolfgang Maier – Vice President

General committee:

Gary Savage, John Zach, Sean Boswell, Bala Hebbbar, David Sykes, Quinn Petrie,

Welcome to two new members for 2022
Sam Tyagi Matthew Pinczes



Legends Night

With Victoria emerging from almost 2 years of lockdowns and Christmas fast approaching, the timing couldn't be better for our metal casting community to gather socially and celebrate the induction of another AFI(Vic) Legend. On Wednesday 17th November Craig Ditchfield was inducted as the 2021 AFI Victoria Legend.



Nomination for a Victorian Foundry Ind



Craig Ditchfield 2021.pdf

A wonderful night was celebrated by all in the first face to face get together for a long time.





AIE partner with various industries, offer formal training, short courses, excursions, and webinars to enhance the student experience.

AIE's simple aim is to 'inspire' the next generation of Australian engineering trade professionals - **'Engineers bring dreams to reality'.**



AIE is profoundly honored to have been announced as the Winner in the Learning and Development category at the Hume City Council's Business awards this year.

This award is a reflection of the hard work done by the AIE team – lead by newly nominated AFI(Vic) committee member Sam Tyagi - over the past 2 challenging years.

Around the Traps

Old's Engineering – Maryborough

The Fraser Coast Chronicle published an article highlighting the work being complete by Old's Engineering in producing THE FACES of 13 shearers who did time breaking rocks on St Helena Island more than 100 years ago have now been cast in bronze and presented to the Tree of Knowledge Committee in the outback town of Barcaldine on May Day to celebrate the Australian Workers union's 120th birthday

Apprentices and Training

The AFI continues to work at both National and State level to deliver better training outcomes for the metal casting industry. An AFI National Training committee has been formed to better co-ordinate our efforts in the training area.

The Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) are developing a Skills Plan. This will identify the skills gap in all industries throughout Victoria both now and what is projected over the next 5 years. Funding decisions will be informed by the Skills Plan. AFI(Vic) are represented on the Industry Advisory Group – Manufacturing (IAG-Mfg.).

The many manufacturing industries represented in this body have agreed to work together to achieve mutually beneficial training outcomes.

AFI(Vic) are in the early stages of developing a relationship with Harvester Technical College, Sunshine. We hope to see students from this school becoming our future Moulders and Patternmakers.

AFI(Vic) is also building stronger links with our RTO's – GOTafe and AIE (Australian Institute of Engineering). The latter is providing engineering trade courses all over Australia including recently added MEM31719 - Certificate III in Engineering - Casting and Moulding Trade.

The educational and training platform developed in AIE, is designed to ground the students in the 'real world', with practical solutions and experience to meet current employment prospects in the engineering trade sector.



Admiring the brass plaques that will be presented to the Tree of Knowledge Committee in Barcaldine are Lyn Bengstrum, Keith Ballin, Neta Alcorn (artist) and Robert Olds from Olds Engineering.
Photo: GARRY WILLIAMSON 08/10/18

In another article published in the Marborough Sun – Olds Engineering are again involved

When Australia's new Antarctic icebreaker, RSV Nuyina, makes its maiden voyage, it will feature a ship's bell made apprentices Lachlan Hanson (left) and Calen Simpson at Old's Engineering & Foundry in Maryborough, Qld,

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10159749771202272&id=767182271&sfnsn=mo



Metals Casting magazine will sadly cease publication in Dec 2021. This makes our Melting Moments as the only metal casting industry publication in Australia!!

Brett Lawrence has taken over the role of National President from Alan Cooke who has completed a stellar job in his role as National President.

AFI(Vic) was represented at the Technologists Picnic at Sovereign Hill on Fri 19/12 by Ron Guerts and Alan Cooke. A really interesting presentation by a historian about the building of the Spencer St bridge.

Bala Hebbar has left Thales and taken a new foundry consultancy role.

The AFI Website has a few minor updates We encourage businesses to advertise their vacancies and generally make more use of the website.

AFI Victoria held the AGM and 2022 Planning meeting on Wed 8/12. The 2021 Annual Report, AGM minutes and also the early version of the 2022 Program of activities can now be found on the **AFI website**.

AFI Victoria says bon voyage to our 2020 Legend Jim and Wendy Artso who are soon to be heading off to their new home in the wild west, settling in the beautiful Mandurah area. Enjoy your new home and don't be a stranger Jim!



Save The Date

The AFI 2021 National Conference Committee have been monitoring the current COVID-19 restrictions across Australia, and after much consideration we announce that the October 2021 conference has been rescheduled to May 2022

The Australian Foundry Institute 56th Annual National Conference will now be held at Rydges South Bank Brisbane from Thursday 12 to Saturday 14 May 2022.

<http://www.aficonference.org/>

Vale Terry Beckwith



It is with a sad and heavy heart that we advise of the passing of a “true foundryman, AFI Legend and all round pretty good bloke” Terry Beckwith.

After a long and hard-fought battle with cancer Terry lost the fight on Saturday 16th October.

Terry had been a supporter, and stalwart of the Australian Foundry Industry for decades. His grit, drive and determination were like no other. Terry was

well known amongst his peers for seeing and pursuing opportunity where others did not.

One of the best descriptions of Terry was delivered at his Legends presentation.

“You will always find him in bib and brace overalls, red faced and sweat on the brow, (or on the forklift) overseeing the daily schedule.

Terry’s dream was to secure the long-term future of the foundry industry and to support his employees (*perpetually viewed as his extended family*) who have supported him throughout his career and to those new employees who have served the industry

From small beginnings, Terry grew his business into a large diverse group of companies with 70+ employees, supplying and manufacturing consumables and castings for customers.

Vale Terry Beckwith.

*******HOLD THE PRESS – SHOUT OUT FROM AFI QUEENSLAND.**

The NRL Magic Round is also being held in Brisbane on the same weekend as our Conference. It’s estimated that 40,000 - 50,000 people will come and go through Brisbane that week/weekend, with hotels and airflights in great demand and charged at premium prices.

We would encourage all interested attendees to take advantage of the Early Bird Registration, Accommodation and Air Travel ASAP.

So please get in early to secure your bookings.



Australian Foundry Institute (Vic Branch) 2022

Program v2

Month	Date	Location	Topic	Presenter	AFI / ADCA Contact
Feb	Wed 16th	Village Green	Robotic Fettling of Castings - presentation	Fred Kolak	Graham W
Mar	Wed 16th	Geelong	Site Visit / Presentation / Bill Pratt 100 th Celebration	tba	Sean B
Apr	Wed 13th	Hawthorn	Industry 4.0 Swinburne Tech – site visit	tbc	Quinn P
May	Thur 12 th – Sat 14th	Brisbane	National Conference		AFI(Qld)
June	Wed 15 th	Village Green	Code of Compliance review - presentation	WorkSafe Victoria tbc	Alan C
Jul	Wed 20th	Dandenong	Arrow Bronze - site visit		Matthew P
Aug	Wed 17 th	Village Green	Machinery Forum - presentation		Graham W
Sep	Fri 2nd	Sovereign Hill, Ballarat	Annual Technologists Picnic - presentation		Gary Bunn - MA
Sep	Wed 21st	Carrum Downs	Australian Brass Forgings – site visit	Gary Thompson	Graham W
Oct	Wed 16 th – 20th	Busan, Sth Korea	WFO Congress		Adam H
Oct	Wed 19th	Village Green	Legends Night and AGM		Alan C
Nov	Wed 16 th		tba		
Dec	Wed 8 th	Errols, Nth Melb	Planning meeting		