



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

Melting Moments – December 2022

Presidents Report

As the newly appointed AFI(Vic) President, this is my first report for the Melting Moments newsletter. Firstly, I would like to thank Amber Maxwell for all her hard work over the last few years as President of AFI Victoria. Amber has taken a step back this year due to work commitments but will continue to serve as Vice President. Alan Cooke and Murray Brown continue in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

AFI Victoria will be hosting the 2023 National Conference which will be held from Thursday Oct 26 to Saturday Oct 28 at the Marriot Hotel in Melbourne. We have a committee of 13 at this stage, but if anybody can spare some time, we would be happy to have additional help. As you can all imagine, the timeframe for this conference is very tight. For previous conferences we started planning 18 months out, we only have 11 months for this one, but with the great group of people we have, I am sure we will get it over the line.

Our Industry continues to be very busy; most foundries are reporting a very strong order book. The biggest issue continues to be the lack of workers to fill the vacancies every metal casting business has. To help address this, we continue to take Foundry in a Box to schools and career expos with the aim of increasing awareness of our industry and to attract interest in having a career in the industry. Our most recent workshop at Harvester Technical has resulted in an Apprentice starting at Beckwith Iron and Steel.

Following a successful 2022, we look forward to offering a full program of activities throughout 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Wolfgang Maier – AFI Victoria President

AFI National

With 2022 almost over it's time to wonder where the year went & for another update.

From a foundry perspective the order books for the 4th quarter are generally fairly good, with many foundries continuing to quote 18 - 20+ weeks lead time for many products.

The electricity & gas pricing and supply for every State except WA continues to be problematic for manufacturing generally & foundries specifically.

We have continued our contact to Chis Bowen, Ed Husic, Madeleine King and Assistant Minister for Energy & Climate Senator Jenny McAllister requesting a gas & coal reserve at prices pre Russia / Ukraine war. However, as with our involvement with the National Skills Commission, there are numerous discussions without enough action. Despite the impatience we feel it remains worthwhile to voice the opinions of our industry.

From an AFI National perspective we want to advise that the 2023 conference will be coordinated by AFI Victoria. The 2024 conference is planned to be hosted by CTNZ. Support from the majority of members attending these conferences will make the conferences worthwhile for both participants & sponsors.

Please remember we need to know the issues each member is facing to enable the State & National bodies to advocate on your behalf, to enable the AFI to represent the industry effectively.

Finally, I would like to thank the National Council & State members for their support this year to take time to advocate for AFI members with various bureaucracies in relation to apprenticeships / trainees, industry skills requirements and utilities supply & cost.

On behalf of the National Council I wish all members, their family and friends a safe and happy festive season. See you all in 2023 refreshed &

ready for another big year of making, creating & innovating !!

Brett Lawrence – AFI National President

Apprentices and Training

WA – Hard Work Pays Off

Gyeongjin Jeong had been working in the foundry industry for a few years before moving to Perth in WA and starting work at the Dobbie Foundry in Malaga in 2017. In February, this year Gyeongjin started a Recognition of Prior Learning / Assessment only process to be recognized for the skills he had gained from his years of experience working in the metal casting industry. Over 6 months after completing practical portfolios, theory assessments, and demonstrating his skills during workplace visits, Gyeongjin successfully completed his Certificate III in Casting & Moulding, being the first student to complete the new MEM Engineering qualification that was released in 2020. Ian Fitzgerald, Dobbie Foundry Manager couldn't be happier to see Gyeongjin complete this certificate and has encouraged him to look at further studies. AIE are working with different businesses around Australia and are more than happy to discuss any training question you might have for your business.



From L to R:
Gyeongjin Jeong, Sam Tyagi AIE CEO, Brett Ambrosio AIE Education Director, Ian Fitzgerald Dobbie Foundry Manager

Victoria – In or Out ?

In Victoria we continue to progress with apprentice training albeit with a few twists and turns. Over the last 2 months it has not been clear if GOTafe would

continue to offer courses in 2023 that our apprentices are enrolled in.

On Tuesday 29/11, our (excellent) trainer Paul Friswell notified AFI(Vic) that his contract with GOTafe had been renewed for 2023. A further communication from Paul to all current employers of apprentices confirmed that GOTafe will be offering training in MEM31719 – Casting and Moulding and the newly approved MEM31622 – Patternmaking. It is pleasing and reassuring that our apprentices now have certainty for 2023.

In more reassuring news, it is great to hear that the private Registered Training Organisation (RTO) the Australian Institute of Engineering (AIE) is active in WA, delivering training in Victoria and is approved to do so in SA.

Backwell IXL in Geelong has developed a very strong relationship with Newcomb High School leading to the employment of several apprentices with more in the pipeline. Similarly the Beckwith Group has employed an apprentice through their relationship with Sunshine Technical School. In a tight labour market, these personal relationship can be a strong point of difference in securing the people that you need.

Legends Night Wed 19/10

See appendix for details of the 2022 AFI(Vic) Legend award recipient. Suffice to say a great night was had by all.

Energy Action Presentation Wed 16/11

A small but highly engaged group attended an excellent presentation at the Village Green Hotel on Wednesday 16/11 from Raechel Kent and Tony Giannikos of Energy Action.

In an environment of rapidly climbing energy costs, the presentations explained why costs are climbing, forecast trends in the near to midterm, and delivered multiple ways that metal casting businesses can mitigate the impact of these rising costs.

For those that couldn't attend, we recommend that you contact Raechel to discuss your energy issues with her.

The slide show from the presentation is accessible on the AFI website.

Hycast Metals Marks 60 Years

The following is an edited version of a recent Press Release. Great to read of a successful metal casting business facing the challenges of 2022 and beyond.

Hycast Metals is a family-owned and run, precision investment casting foundry based in Sydney, Australia. The foundry was established in 1962 and proudly employs 33 staff with diverse backgrounds. Hycast Metals is one of only two Precision Investment Casting Foundries left in Australia. This is a unique casting process that manufactures for defence, mining, infrastructure, architecture, pharmaceutical and retail industries. Friday 14th October 2022 marked 60 years in business for Hycast Metals.

Second-generation metal caster, John Kell was joined by his daughters Annie Keeler and Caroline Hugall, to celebrate the 60-year milestone and mark succession of the business. The family was joined by Uncle Harry, of the local Gandangara Aboriginal Council, Councillor Lisa Lake, Mayor of Cumberland City, Dr Hugh McDermott MP, State Member for Prospect and Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Climate Change and Energy. Other attendees included Daniel Hunter, CEO at Business NSW, Kevin Morphett, AFI NSW Secretary Treasurer and other local business owners.



John Kell (B.E., M.App.Sc., MIEAust.) has run the foundry for close to 35 years. In March 2022, his two daughters, Annie Keeler and Caroline Hugall joined him in running the foundry. Both women have had independent, 20-year corporate careers spanning across engineering, construction, marketing and branding and are driven to ensure succession of the business in keeping

manufacturing in Australia, ensuring casting skills stay onshore, contributing to Australia's sovereign capabilities.

The global pandemic has continued to impact on the industry. Supply chain disruptions have resulted in both positive and negative outcomes. The negatives are mostly seen with a significant increase in raw material costs. Other challenges for much of our industry remain similar to others in the manufacturing sector – access to trained personnel, training of personnel and the alarming growth in the cost of energy.

In light of the challenges, there are positives too – we have a strong and steady order book and are seeing a return of customers who deferred to offshore suppliers, returning – seeking reliability, consistency and high quality. The Australian Defence Force is a big driver and supporter of sovereign capabilities, the need for this has been amplified over the last 12 months with the war in Ukraine and a desire to rebuild our sovereign skills.

What is Hycast doing to grow and better contribute to Australian manufacturing ?

- We're seeking expertise, for example through the government we partnered with Terry O'Riordan, accessing the Entrepreneur's Programme to identify opportunities to improve our processes and in turn grow
- We're bringing in new people with skills to help us grow.
- We're investing in new equipment.
- As a significant energy user, we are exploring ways for more sustainable solutions to reduce our carbon footprint. We've engaged energy advisors Northmore Gordon to assess our key pieces of equipment and opportunities to operate more sustainably.
- We are also proud to say that Hycast is taking part as a case study, in the Business Decarbonisation Program facilitated through the AFI with funding from the NSW Government. We are due to start the metering and monitoring work at the end of October.
- We're excited about the development of the Western Parkland City and the opportunity for partnerships to innovate and grow.

- We're confident, with access to the right skills, the future is bright for making in Australia

A Foundry Specific ERP & MES Solution is Key for Metal Casting Success

Foundries are investing in ERP & MES solutions to manage day-to-day business activities such as accounting, procurement, project management, risk management and compliance, and supply chain operations. However, achieving a true connection between an ERP & MES product and the foundry is extremely difficult. Many of the issues when trying to create that connection are based in the standard ERP providers' lack of foundry knowledge. Because of the unique qualities of metal casting operations, critical processes go unaddressed by a generic ERP & MES software, and you often see an unwillingness to learn and adapt by the software providers even after the contract is signed. This deception can often be initiated by a sales representative that will sell to you directly off a script that says the latest version of their software can meet the needs of any company, no matter what the industry. Ultimately, you will find yourself trying to alter your processes to fit the parameters of the generic ERP & MES software, or worse, going back to tracking them offline in data silos. When you decide to go with a foundry-specific software solution, you get the reassurance that every process, no matter what type of foundry you run, has been considered in the design of the software. Understanding the different casting methodologies is just the beginning but having a process that can facilitate and record those operations is a whole different story. Foundry 4.0 has put an emphasis on knowing your production data beyond just KPIs. Tracking performance data of specific routing operations gives insight into deciding if an operation is underperforming, indicating that there is an issue that needs to be addressed. A decreased performance in a routing operation can make or break any foundry, as operating at any reduced rate to the standard can cause profitability to turn into a loss. At Guardian Software Systems have procured our clients over the past 30 years to determine the most used industry-specific items so there is a place within the software solution to track those processes specific to the foundry and remove data silos for good. Collecting the data has never been easier for the foundry. Guardian's MES (Manufacturing Execution

System) was designed to be the heartbeat of your business. It gives you the opportunity to collect data, trace your parts, and give your employees the tools they need to reduce mistakes. While you may see a generic provider offer you a good ERP system, it's often the manufacturing side of the operation that takes a hit with an afterthought of an MES system. At Guardian, we focused on designing our MES solution to allow foundries to connect their different workstations as touchpoints for data collection at each step of the routing operation. Guardian MES also carries out labor tracking which directly feeds into serialization and traceability records for products that require it ensuring that you can meet your AS9100 standards for aerospace and defense contracts.

While the foundry-specific ERP and MES solution is ideal for any metal casters, procurement shouldn't stop there. We believe the final and most critical part of the benefits of the foundry-specific software is the people. At Guardian Software Systems we believe utilizing implementation and support teams who know the industry is paramount for our client's success. Having this inert knowledge of the metal casting industry can allow our team to train, implement, and support our clients in a timely fashion. This partnership is built on industry knowledge and the desire to collaborate and make operations as efficient and profitable as possible.

Dylan Piccolo, Guardian Software Systems



Foundry Specific ERP & MES Solution



 <p>ERP</p> <p>Achieve complete factory integration from front office to shop floor</p>	 <p>MES</p> <p>Capture your real time production analytics to boost efficiency and profitability</p>	 <p>INDUSTRY-LEADING SUPPORT</p> <p>Questions? Don't worry. We have live customer support specialists to welcome any trade.</p>
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WHAT WE BELIEVE?

We believe that to reach optimum profitability and efficiency your ERP solution must know your business. Whether its heat treating, metal or any other foundry specific metals, we have experience in capturing that data and using it to increase production.

info@guardiansoft.com
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WHO WE ARE?

Guardian Software Systems is an ERP and MES solution that is built for the metal casting industry. Guardian has over 30 years of experience working in the worldwide heavy industry. We have clients in the United States, Canada, and Australia.

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Around the Traps

- *Preliminary planning for the 2023 National Conference is in full swing. A Melbourne CBD venue has been locked in, talks with a Keynote Speaker well advanced, and theme and logo close to finalisation. Be sure to lock in Thursday 26/10 to Saturday 28/10. Maybe take advantage of Spring Racing Carnival while you're in town !?!*
- *Immediately prior to the Legends Night function on Wed 19/10, AFI(Vic) held their AGM. Dynamo, Amber Maxwell, has reluctantly stood down from her role as President. This decision has come about due to her change in employment that will include substantial international travel.*
- *Newly installed AFI(Vic) President, Wolfgang Maier has hit the ground running.*
- *With the focus on Conference planning there's lot to do !!*
- *The AFI(Vic) Annual Report is now accessible on the AFI website.*
- *The 2022 Industry Data Report was tabled at the National Council meeting on Wed 9/11. This report is now accessible on the AFI website.*
- *As announced on 13/12, IBSA has been awarded the Federal Govt contract to set up and manage the new Jobs and Skills Council. All new and updates to training qualifications will be managed through this body.*

NEXT AFI VIC Meetings

Wed 15/2 – Training Panel – presentation and discussion.

Wed 15/3 – Presentation – Guardian Software

*** STOP PRESS***

Please don't forget this publication has now become the National Foundry newsletter. We publish on a quarterly basis and encourage all AFI members and states to forward articles, snippets, slaps or sledges to be included. Please forward your contributions to Alan Cooke agcooke52@gmail.com or myself at the new email address ambermaxwell0701@gmail.com By the first week of the next December, March, June and September .



Nomination for the Victorian Foundry Industry Legend

Nominee: Alan Cooke

DOB 1957

Nominated by: AFI Victorian Committee

Date: 19th October 2022

Criteria

a) the person has made an outstanding contribution and / or provided outstanding leadership to the Victorian foundry industry (or a sector of the foundry industry – National or Victorian) over many years;

b) the person has selflessly contributed to the activities of the industry, the Australian Foundry Institute – at a Victorian and/or National level - or to the activities of other State or National organisation(s) serving the Australian foundry industry over many years; and / or

c) the person has made a distinguished contribution to the Australian foundry industry through their participation in other activities (e.g. education and training, research and development, innovation, publishing, etc.) that has contributed to the advancement and enhancement of the industry in Victoria.

Early Years

Diploma of Applied Science (Secondary Metallurgy), RMIT, Melbourne, 1985

First Employment

1976 International Harvester Forge, Shop Floor (9 months)

1977 Pilkington Glass, Technical Assistant to the Process Engineers (9 months)

1978 - 1982 International Harvester Foundry, Shop Floor (4 years)

Early Foundry

As a uni student I worked 1 summer at the Alcoa refinery in Geelong and another at the Ford foundry (known as Ensite back then). These were my first experiences of molten metal. I returned to molten metal in 1978 when I began work in the Harvester foundry. Over my time there I moved around all of the depts - induction melting including a GF Converter for SG, Coreshop (CO₂, Shell), KW automated moulding, Hunter, Job moulding, Fettling, manual pouring, Telpher pouring.

I had some great supervisors (Peter Di Rosa, Doug Wilson) and also some shockers. During this time was my first exposure to the IBF.

1983 - Dec, 2016 Ford (33 years) A year after Harvester closed, Ford took over the old Harvester foundry while the Ford foundry was stripped and all new GF mouldline and sand plant installed. I took the job with Ford to operate the KW mouldline at the Harvester site for 20 months. At the end of this I had a job lined up at a metallurgical lab in Footscray, but Ford offered me a job working for Brian Latimore at the Casting Plant. I learnt a lot from Brian, but also Bob Hallett and the rest of the team at the plant. It wasn't long before I was moved into the Al casting area, firstly with gravity die casting then later HPDC and LPDC. It was at this time that Richie Smythe became my boss. It was tough times working 6-7 days a week, with a young family. Sometime through these years I also had 18 months in the Metallurgical Lab at the main plant. This work was mainly failure analysis and process control for the various heat treatment applications throughout the manufacturing operations. I learnt a lot from the highly skilled people in this area. I returned to the Iron Casting Plant and was happy to develop and continue my role in quality and process control, while others either retired or moved on.

However, I became stale in the role and am grateful to Kevin Brown for initiating a move for me to a Melbourne based role in STA. In this role, I worked with primary suppliers to Ford to improve their quality systems and - when quality issues did arise - work with the supplier to identify root cause and implement actions to prevent recurrence.

I was also able to be engaged in casting related issues as they occurred in the Asian region. This change to STA came at a good time for me and I was able to move into a management role fairly quickly.

I can't remember when I first became consistently active with the AFI, but do remember the National Conference in Hobart that AFI(Vic) hosted with Doug Maxwell as our illustrious leader. They were good times.

Oct 83 – May 85. Production operator with hands on experience in all facets of iron casting operations. Studies part time through this period to complete metallurgical qualification.

Mar 85 – Aug 87 Production Supervisor in Al Casting operations (cylinder heads, intake manifolds) Through this period had formal training in HPDC in Japan prior to introduction of facility and process into Geelong.

Aug 87 – Mar 89 Laboratory Technician Engine Plant laboratory conducting routine metallurgical testes in support of production and failure analysis and reporting of field failure components (warranty, etc.)

Mar 89 – Sep 89 Production Supervisor Al Casting operations

Sep 89 – Dec 95 Quality Assurance Supervisor responsible for quality assurance team including audits, sand laboratory, metallurgical laboratory, maintaining quality system accreditation. Lead role in 4 Cyl block production for Mazda.

Dec 95 – Jun 06 Manufacturing Processor – Iron Casting Plant. As Processor, responsibility for developing, implementing and updating manufacturing process documentation for all Casting Plant manufacturing processes (Coreshop, Melt, Mouldline, Fettling and Quality Control). Liaison with Product Development in the design and development of new model castings.

Jun 06 – Sep 07 STA Site Engineer for assigned suppliers to FoA, had responsibility for resolution of quality issues as they arose and monitoring and improvement of supplier Quality Operating Systems to Ford Q1 and TS16949 standard. Conduct Casting process robustness assessments of casting suppliers to FoA. Sep 07 – Feb 09 STA Site Engineer

Feb 09 – Feb 11 STA Commodity Lead – Powertrain For all Powertrain suppliers to FoA, had responsibility for resolution of quality issues as they arose and monitoring and improvement of supplier Quality Operating Systems. Work with Product Development, Purchasing, Manufacturing and Supplier teams to bring new Powertrain product to Launch Readiness.

Feb 11 – Dec 16 STA Powertrain and Chassis Manager

1. For all OE suppliers of Powertrain and Chassis components to FoA, have responsibility with my team, for resolution of quality issues as they arise and for the mitigation of risk to quality through monitoring and improvement of supplier Quality Operating Systems (QOS).

2. Management of quality issues from overseas suppliers to FoA (eg: Mexico, Thailand, China, India).

3. Management of financially distressed suppliers, resourcing of commodities, relocation and consolidation of manufacturing sites, and site closures.

4. Lead review and development of quality plans for All Time Buys (ATB's) to cover service part requirements beyond October 2016.

Early Significant Events

Early accomplishments

I was fortunate enough in about 1980 to be awarded through the IBF, the Inductotherm Young Foundryman of the Year, which gave me a trip to NSW to visit foundries

What you are proud of accomplishing

Apart from 4 happy and healthy daughters ???

In a work context (it's a bit dry) I managed to save \$200,000 a year by reducing the Si content on our GI. This change also gave a better microstructure in our GI components (particularly rotors). This was in the context of Roger Lamb always saying that you risked reducing furnace lining life if you used shotblasted returns as furnace feed. The thought being that Si hungry metal will draw Si from the furnace lining.

We ended up with a cost saving, better microstructure and no impact on furnace lining life. I also had to get the Product Development Engineers for the various parts to approve the change. I managed to achieve this through a combination of having a strong and trusting relationship with them built up over many years and also a bit of bluff

Biggest F.U.

Ford Geelong got the contract to supply surplus production of a Mazda 4-cyl block. A problem that we had a great deal of difficulty resolving was an intermittent blowhole in the cope side cylinder wall. Because of this we had to do a 100% Ultrasonic test on every cope side cylinder wall, a significant cost and bottleneck.

Mazda reps came to Geelong to satisfy themselves that our U/S process was adequate to protect them from the issue. I personally put time into our U/S operator to ensure that he could demonstrate and explain the process to the Mazda people. He completely stuffed up. My heart sunk. I felt sick. I thought that - because of me - we'd lose the multi-million \$ contract, or at least have to do a heap of remedial checking. At the earliest opportunity I raced off to let the boss know (I can't recall now if it was Bob Hallett or Kevin Brown). They must've done some fast talking because I never heard anymore of it.

It wasn't long after that I was sent to Mazda in Japan to learn the "secret" of how to prevent the blowhole. I was there for 5 days. It was only on the last day that I sat down on one side of the table with the Mazda boss and about 12 more of his team on the other. The answer was simple. As with our I6 Block, we fully coated the Mazda Cyl Block core. They had learnt many years earlier that fully coating tended to concentrate and trap the gases that are generated when casting. The solution was to only half dip the core, allowing the gases generated to disperse over a wide area and thus not concentrate to form a blowhole. I'll never understand why they didn't tell us that in the first place.

Involvement in the AFI, member, committee, president, National.

Early Member of the AFI Committee. Previous AFI National President, current National Vice President and Current AFI Victorian Secretary

Involvement in organising conferences

Integral part of the AFI Annual National Conference 2016 Organising Committee

Significant contribution to the development and onsite training – FiaB.

Anecdotes from others

Kevin Brown - Senior Manager Ford Motor Company .

We continuously labelled Alan and his metallurgist mates as nothing more than alchemists (with Cookie as a bit of an exception) and he weathered the barrage with good humour for years.

From our engineering perspective it appeared that they all believed in the production of good Grey Cast iron, Nodular Iron or Compacted Graphite Iron as being a black art.

Several of Alan's cohort in QA claimed that they could smell good SG Iron at the pouring furnace and none of them seemed big on using science or mathematics to determine additive amounts, to maintain specification.

One of our notorious senior leaders in Manufacturing, having reached extreme frustration at our inability to successfully/reliably make SG (or maybe it was CG manifolds, or maybe it was pin holes in camshafts!!!), claimed that Alan and the team might as well have been "casting chicken bones on the floor and reading the resulting pattern for signs", given the lack of results he was witnessing.

The Person proceeded to shake his car keys in his pocket and threw them on the floor as a demonstration to that effect. That claim gained traction and "the chicken bones" were referenced for many years whenever the timeless debate regarding the value of metallurgist's vs engineer's arose at Ford.

Cookie always presents as clean cut, professional and dedicated to doing a good job. He knows the value of a dollar and in the late 80's/early 90's he drove a tiny, sky blue, Datsun Sunny ute to work, we reckon to save cash on the fuel costs.

He wasn't one of the notorious hard players who frequented manufacturing and the foundry in those years, however both Bob and I recall being chauffeured home by my (Kevin's) wife Kerrie, in the wee small hours of the morning, and giving Alan a lift to his brother's place in Geelong, where he had to scale the back fence, crashing unannounced, to have a bed for the night, rather than heading home.

Bob travelled to GIFA with Cookie and recalls that he had an uncanny ability to always end up in the better of the rooms on offer at the hotels where they stayed.

Cookie is a great bloke. He worked hard and long hours in those days, as a lot of us did. He was a great work mate and always there, chasing good quality and root causes for any issues that inevitably arose. He also provided great service later in his career, working with suppliers on component quality for engine assembly and vehicle assembly for Falcon, Territory and Utes.

I recall he was a keen road bike rider with some of the other Ford guys at one stage and has a passion for street orienteering. He taught me/us heaps. Alan congratulations on the night and this well-deserved recognition.

Darren Colwell - Friend and supplier

We never actually work directly together but seem to cross paths or have connection along the way. I got to know Alan best when I was working for Foseco, and we were both also involved in the AFI with Doug Maxwell being the president at the time – we helped with the AFI conference held in Tassie. Foseco were also able to help Alan's oldest daughter Melinda with a 1 year intern position with Foseco in China which also strengthened the friendship. I left Foseco after a job offer at the GM foundry and was there for about 1 year before Ford approached me for a job. Turns out the casting plant management were finally going to allow Alan to progress his career and move out of the casting plant onto grander things. I took on a role at Ford that helped fill some of the void Alan's promotion created – but by no means did I replace his experience or skill set. In 2009 I left Ford to join Volclay International and was fortunate to cross paths again with Alan who was on assignment in Thailand for Ford – the Thailand team I worked with met Alan one evening and from then on referred to him as Harrison Ford – due to his rugged movie star looks. We continued to stay in touch, and with the pending closure of Ford in Australia I was working to secure Alan a technical position with Volclay, located in China.

We were also friends outside of work, and would occasionally catch up camping at either Lorne or Wye river over the xmas period.

I don't have many stories regarding Alan, as you know he keeps himself out of the spotlight and out of trouble for the most part. HOWEVER, I do remember a bus trip in 2006 with the Ford casting crew back from a day the races (Oaks days was an annual event for the casting plant team). For some reason I was not drinking this day so was more observant than I would normally be – as the crew of 30 or so boarded the bus for the trips back down to Geelong, most were in happy spirits typical of a day on the piss at the races. One of the supervisors had bought some home made Grappa to share for the ride. Alan took a liking to the Grappa it seemed, and I watched the transformation from mild mannered quite Alan, to a much louder and vocal version than I had never seen before. A little like Clark Kent to Superman!!!!

Alan was traveling to China with one of his daughters for a holiday and to see another of his daughters who was living there at the time. It was during time of SARS, and unbeknown to Alan his daughter had filled in the health advice form on the plane and reported she had some of the symptoms they asked about – coughs, headaches etc. Naturally upon arrival they were taken away and spent some time being accessed for SARS (not sure if it was hours or days) but it was a surprise and good lesson for further travels in China.

Mentor

Brian Latimore, Bob Hallet and Richie Smythe - who is here tonight and will be sharing a few of his own stories and memories of working with Alan.



Australian Foundry Institute (Vic Branch) 2023 Program

Month	Date	Location	Topic	Presenter		AFI / ADCA Contact
Feb	Wed 15th	The Village Green Hotel	Training Panel – GOTafe / AIE / Headstart / AIG / Employer / Sunshine Tech			Amber M / Alan C
Mar	Wed 15th	The Village Green Hotel	Guardian Software Presentation		<i>Fu suitability for ADCA</i>	Alan C
Apr	Wed 26th		No Activity		<i>School Hols 7/4 to 23/4</i>	
May	Wed 17 th	Deakin Uni, Geelong	Carbon Revolution site visit		<i>AMCIL Mfg Week 9/5 – 12/5 Trade Fit Expo 10/5 – 11/5</i>	Sean B
June	Wed 21st	TBA	Mental Health		<i>School Hols 24/6 to 9/7</i>	Sean B / Amber M
Jul	Wed 19th	Braeside	Hosico site visit			Craig
Aug	Wed 17th to Fri 19 th		WSV Code update ??		<i>Victorian Careers and Employment Expo Melb Conv and Exh Centre</i>	Alan C
Sep	Fri 1st	Sovereign Hill, Ballarat	Annual Technologists Picnic			Gary Bunn – MA
Sep	Wed 13th	Ballarat / Bendigo ??			<i>School Hols 23/9 to 8/10</i>	Adam / Quinn
Oct	Wed 18 th – Sat 21st	Marriott Hotel	AFI National Conference		<i>Beckwiths Site Visit</i>	
Nov	Wed 15 th	The Village Green Hotel	Legends Night and AGM			
Dec	Wed 6 th	Errols, Nth Melb	Planning meeting			

Potential activities: Recruiting and Retaining High Quality Employees, Zn Die Casting, Site Visit – Dingley Roof Tiles, Lubricants and Die Release Agents, Site Visit – Glass Manufacturing, Presentation - Elite Cyclist