



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

Melting Moments – June 2020, 1st Anniversary

Presidents Report

Happy Birthday to us!!! With all of the uncertainty we face regarding COVID 19 it is important to also remember to celebrate and recognise our successes over the past 12 months. Let's begin with the re-introduction of Foundry Apprenticeship training in Victoria - a huge effort and enormous amount of work completed, and still being undertaken behind the scenes, by AFI members, member companies, associates and of course Gotafe. We introduced our AFI Historian Dennis Keenan. We have also celebrated the lives of some of our industry members, legends and friends. We have inducted yet another worthy Legend into our Hall of Fame and shared the odd milestone and brag of some members and member companies alike. Let's not forget what an excellent National Conference AFI NSW hosted back in October last year and of course the work that is being done by this year's committee, for the National Conference that AFI Victoria and Casting Technologies New Zealand are preparing to host this year. Phew, what a year it has been

Let's take a moment and reflect, yes, we are facing some challenging times, let's be thankful for all we have. Let's welcome the opportunity to review and perhaps reinvent some of what we do and the way we do it. Let's seek out new opportunities, let's be inspired and inspire others. Let's remember we take ideas, concepts and dreams and turn them into functional, useful, practical and essential products, items and components necessary in our lives every day. We will continue to strive to adapt and embrace these new ways and we will be better as a result.

AFI National

Collectively I doubt that we will ever have such a turbulent time as now in our life spans.

Whilst face to face contact has been curtailed, the various areas of interest to the AFI have continued. Early in the lockdown a letter was distributed to MP's asking for the metal casting industry to be considered an essential service. Soon after this National Council members met with Mark Goodsell National Manufacturing Manager, (AIG) where we learned of

the changing winds in government re: sovereign capability. An "expression of interest" type letter was submitted to the CDIC (Centre for Defence Industry Capability) looking for opportunities for the AFI to work closely with them to help metal casting industries access this business. National Council met to explore how we can generate maximum leverage from this newly energised interest in manufacturing capability in Australia. Out of this we've begun to explore updating our website and creating promotional videos that will highlight our industries capabilities and attract a new workforce. Several of us joined an AIG organised webcast in early June that talked through the recommendations that the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission's manufacturing taskforce are working through. In relation to this, the Federal Govt will announce their actions in mid-June. This is a very important period for all manufacturing in Australia. If you missed it AIG have provided access to the recorded webinar. Please click on the picture below :



Though delayed, the WorkSafe Victoria Foundries Code of Compliance draft will shortly be available for review and comment.

I don't have detail but there's good news coming out of Queensland with the likelihood that electricity prices will be set at a level that allows businesses to remain viable. Well done to Joe and everyone else that has fought hard for this outcome.

Finally, well done to WA and now Victoria for getting aboard the digital presentation method of doing business!!

Foundry In a Box

Over the last few months, John Zach - AFI Legend - has been quietly working at putting together our "Foundry In a Box." The following is a report on this project to date.....

Foundry In a Box is a collection of the basic ideas of founding (making a sand mould, melting and pouring metal, and, fettling the resulting casting), put together in a physical format; such, that it can be placed in a box, small enough to be carried by one person. This portable foundry concept has been designed to enable young people to experience the cast metal process, "hands-on". This activity has the prospect to enlighten and encourage future careers in our metal casting industry.

To put this together, materials and items were procured. These consisted of a small set of constructed wooden moulding "boxes"; a brass horse-belt badge used as the pattern; 20 mm diameter piece of dowel as a down-sprue; poly-set moulding sand; environmentally acceptable low temperature melting metal; steel ladle and a gas torch. The operation resulted in a recognisable cast item.



Next step is to refine the approach to make the procedure 'more user friendly' for youth appeal, and more acceptable as an educational tool.

We will look to a smaller pattern; items on a pre-method match plate using a smaller set of mould boxes, re-usable moulding sand, and a suitable, acceptable form of melting. This is a work in progress – watch this space!!

AFI – CTNZ 55th Annual National Conference 2020 – Christchurch

During recent weeks as we continue to control and reduce the cases of COVID 19 our PM and the PM of NZ held a second round of talks regarding a Trans-Tasman travel bubble which would see limited travel between our countries as soon as July. With changes continuing to evolve we have received confirmation from the Crowne Plaza in Christchurch that they

are willing to extend our payment deadline until 10th of August. This allows us to defer a final decision until then.

Unfortunately, the travel bubble will not extend as far as Canada and as such Bob Puhakka can no longer be our Keynote Speaker. However, every cloud has a silver lining, and we are delighted to announce that Dr Roger Lumley - Senior Technical Specialist at A.W Bell has confirmed he will take on this role. We are equally thrilled that Dr John Campbell – Foundry man, Author, PhD, Physicist and businessman will also join us as a distinguished special guest presenter, not once, but twice over the weekend with on-line presentations. This could be the post-virus pressure relief that we all need, so don't abandon thoughts of an October Conference just yet!!!

Farewell David Ebbs

Contribution from Craig Ditchfield –

I first met David when he was Operations Manager at Eureka Tiles. At the time, I did not realise what a profound effect he was to have on my life. I found out very quickly that he was one of the most unique men I was to ever meet. He was very intelligent and methodical; I was astounded with the way he could solve the many complex manufacturing issues that we had at the time. He soon asked me to start helping him with this, unqualified as I felt, however his encouragement and guidance was invaluable, and I learnt so much from him. After both leaving Eureka Tiles we kept in touch, he would regularly phone to see how I was travelling. He had always harboured a desire to have his own manufacturing business and one day he rang me and asked me to buy Grigsby's Foundry with him. After a lengthy period of persuasion, we did. I remember one of his comments at the time in reply to my asking what was the worst thing that could happen was "well, you could lose your house, but you can always buy another one". This was the way he looked at things, very pragmatic. He was a kind, gentle and caring man and had a great deal of empathy for others and was always concerned with every aspect of the wellbeing of our employees. Everyone was greatly saddened to hear of his untimely passing from a stroke in April and further compounded by our inability to pay our proper respects to him and to his wife Jill and children Christine and Hugh due to the current social restrictions. We will all miss him very much.



GoTafe Foundry Apprentice Training Update

As a result of a review of the Metal and Engineering training package MEM05 in June 2019 multiple changes have occurred. These changes however did not include the 9 Patternmaking electives required for GoTafe to train a Foundry Patternmaking Apprentice. Although originally supported by the Victorian Skills Commission these changes have now been opposed by VSC along with all other states training bodies. AFI(Vic) are currently meeting with GoTafe on a monthly basis to ensure all necessary actions are undertaken to ensure that GoTafe can continue to train Apprentice Patternmakers for the metal casting industry. We have recently been provided with a full set of training modules for the Moulding and Casting Apprenticeship. AFI(Vic) will review this material and provide feedback about their relevance and adequacy to GoTafe. GoTafe are currently continuing to prepare the training modules for the Patternmaking apprenticeship in Qualification MEM30305 (the old qualification level) as we expect this qualification will continue to be offered beyond December 2020.

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).

In Brief

Congratulations to Sam, Roger and team. Though not mentioned directly by name, Andrew Liveris of the Federal Govt's manufacturing taskforce made a strong reference to the good works being done by AW Bell.

Webinar Wed 17th of June:

AFI (Vic) are excited to present another webinar that will be of significant interest to foundrymen and women, automotive engineers, additive engineering proponents and petrol heads alike !!

[Race Cast Engineering – Automotive Components produced using a mix of traditional methods and 3D Printing](#)

To be sure you don't miss out, simply click on the link at 5:50pm AEST on Wednesday 17th June.

<https://webcast.csiro.au/#/webcasts/afiracecast>

Save the Date:

Our original AFI Vic has the Legend Presentation due to be held on **Wednesday 9th July 2020**, at the Village Green. We are still hopeful that current restrictions will be relaxed enough to enable event to go ahead as planned.

Please keep an eye out for more information regarding this year as we recognise and celebrate two very special, and extremely well respected peers of our industry.

Pat on the Back:

Congratulations to Joe Vecchio (AFI National Secretary) and NIBF Operations Manager for achieving 6 years LTI Free. *"It really is a testament to the 'Safety first – Production second' attitude we have across the site. Programmes are in place across the site to identify hazards across all departments. The WALK, SHARE, CARE and LEARN philosophy is embedded in everything we do."*

This great achievement is thanks to the entire 73 team members who have raised hundreds of Take5s per month and approximately two JSEAs per day.

Employees have taken their learnings from near misses, not only at the NIBF site, but from other safety briefs from other intercompany sites and applied them to create a great safety culture and shared them between all departments.



From the left: Maurice Mantovani, Jaspinder Singh, Paul Maccarone, Colin Lyons, Nicole Rees and Salvo Fichera

