



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

Melting Moments – June 2021

Presidents Report

How quickly time flies - another 3 months has flown by and EFOY is looming! For many of our members I am pleased to report they continue to remain busy. The latest circuit breaker lockdown 4.0 in Victoria has reminded us that we are not yet clear of the Pandemic and we may continue to be challenged however, this has not stopped many recognizing the value and need to continue invest in their future by employing more apprentices and trainees in our businesses.

The 2021-2022 Budget announcement in May outlined various strategies and grants available to business particularly in the Manufacturing sector to assist with the rebuilding of our economy through focus on supporting job growth and employment opportunities, training as well as increasing Australia's competitiveness and resilience. Let's keep up our part, stay safe, stay healthy and stay focused.

Amber Maxwell – AFI Victoria President

AFI National

Are you getting value from your AFI membership??
Those of us that take on roles within the AFI organization, do so because we want to see our industry survive and thrive. We target our activities into the areas that we consider will help achieve this aim.

The soon to be released updated website and industry video, the annual National Conference, the development of the Foundry In a Box in Victoria, the efforts to re-establish apprentice training in NSW, AFI(Qld) continuing their long journey with their State Govt on electricity pricing, and the online

presentations offered at various times by AFI(WA) and AFI(Vic) are all examples of AFI efforts to support the long-term health of the metal casting industry.

The other important AFI activity is the annual update to the Industry Report. This relies on metal casting businesses being willing to share confidential data to enable the collation an up-to-date snapshot of our industry. A big ask but essential for us to have an accurate summary of the size of the metal casting industry in Australia. Do these activities hit the mark for you and the business that you work in ?? If not tell us what you want your organization to do for you.

Alan Cooke – AFI National President.

AFI Victoria

2021 is certainly moving fast, it has only been 3 months since our last Melting Moments newsletter, there has certainly been a lot of activity with AFI Victoria.

**Firstly, a reminder about next week's AFI VIC
June Meeting - 6:00 pm Wednesday 16th June
2021**

**New Opportunities in Traineeships
and Apprenticeships**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS MEETING WILL NOW
BE ONLINE DUE TO CURRENT COVID 19
RESTRICTIONS IN MELBOURNE**

This AFI Meeting will discuss the opportunities which are available to engage new young people in manufacturing by establishing a formal traineeship. These can also lead on to a traditional apprenticeship, which will also be covered.

We need new ways to get people interested in joining the manufacturing sector, and this is a good way to do it.

A W Bell will describe how, in mid-2019 they secured a State Government Grant to partner with a Registered Training Organisation to deliver a targeted course in Defence Manufacturing and Investment Casting.

Craig Hilton from the Ai Group will then talk about Higher Apprenticeship Development and how they work with the existing training system. You will have an opportunity to provide input on how the current system can work better and join a discussion on how the training systems might look in the future.

When:

6:00 pm Wednesday 16th June 2021

Participants can join 15 mins early and chat online prior to the presentation.

To join the meeting via the internet, click the link below:

<https://csiro.webex.com/csiro/j.php?MTID=m7a180277fd1ab16afcf748c0ec8bf8b6>

This provides video and audio. Connecting will be available from 15mins prior to 6pm, so people can chat amongst themselves or have time to sort out any connection issues. First time users of WebEx meetings will be prompted to install an App.

Meeting ID, No., or Access code 165 102 4783
 Password if prompted P JbVuvzd535

If you don't have internet access, then you can join with audio only using the following local toll-free numbers:

Adelaide, SA (primary)	+61-8-8303-8881
Adelaide, SA (secondary)	+61-8-8461-4715
Alice Springs, NT	+61-8-8950-7111
Armidale, NSW	+61-2-6776-1444
Brisbane, QLD (primary)	+61-7-3214-2666
Brisbane, QLD (secondary)	+61-7-3243-7919
Cairns, QLD	+61-7-4059-5033
Canberra, ACT	+61-2-6246-4433
Darwin, NT	+61-8-8944-8433
Geelong, VIC	+61-3-5227-5444
Geraldton, WA	+61-8-9923-7777
Griffith, NSW	+61-2-6960-1555
Hobart, TAS	+61-3-6232-5444
Melbourne, VIC (primary)	+61-3-9545-8333
Melbourne, VIC (secondary)	+61-3-8593-9167
Narrabri, NSW	+61-2-6790-4084
Newcastle, NSW	+61-2-4960-6333
Parkes, NSW	+61-2-6861-1701
Perth, WA (primary)	+61-8-6436-8899
Perth, WA (secondary)	+61-8-9210-0020
Sydney, NSW	+61-2-9490-5333
Toowoomba, QLD	+61-7-4571-3288
Townsville, QLD	+61-7-4753-8555
If in New Zealand then use this toll free number:	
New Zealand Toll Free	0800-482-306

What else has been happening in AFI VIC?

AMAERO Additive Manufacturing Site tour took place on Wednesday 21st April.

In conjunction with AFI and ADCA members, it was wonderful to have most of our current apprentices attend the evening as this event coincided with their visit to GoTafe Broadmeadows facility. (more info later in this edition)

Feedback following the visit was excellent, with most agreeing it was great to learn about the capabilities and advancements of Additive Manufacturing, together with the opportunity to meet the apprentices.



Foundry In A Box – (FiaB) Update – John Zach

Recently, had the opportunity to “road test” (more correctly – ‘youth test’) the Foundry in a Box concept at a Scout Patrol Activity Camp . After the young volunteer had put on a dust coat, hand protection, and had the process explained to her, it was time to put words into action. Results of the activity were rewarding in many ways, for it more than held the interest of both the youth and adults that were involved and witnessed, both the moulding and casting processes. Overall, it was a great success, and opportunities were identified for improvement.

Feedback was definitely encouraging, especially when you are told (second-hand) about a youth’s parent questioning whether his daughter had actually produced the item that was shown to him. When given a full explanation, the parent stated, *“where can I get a piece of the action”*.



Stegbar Site visit

AFI(Vic) together with ADCA were fortunate to be able to tour the Stegbar Shower Screens and Wardrobes site on Wednesday 19th May. 24 participants viewed the steps taken along the Continuous Improvement and Lean Manufacturing journey at Stegbar. This was a “warts and all” tour, highlighting what has worked well and where the challenges remain. The tour was followed by a dinner and lengthy discussion / Q&A session which engaged all participants.



GOTAFE Training Update

GOTAFE have been training in the area of Casting , Moulding & Patternmaking for over 18 months now. GOTAFE currently have 11 apprentices across the state undertaking its training program. In April this year GOTAFE launched a new delivery model where we conducted our first apprentice training classes at our new GOTAFE Broadmeadows campus.

As part of the three (3) days meeting, apprentices had an industry visit to AMAERO Additive Manufacturing in Notting Hill.

During their visit, they have participated in some group training and assessment activities and networking activities with other apprentices. This campus training opportunity was an invaluable medium for students enrolled in Certificate III qualification in Victoria to participate in group activities and meeting peers from different industries. The range of topics and activities covered in this meeting have enhanced the learner's current professional abilities and there Employers have expressed support for these types of on-campus training sessions to enhance their learning journey.

GOTAFE is currently finalizing the new Cert III in Casting and Moulding qualification ready for delivery in 2022. GOTAFE is also waiting for the new Cert III in Patternmaking qualification to be endorsed later in the year and will then looking at a July 2022 rollout of this new qualification.

GOTAFE can assist your business with a training programs for all or part of the training contact. A customized Training Plan to suit your business needs will be developed before training commences. For more information about Foundry training please contact GOTAFE Commercial Manager, Brett Ambrosio on 0458 398 143 or 1300 GOTAFE or email bambrosio@gotafe.vic.edu.au Thanks to Brett Ambrosio for providing an update on current activities and future plans.

INVESTING IN VICTORIAN MANUFACTURING AND JOBS

The Victorian Government is backing Victoria's manufacturers to continue to grow and lead the nation in manufacturing innovation and capability development. Victorian manufacturers can from today apply for grants of up to \$500,000 to support and expand their operations. The Business Competitiveness Program will help eligible Victorian manufacturers implement new manufacturing technologies and processes. Grants will cover up to one-third of eligible project costs. For more information about the Business Competitiveness Program and to apply for a grant, go to <http://www.business.vic.gov.au/midf>

Around the Traps

KEECH Castings announce new Ownership.

Keech, a national steel castings and ground engaging tools business successfully running for more than eight decades has announced the sale of the business to WA based Australian Ceramics Engineering (ACE).

- The business deal will allow for further growth and ingress into the national and international wear solutions markets

- Aligning business models and philosophies ensure for a seamless changeover

Both leaders in innovation, the trade will have a positive impact on the mining and associated industries, offering unrivalled end to end solutions for its customers. The transaction will also solidify Keech's place in the product market, adding additional resources, allowing for a focus on leveraging the business and its offerings

People On The Move

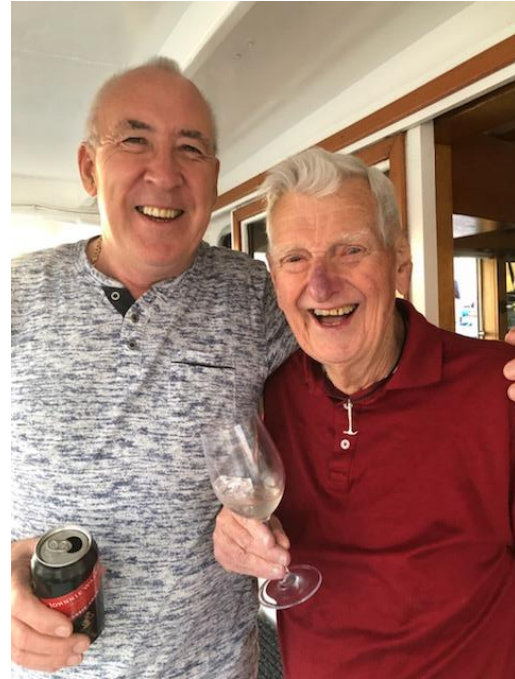
David Sykes - has responded to a call to take over a role at the Geelong Manufacturing Council (GMC) on the resignation of the CEO.

David Sykes will step into the role of interim CEO at GMC effective Monday, April 12, 2021. David is well known to the manufacturing and wider business community as an experienced and well-respected leader. His experience includes General Manager, Backwell IXL, as well as senior roles in Boral. David has extensive experience in industry associations as a long-time Director of GMC (retired in 2020), Past President of the Australian Foundry Industry (Vic), and leadership roles in Rotary. He will work with the excellent staff, ready to continue important activities of the GMC

David is planning on returning to his previous work status (retirement) at the earliest!
Well done David.

Legendary Larrikin's unite for a dangerous get together WA in April.

Doug Maxwell and Ian Montford spotted in WA recently - another of the three Musketeers (Jim Artso) was also close by but managed to avoid the photographer.....



Save The Date AFI (Vic) Legend Night

We have a new Legend rising in AFI(Vic). Who could this be ?? Could this person have been a rock within our industry who learned to roll with and the punches?????

What dragons have been slain to be worthy of the heady title of AFI(Vic) Legend ??

Lock in **Wednesday the 15th of September**.
Plan to be there and all will be revealed.

*******STOP PRESS*******

Cast Metal Achiever of the Year nominations

AFI(Vic) are looking for nominations for an Industry Achiever to be presented at the 2021 National Conference in Brisbane in October. Who amongst us is worthy of this nomination ??

We need your input. Need more information – contact AFI(Vic) Secretary, Alan Cooke, then forward your nominations before Wednesday 30th June.

Members have received a draft copy of Updated Code of Compliance for Foundries via email last week.

Can you please review and return any feedback you may have NO LATER than TUESDAY 15TH JUNE to Alan Cooke agcooke52@gmail.com

Vale

It is with great sadness that we advise the passing of two of our respected members Mr. Bryan Weickhard and Mr. Graeme Campbell Milner

Bryan Weickhardt



Bryan was passionate about the foundry industry and, I would say, never missed an AFI or ADCA meeting since 1990.

“Bryan was a much-loved member of our team at Refractory & Ceramic Pty Ltd and always had a cheekiness about him that made him so likeable...*John Govan.*

Bryan had an interesting working career.

A.Challingsworth. 5 yr. Apprenticeship . Structural Steel Fabrication. 1956 – 1961

TG Macintosh. Dwg. Office duties and Production Planning. Mechanical Plant. 1961 -1965

JLT Waymac. Purchasing and Estimating. 1973- 76

Crow Industries. Estimating and Site Visitation. 1976-1979

Austral Crane. Technical Sales 1979 – 1990. First foray into the foundry industry.

Stallman & Co . 1990 – 1998

Vesuvius .1998 – 2008

Refractory & Ceramic – until retirement at the age of 79.

Graeme Campbell Milner

1933 – 2021



Graeme was an active and integral IBF member and past president and editor of the Annual Publication of the monthly lectures.

Some of the highlights of Graeme's career Bachelor of Science Melbourne University – 1956
1956 – The Steel company of Australia – became a Director within 5 years

SCOA had several owners during his career – N.B Johns, Kelly & Lewis, and Bradken.

Graeme left Bradken and for time lectured at the RMIT

Joined Davies and Baird where he worked until retirement in 1999.

Ex SCOA Metallurgist

Ex past President of IBF

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of both Bryan and Graeme – both will be sadly missed.

WA AFI Technical Meetings

It is with great pleasure we are including input from our Western Australian AFI organization to share their plans for 2021 – other States are also welcomed to share with us.

Chris Grant – WA AFI President has kindly contributed the following – ***Thanks Chris.***

The WA AFI Committee hosted a meeting last week where Dr. Tristan Casey presented his topic of "Making Heads and Tails of Safety Culture", this was our second presentation of the year and the first that we made available for local attendance as well as online participation, it was great to see one of our Company members from Bunbury tune in and participate at question time, it was a great night that got us thinking about safety and how we can influence our employees and our overall company safety culture.

The technical program below provides an opportunity for our local audience to meet every couple of months in person, while at the same time providing an opportunity for people outside WA to participate and join in with their questions or contributions, we also intend to make each of these presentations available to all on YouTube so you can watch them in your own time.

There have been some changes to the WA committee in the past year with Rodney Luck stepping down from his Treasurer role, after well over 10 years, Rodney did an excellent job in that time and we really appreciate all he has done for the AFI and the support he has provided, Abushine Shaik has stepped up as our new Treasurer and John Wootton has taken on the role of Vice President.

At the recent national committee meeting we discussed the National Conference in Queensland and I ask that you throw your support behind this conference, at the meeting WA volunteered to present the 2022 conference in Perth and we hope to prepare a theme for this conference in the coming months.

I look forward to catching up with you at the National Conference in October or at one of our technical presentations throughout 2021.

Chris Grant
AFIWA President

AFI 2021 National Conference

Planning is well underway for this year's AFI National Conference, and registrations are already open. This year's conference will be hosted by the Sunshine State - Queensland.

The Australian Foundry Institute Queensland Division invites you and your organisation to join us at the 56th Australian Foundry National Conference to be held at Rydges South Bank Brisbane from **28—30 October 2021.**

Key dates

Registration opens: 28 April 2021

Program available: 5 July 2021

Early bird registration deadline: 3 September 2021

Accommodation booking deadline: 23 September 2021

AFI 2021 conference: 28—30 October 2021

Please use the link below to access all the conference details.

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



Australian Foundry Institute (Vic Branch) 2021 Program

Month	Date	Location	Topic	Presenter	AFI / ADCA Contact
Feb	Wed 17th	Zoom	Industry Training		Alan C/ John Z Murray B and GoTafe
Mar	Fri 5th	Brisbane	National Council meeting		
Mar	Wed 17th	Village Green	Legends Night		AFI
Apr	Wed 21 st	Notting Hill	Site visit – AMAERO Metal Additive Mfg		Gary S
May	Fri 7 th	Brisbane	National Council Meeting		AFI National
May	Wed 19 th	Rowville	Stegbar site visit		Alan C
June	Wed 16 th	Virtual Meeting	A Targeted Training Course Apprentice / Traineeships	AW Bell and Craig Hilton, AIG	Alan C
Jul	Wed 21 st	Geelong	Getting to Zero – Impact on metal casters Diversifying your Business	Graham Wilson Austeng	David S
Aug	Wed 18 th	Hawthorn	Factory of the Future Swinburne Tech		Quinn P
Sep	Fri 3 rd	Sovereign Hill, Ballarat	Annual Technologists Picnic		Gary Bunn - MA
Sep	Wed 15 th	Village Green	Legends Night		Alan C
Oct	28 th – 30 th	Brisbane	National Conference		AFI (Qld)
Nov	Wed 17 th	Village Green	Code of Compliance update and AGM x 2		Alan C
Dec	Wed 8 th	TBC	2022 Planning meeting		Committee



**AUSTRALIAN FOUNDRY INSTITUTE
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA DIVISION INC.)**



2021 Technical Program:

Date	Topic	Speaker
17/03/21	Current and Future Foundry Consumable Technology Trends	Ryan Webber
26/05/21	Making Heads and Tails of Safety Culture.	Dr Tristan Casey
21/07/21	Thermal Analysis of Iron & Steel with Regards to Casting Quality & Preparation Free Sampling.	Charles Hurst
15/09/21	Good Steel Making	Jim West
October, 2021	Joint AFIWA and WA Materials Australia Technical Evening	Eddy Derwort
28 - 30 th October 2021	AFI National Conference - Rydges Hotel Southbank, Brisbane, Queensland. "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow"	Various
17/11/21	AFIWA AGM + Technical presentation (Foundry 4.0)	Stuart Ward