



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

Melting Moments – March 2020 Edition

Presidents Report

Welcome to our first edition for 2020. We are only 3 months into the new decade and what a busy and challenging time it has been! Apart from making plans on how to manage and continue our daily lives through the evolving COVID-19 pandemic we have also squeezed in a couple of AFI meetings.

Our February meeting was a presentation by Rob Della Via - the CEO of Beckwith Group - on GIFA 2019. This enlightened many who have yet to attend this, the world's leading trade fair for casting technology about the modern, innovative solutions, new trends and future-oriented innovations within our industry. Those who attend have the opportunity to meet prestigious suppliers of casting technology from all over the world and at the same time experience a high-quality information programme with numerous highlights and special exhibitions. Over and above all of the business development and growth opportunities, the social and travel experiences are a true highlight.

In March we were privileged to be given a Plant Tour of Sutton Tools - a family enterprise, manufacturing threads and gauges who, over time has expanded its expertise into a broader portfolio of cutting tools. Sutton Tools remains an Australian family business that is globally renowned for its high-quality power tool accessories and cutting tools for the hardware market and a wide range of specialised industrial applications.

With COVID-19 impacting on attendance, the small group of us that were able to attend were given an excellent tour and the subsequent dinner table discussion was wide ranging and vigorous. Sutton Tools is a tremendous example of an Australian business that thrives in a global market by having a relentless pursuit of technical excellence and superior quality.

Our April meeting was to be a presentation from GoTafe providing an update on the current training of Casting and Moulding apprentices with the new Programme released in June 2019 along with the steps we need to take to complete the currently enrolled Patternmaking Apprentices and what training can and will be provided for our Foundry

apprentices going forward. Unfortunately the daily changes currently being implemented in terms of socialisation distances, we have tentatively rescheduled this to May and are looking to deliver this and other scheduled meetings via a dial-in format. Stay tuned for updates and how to be a part of this.

The site visit to Oceania Glass (originally scheduled for May) has understandably needed to be cancelled. We look forward to arranging this visit some time in the future.

AFI National

At our recent National Council meeting in Brisbane topics discussed included apprentice training, AFI representation at WFO events, how the central Conference committee will operate and status of the latest Industry survey which will result in an updated Industry Report.

Congratulations to Adam Hassell of Hasco Foundry. Adam will represent the AFI at the WFO event in 2021. Each year the AFI fund a representative attending a major WFO event. This is a great opportunity to expand knowledge, networks and potentially the order book!!

AFI(Qld) have been active in meeting with State government officials. Though supportive, these officials gave a common theme – they want data on who we are and what economic reach we have. The Industry Report gives this data. Please find time in your busy lives to provide the data for your business.

The bushfires that swept across much of Australia throughout summer and now the COVID-19 health crisis present unique challenges to everyone in Australia including the metal casting community. With Federal and State Government announcements coming almost daily, it is difficult to assess the impact that COVID-19 will have on order books. The overall economic forecast is concerning for all of us. We all must focus on doing well on the things that we do control.

Apprentice Training

Development of the next generation of skilled tradespeople is essential for our metal casting industry. Without doubt it can be difficult for a business to make the commitment to search for, employ and then retain apprentices.

Hasco Foundry has made this investment in the future and have added a Moulding apprentice to the cohort of apprentices being trained by GOTafe.



Congratulations to 29yo James Stewart. We look forward to seeing you active in the metal casting industry for many years to come.

As with most things in life, apprentice training isn't as straight forward as we'd like. The governing body for national qualifications – IBSA – last year proposed changes that impact on the Patternmaking qualification. This has implications for the Patternmaking apprentices that have been enrolled prior to this change. Though IBSA have granted some extension for the old level qualification, our training providers (GOTafe and SkillsTech in Qld) will need to consider the impact of the proposed change. We're in the process of getting more detail to understand what exactly needs to be done and the timeline for doing it. We'll also seek better consultation from IBSA in the future!!

Meanwhile AFI(NSW) – potential of 10 to 12 apprentices - and AFI(WA) – potential of 6 apprentices - are keen to progress apprentice training with GOTafe. Great news for our industry.

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).

2020 Conference – Christchurch

Amid the turmoil that we now find ourselves in, the planning continues for the 2020 AFI National Conference in Christchurch, NZ in October. We do have time on our side, so decisions about cancellation, deferment or changing to an on-line seminar can be delayed for several months yet.

Suffice to say, we have an exciting technical and social program lined up. This could be the post-virus pressure relief that we all need, so don't abandon thoughts of October in NZ just yet !!!

In Brief

Those of us that have been in the industry for a few years will remember Bruce Whan. The following came to us from industry stalwart, Mick Nolan.

"It is with sadness I have to advise the passing of Bruce Whan late of R.C. Whan Foundry located in Newcastle which he managed with his sister Margaret and brother Jeff after the passing of the Foundry's founder Reg Whan who passed away several years ago.

The Foundry closed a few years ago and since then Bruce and his loving wife Pat retired to the Sunshine State. Bruce will be not only remembered as an exceptional Foundry man but as a bloody good honest bloke."

Mick Nolan himself has been active in our industry for many decades. Mick announced recently that he would step back from AFI commitments. All the best to you Mick.

Speaking about bloody good blokes (or should I just call him a rogue !?!), our very own Doug Maxwell celebrated his 80th birthday in recent times. See him pictured below with who must be the most tolerant wife in the world!! Well done Doug. We hope to see you about for many years to come.



Congratulations:

Congratulations to Sean Boswell on his appointment as the General Manager of the Backwell IXL foundry.

Save the Date:

AFI QLD Committee have been busy and very organised recently announcing the theme and venue for the 2021 AFI National Conference;

AFI Queensland - Conference 2021

Theme - "Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow"

Dates - Thursday 28 October to Saturday 30 October 2021

Location – RYDGES - South Bank Brisbane.



Australian Foundry Institute (Vic) 2020 Program

Month	Date	Location	Topic	Presenter	AFI / ADCA Contact
Feb	Wed 12 th	Errols, North Melb	GIFA Presentation	Rob Dalla Via	
Mar	Fri 6 th		AFI National Council meeting, Brisbane		
Mar	Wed 11 th	Thomastown	Sutton Tools Site visit		Amber Maxwell
Apr	Wed 15th	Online presentation – to be rescheduled	GOTafe curriculum	Brett Ambrosio	Amber Maxwell
May	Wed 13 th	Dandenong South	Oceania Glass Site visit	Cancelled	Graham Wilson
Jun	Wed 10 th	Village Green, Mulgrave	Structural automotive HPDC using recycled AI Wheels	Roger Lumley	Graham Wilson
Jul	Wed 15 th	Village Green, Mulgrave	Legends Night	AFI VIC	Alan Cooke and Amber Maxwell
Aug	Wed 12 th		Site visit		
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
Oct	8 th – 11 th	Christchurch, New Zealand	National Conference	AFI (Vic) & CTNZ	
Nov	Wed 11 th	Village Green	AGM and Worksafe – Update on Compliance Code	Worksafe	Alan Cooke
Dec	Wed 9 th	Errol's North Melb	Planning meeting	Committee	