



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

Melting Moments – September 2020

Presidents Report



It was just impossible not to begin this edition with a something to make you both wince and laugh at the same time.!!!

Since our June Edition we had planned on returning to our live presentations for July and August for our AFI Vic Meetings. Sadly, these were unable to go ahead. Do not despair we have used this time to plan and stage our COVID friendly Conference and fine tune AFI Vic- Foundry In a Box.

I'm delighted that we have managed to put together a new format for this year's National Conference - AFI Sofa Seminars – AFI ON-Demand. We have distributed the program and look forward to seeing you there.

Victorian Stage 4 lockdowns are soon to be a thing of the past 🙌 and the Committee have been planning for our very important upcoming 2020 Legends Night and AGM. We will circulate details for the Legends night as soon as we know when we can celebrate these incredible identities of our industry in the way they truly deserve.

This year we may need to present our AGM online. As you know every year we vote in a Committee to represent our

members and the industry for the following year, so if you would like to join our active and very enthusiastic crew we will be sending out nomination forms in the coming weeks and welcome new members with open **1.5 m distanced** arms.

AFI National

As 2020 marches on, our industry body begins to get on top of the training challenges we face, and to progress development of videos and website updates that will help raise the profile and standing of the metal casting industry in the eyes of school leavers, politicians and the general public. Simultaneously business challenges continue to mount. In the short term the AFI can't do a great deal to support financial viability of each foundry operation, but we can work to maximise the opportunity that is presented with the public discussion on sovereign capability.

The big question remains if the discussion on rebuilding Australian manufacturing can deliver tangible benefits for the metal casting industry. I'd welcome your views on what specific actions the AFI can take to deliver a beneficial outcome.

It is clear, that as an industry we must take an active role to shape the training of our apprentices and technicians. In late August, AFI have been able to participate in a workshop designed to get industry feedback in relation to the new training qualifications that have been released. These cover Casting and Moulding as well as Patternmaking but many other trades as well. The new qualifications should have a further release in late September. It remains to be seen if the voices of industry will be incorporated into this next release.

AFI National Conference 2020

As you are probably aware, the 2nd wave of COVID virus in Melbourne put an end to our plans for firstly the Christchurch, NZ based conference, then very soon after the Plan B of a Melbourne based conference. With no National Conference possible for 2020, our collective thoughts then turned to how we could deliver the world class presentations that had been prepared.

This led to Sofa Seminars with AFI ON-Demand !! 4 excellent presentations beginning from Wednesday 9th September at fortnightly intervals. See full Program on the last page of this newsletter.

GoTafe Foundry Apprentice Training Update

As expected, the current qualification covering Casting and Moulding (MEM30305) has been extended until December 2021. This removes the immediate confusion and concern about what our RTO (Registered Training Organisation) should be offering both to the current apprentices and any prospective new apprentices.

Meanwhile the review of course content by AFI(Vic) for Casting and Moulding continues with a regular fortnightly meeting being the mechanism to provide feedback and track progress.

In a similar vein, the new qualification for Patternmaking (MEM31719) is on track to be released later this year. GoTafe have shared this training package with AFI(Vic), so that as course material for each unit is developed it will be made available to AFI(Vic) to review and give feedback. AFI(Vic) are looking for anyone with a Patternmaker background that would like to participate in the review of this course material. AFI(NSW) have begun discussions with the NSW Dept of Training to secure funding for apprentice training in NSW with GoTafe as the RTO. The stretch objective is to have all parties ready to roll for the beginning of 2021.

Are you interested in an apprenticeship?? Applications are now open to study a Certificate III in Engineering – Moulding and Casting and Patternmaking at GOTAFE. For a full list of available courses, visit gotafe.vic.edu.au or phone 1300 GOTAFE (468 233).

In Brief

Save the Date: AFI(Vic) - Sofa Seminars #1 Wednesday 9th September, 6 pm sharp. Look out for a reminder notice with the log in details.

Pat on the Back: AFI / ADCA stalwart Gary Savage – CSIRO has been nominated for a Churchill Fellowship. This is a truly high honour with only the most worthy applicants succeeding in receiving the award. Gary has progressed through to the final round of interviews, so we wait for announcements with bated breath. Stay tuned.

Congratulations: Two of our esteemed members Kuno Brautigam – IXL Geelong and Rob Golding – Bradken Wodonga have recently chosen to retire. Both have been long time members and contributors to the AFI. We wish you both well and look forward to continuing to see you at our meetings - in person when we can resume these – and online

at our upcoming Sofa Seminar series. We truly hope that you can both remain active AFI members.

AFI (Vic) - Sofa Seminars 2020 Program

AFI ► *OnDemand*.

1 Wednesday 9th September 2020 6:00 pm sharp

Development of Thin Wall Cast Invar for Satellite Applications

Roger Lumley - Senior Technical Specialist
AW Bell Pty. Ltd., Dandenong South, Victoria Australia.
3175

Welcome to CSIRO Webex Conferencing featuring: audio, video and presentation capabilities. You can join this conference from:
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#2 Wednesday 23rd September 2020 6:00pm sharp

Some creative applications of circular economy principles in research.

Matthew Barnett Professor Deakin University

3 Wednesday 7th October 2020 6pm sharp

Casting Technology

John Campbell Emeritus Professor,
University of Birmingham UK

#4 Wednesday 21st October 2020 6 pm sharp

Engineering Developments

John Campbell Emeritus Professor,
University of Birmingham UK