



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

## Melting Moments – September 2019 Edition

### Presidents Report

Welcome to our second Melting Moments Edition and the second quarter edition for F20.

Firstly, thank you all who contributed to our very first Melting Moments Newsletter. It was very humbling to receive the congratulations and positive feedback from many of you - and from Alan, myself and the rest of the Editorial Committee we greatly appreciate your support and encouragement. Don't forget we would love to receive articles, updates and little tidbits from you to include in our Quarterly Newsletter so please feel free to send anything you would like to share.

It's been a busy 3 months since we last touched base. We have hosted our Social event for 2019 - Christmas in July at Sovereign Hill and also hosted a combined Meeting with ADCA with a presentation from Bestech /HotFlo regarding Sensors and Data Acquisition equipment for castings and of course the Annual AFI event NEVER to be missed - the Presentation of our 2019 Legend, another deserving Inductee to our very own Hall of Fame. See our Legends bio later in this newsletter.

Alan, Murray and I attended the CTNZ 2019 Conference in Wellington, NZ meeting with our Conference Committee cohorts from across the pond. This was a very beneficial as it allowed us to meet the CTNZ Board we will be working with in organizing the AFI/CTNZ 2020 Conference in Christchurch. Stay tuned for more information and updates.

### AFI National

There has been significant activity in the AFI(Qld) group over June and July. Lead by Joe Vecchio, members have engaged in several meetings with Qld Govt representatives, along with Qld based electricity distribution, generation and retailer representatives. The outcome is a 12-month deferral of the removal of the current power tariff until 1/7/2021. Though desirable, this amounts to a 12 month stay of execution for several Qld based foundries. Much work still needs to be done.

The details of the Industry Report will be presented at the October Parramatta Conference. Along with this, a draft of the manual that details how foundries can quantify Carbon Emissions is being prepared, and initial work has begun on preparing a Sustainability Statement for the industry. These activities (along with the motto for this newsletter) are aimed at rebranding the industry as dynamic, proactive and prepared to tackle the many challenges that we are confronted with.

All AFI members are encouraged to attend the Parramatta Conference. During my presentation I'll be seeking feedback from the audience as to what they want from their Industry Body. This feedback will help inform and guide my activities as National President over the coming year.

### GOTafe Apprentices Training

#### ***Augmented and Virtual Reality to make an impact in GOTAFE Apprentices Training.***

GOTAFE is now six months into delivering the Certificate III in Casting and Pattern making areas, with students having commenced their studies in March of this year. The course was developed by GOTAFE in response to the course closures by Victorian tertiary providers. GOTAFE were approached earlier this year by the Australian Foundry Institute (AFI) and leading employers across the State to consider becoming the provider of this specialist program.

GOTAFE Trades is now the sole training provider to deliver training and assessment Victoria wide, feeding much needed apprentices into the vocation. This course is an exciting inclusion to the Engineering department at GOTAFE, who have had back to back finalists in 2017 and 2018 for Apprentice of the Year at the Victorian Training Awards.

GOTAFE is also in the final stages of development of training tools using the latest in technologies of Virtual and Augmented Reality.

Brett Ambrosio, Director Technology and Built Environment at GOTAFE is excited to have had ten apprentices now signed up

into this new course but is keen to get five more signed up by November 2019.

In recent years, students interested in this career would need to travel to Queensland for training. This lack of opportunity in training led to no Victorian apprentices taking on the vocation in recent years. It is hoped that the technology advances in the delivery of study will encourage an influx of interest to the Engineering Foundry qualification.

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](http://gotafe.vic.edu.au) or phone 1300 GOTAFE (468 233).

## Terry Beckwith – AFI(Vic) Legend



Congratulations to Terry Beckwith on his induction as the 2019 AFI(Vic) Legend!!!

Born in 1942, Terry left school at 16 to do 3 years of a hosiery apprenticeship repairing textile machinery for Hilton Hosiery. His father Alan, was a trade moulder that had formed a business in 1960 supplying cores and moulds to the industry.

Terry left his job to work full time with his father thus beginning a long and successful career in the foundry industry. He did take a break in 1969 to travel to Europe with his mates but has been on the shopfloor ever since.

You will always find him in bib and brace overalls, red faced and sweat on the brow, (or on the forklift) overseeing the daily schedule.

Terry's dream is to secure the long-term future of the foundry industry and to support his employees (*perpetually viewed as his extended family*) who have supported him throughout his career and to those new employees who have served the industry

From small beginnings, the company has now grown into a large diverse group of companies with 70+ employees, supplying and manufacturing consumables and castings for customers.

Terry enjoys fishing, the "odd drink", an afternoon snooze on the couch, and travelling around Australia in the motorhome.

Well done Terry and well earned.

## Christmas In July

What a fantastic night was had by all those who attended this year's spectacular AFI(Vic) "Christmas In July" social event. For the first time this coincided with Sovereign Hill's - Winter Wonder lights event. With the Main Street of Sovereign Hill lit up and snow falling it really was a magical "White Christmas In July."



Again, this year we had generous sponsorship from Beckwith Group and Foseco and also welcomed GOTafe as our main sponsor.



The two-piece band "Could Have Been Brothers" provided entertainment with both kids and adults alike bopping away to tunes of old!

Special thanks to Kevin Beasley and Adam Hassel who helped set up, and also to Sam from GOTafe for his (un)official photographer duties.

## Bryan Weickardt - Retirement

"My career started in 1956 and consisted of a 5-year apprenticeship with A. Challingsworth in Boilermaking/Welding & General Steel Fabrication. To further my experience at the end of my apprenticeship, I moved to another fabrication company – T.G Macintosh and was involved in drafting and material list preparation - but they closed. I returned to A. Challingsworth in 1966 as an Estimator, mainly preparing quotations for fabricated steel items. The highlight of that role was the fabrication of some major structural steelwork for the construction of the Westgate Bridge. I was fortunate enough, in those days, to get on to the bridge the morning after the collapse and took many photo's which formed the main part of the presentation, I gave to the AFI members in 2017. That memory, and the errors surrounding the collapse, will always stick with me.

After A. Challingsworth closed in 1973, I joined Austral Bronze Crane Copper as a Technical Representative - this time, in non-ferrous foundries so a change from steel! It was my first foray into the foundry industry!

As a metallurgist, I found working in and around the foundry industry quite rewarding and was offered a job by Peter Cartwright - Stallman & Co Pty Ltd – NSW. Peter asked me to work from home to service the Victorian *Foundries with a variety of consumables, including crucibles*, and I remained in this role until Peter sold his business to Vesuvius in 1998.

For the next decade, I worked for Vesuvius to promote sales of the crucibles and other foundry products, including Master Alloys.

Unfortunately, this role came to an end in 2008 when Vesuvius acquired Fosco and they closed the Melbourne office - my role was made redundant, along with my dear friend and colleague, Delia.

I wasn't ready to stop working and so I sought employment with Refractory & Ceramic and assisted in growing their foundry business over the last decade.

At the age of 79, it is time to settle back and enjoy retirement, but I will continue to attend AFI meetings as it is something I thoroughly enjoy and has been a very enjoyable part of my latter career in the foundry industry!"

Congratulations Bryan on a long and rewarding career!!

## Australian Apprenticeship Support Network

Apprenticeship Support Australia is contracted by the Australian Government to provide skills development advice and solutions to businesses across Australia as part of the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN).

We offer employers advice on Government funding for training, suitable qualifications, access to recruitment solutions, as well as mentoring and support for apprentices and trainees.

Should you require any additional information please contact our Industry Training Consultant Daniele Walker on 0419 754 791. **If you're considering putting on an apprentice, please contact Danielle.**



## In Brief

**Congratulations..... David Sykes** on his return to the helm at Backwell IXL.

Several of us have had recent contact with a young metallurgist from Arizona looking for employment in Victoria. The interesting thing is what brings him to Australia – his wife has been recruited to play AFLW with the Western Bulldogs!!

### Farewell Bernie Gillies – Gillies Foundry OAMARU NZ

It's with sadness that we report the passing of Mr. Bernie Gillies on the 11<sup>th</sup> August he was 94 and a well-known and respected Foundry man both in New Zealand and Australia.

Bernie was the proprietor of Gillies Foundry in Oamaru NZ for many years established in 1926 by his father the foundry was taken over some years back and I believe still operational.

### Awards.....Victorian Training Awards Evening 2019.

Our President attended this evening held at the Crown Palladium Room on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of September. It was so refreshing and rewarding to be in a very large room filled with passionate and enthusiastic Trainers, Training Providers and Apprentices and Trainees alike. Congratulations to all of the winning Trainees and their respective RTO's. A notable inclusion for recognition of their exceptional training was GoTafe's trainer Jodi Rechsteiner-Sanders. Looking forward to seeing some of our Apprentices up on stage in the Palladium Room next September.

## STOP PRESS.... AFI Conference 2019

. Click on the Registration link following to secure your place.  
**AFI NSW 2019** [Registration page](#)

There are limited rooms still available to book at the conference venue

[Click here](#) to read about the hotel, room type and terms and conditions. Please note, accommodation is subject to availability.



## 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - Update on this year's National AFI Conference

Arrangements for the 54th Australian Foundry Institute (AFI) National Conference to be held in Sydney from **17th to 19th October, 2019** are pretty much complete. All we need now are more Delegates to register attendance and of course we will welcome more Sponsors to come on board to help support this National Annual Event.

To Register as a Delegate or to join our existing Sponsors, please go to our Website:-

[www.afi2019.org](http://www.afi2019.org)

Right at the moment, we have approx. 75 delegates registered to attend but of course we would still like to reach our minimum target of 100+ attendees. Thank you to all those that have registered. If you are thinking of coming but haven't yet registered, I urge you to go on line and book your place.

We have extended the "Early Bird" registration discount by about a week until Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. That is also the last date that The Park Royal, Parramatta will hold reserved rooms for us. Most of the discounted rooms have been booked so only Premium Rooms are left and the numbers available are naturally reducing.

If anyone is having trouble confirming their Room reservations when registering on-line as a delegate, please contact Vicki or Daniella at Expert Events on 07 3848 2100. Expert Events will assist you with your accommodation bookings. Please be aware that due to the very popular Edinburgh Tattoo being staged at the nearby Sydney Olympic Park over the same three days of our Conference, there has been added pressure put on available hotel rooms in the Parramatta area.

Details of our Speaker Program and Social Activities are given on our abovementioned Website.

With the Conference little more than a month away, please register asap to join your industry colleagues and suppliers and a broad range of very interesting speakers at what we believe will make this a very rewarding Conference.

Looking forward to seeing you in Parramatta.

Yours Sincerely,

*Keiran Slattery*

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