

Talk (abbreviated) to Burnie Rotarians: *Part One* – 24 June 2019

The Pulp: “Machines don’t make paper – People Do!”

History 1936 -- 2012

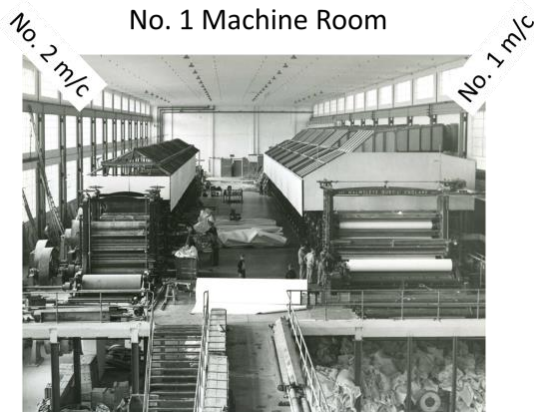
South Burnie **1936**



South Burnie between **1936** and **2012**



Early days: Trying to make paper  
(note reject paper in basement of No.1)



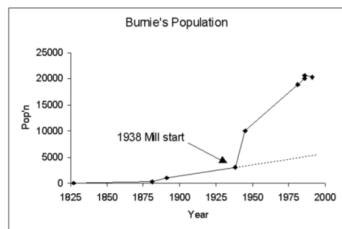
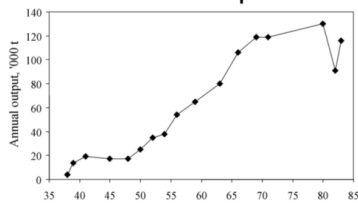
The Pulp’s Innovations

- 1938 First mill to make fine paper from 100% *Eucalyptus* fibres
- 1953 Second mill in world to purchase a continuous digester
- 1963 APPM patents process for washing pulp in a continuous digester
- 1965 World’s first Wet Air Oxidation process installed
- 1984 First mill to advertise it’s own brand of copy paper to end-users
- 1985 World’s first Direct Alkali Recovery System (DARS) installed.

Burnie: Mill Production and Town Population

Employee no’s

1939	530
1956	3,410
1963	4,000
1981	1,800
1992	1,300
2000	200



An annual shutdown task:  
Clive Viney, “Tough job – chiselling stuff off the wall, up to my knees in water, unable to stand upright.”



Up to 360 girls worked in the Finishing Room, sorting and counting sheets of paper – 300~400 reams (each of 500 sheets) per shift. See over



← Finishing Room girls at work – 1940s

Enid Medford encircled; note the box she is standing on. Enid was a very short girl.

Enid started at age 17, retired compulsorily at 60 years of age. In 2010, aged 88, she had outlived the mill, three dogs and one budgerigar!



← Finishing Room Girls relaxing at Christmas Eve break-up. Note girls queuing for their pay *plus* Xmas bonus.

Finishing Room (ground floor) in 2012

