

## Australia's loss is Indonesia's gain

An entire pulp and paper mill has been shipped from Brisbane to Indonesia's second largest city, Surabaya, by Australian firm Varun International for Orora Ltd. The shipment of the former Petrie recycled cardboard mill took seven months, with Varun International providing the empty containers, transportation and shipping of all the cargo from the Petrie Mill site to Surabaya.



Petrie mill before it was dismantled for shipment to PT Pakerin, Surabaya Indonesia.



The journey north for Petrie Mill,

**D**ismantling commenced in September 2014 and the shipment was completed in April 2015 with the cargo packed and shipped in more than 330 forty feet high cube containers. More than 15 pieces of over-dimensional items, including 6.6 metre deinking unit, were shipped as break bulk cargo. "It was the single largest shipping consignment undertaken by Varun on behalf of the Australian pulp and paper industry", Mr Jagadish K, the Managing Director of Varun international said.

Amcor announced in February, 2013 it would close the Petrie recycled cardboard mill, blaming the high Australian dollar and international competition. The mill that began operation in 1957, and underwent several upgrades, predominantly manufactured coated carton board. Its annual production capacity was increased to 140,000 tonnes in 2005.

Ian Dench, who worked at Petrie Mill in its early days, said, "It was a very sad day for me when the closure was announced. Nevertheless I was considerably buoyed when I learnt that PT Pakerin, under the leadership of Director Mr Steven T, had purchased the old Petrie Mill in its entirety for shipment and recommissioning in Surabaya Indonesia". (See Ian's reflection on Petrie's impact on the Australian pulp and paper industry)

Melbourne-based Varun International, which started as a small business in 1992, has grown into an international shipping and forwarding business. The company specialises in break bulk cargo shipping, project cargo shipping and container trade, with an office in Surabaya, has also shipped the Smorgon pulp and paper mill from Melbourne to Jakarta, the VISY pulp and paper mill from Brazil to Brisbane, a pulp and paper mill from Brazil to Pekanbaru and VISY corrugated factories from Melbourne to Jakarta and the USA.

### A Reflection – The Wheel Turns Full Circle



Ian Dench, Appita Fellow and a Petrie mill technical/operational staffer in his early years in the industry was later closely associated in his Asian marketing and development roles with PT Pakerin in Surabaya, East Jaya, Indonesia. Here Ian reflects on this association between the now decommissioned Amcor

Petrie Cartonboard Mill and the new owners of the Petrie mill equipment. This equipment is to be re-commissioned shortly at PT Pakerin mill and headquarters at Mojokerto, a south western city/suburb of Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city and port.

## Ian remembers:

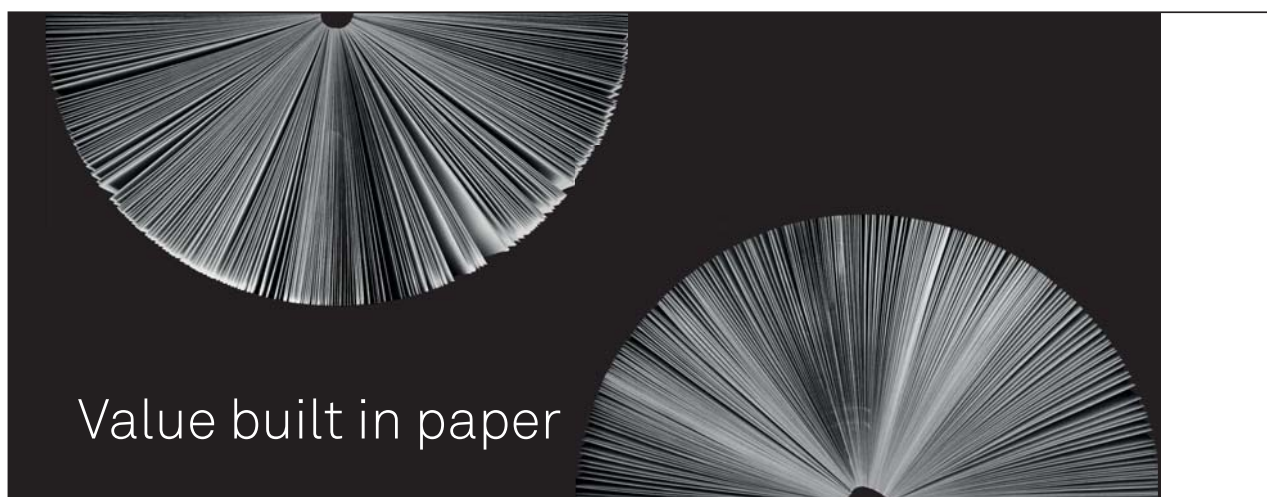
On 2 January 1963 I proudly strode into Petrie Mill with a brand new B. E. (Chem Eng) from University of Queensland tucked under my arm to take up my new position of assistant mill chemist, Petrie Mill. Little did I realise that 52 years later Petrie Mill would be permanently closed and, in its entirety, shipped to Surabaya, to be recommissioned and soon to become part of Pakerin's industrial paper empire (kraft liner, corrugating medium, coated duplex board, chipboard and coreboard).

Petrie Mill had a somewhat chequered start up in the 1950s (1951 – 1957) but then went on to become a significant trail blazer over 6 decades in sheet forming, coating technology and waste utilisation in carton board production. As a single machine mill Petrie was the envy of APM/Amcor's larger southern multi-machine mills in terms of successful single minded dedication to its capex program. Petrie was arguably the most significantly enhanced and upgraded local mill over the years compared to its humble beginnings in the 1950s. The 140,000 tonnes per year cartonboard mill was closed in September 2013, dismantling commenced a year later and shipment to Surabaya was completed in April 2015. The entire mill was shipped in over 330 x 40 HC containers and more than 15 over dimensioned components went as break bulk cargo including a 6.6 metre diameter deinking unit. This total consignment was handled efficiently by Varun International under the leadership of Mr Jagadish K.

PT Pakerin also had humble beginnings and started at Mojokerto in 1980 with a capacity of only 15,000 tonnes/year. The wheel has also turned favourably for Pakerin and today Mojokerto is a multi-machine complex with over 700,000 tonnes/year of industrial paper capacity. Additionally Pakerin produces several grades of pulp as well as caustic soda supporting its paper production and incorporates a high percentage (>80%) of recycled waste in the mill's furnishes. Pakerin prides itself on being a low and cost effective paper producer and is a leading industrial paper manufacturer in Indonesia, strategically located at Surabaya, East Java to service its local and overseas customers. The Mojokerto mill production capability will soon be enhanced by the incorporation of the equipment from the old Amcor Petrie mill.

It was a very sad day for me when the closure of Petrie mill was announced. Today I think back to the very good years, my early years in this industry, that I spent at Petrie mill rubbing shoulders with a bunch of very dedicated people there. Nevertheless, I was considerably buoyed when I learnt that PT Pakerin, under the leadership of Director Mr Steven T had purchased the old Petrie Mill in its entirety for shipment and recommissioning in Surabaya Indonesia.

I have written this article knowing that my old mill at Petrie is going to a very good home.



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