

**LAA LTD - AUSTRALIA PAPER MARYVILLE MILL  
JUNE 27 2008 SITE VISIT**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June a group of seven with the Logistics Association of Australia were hosted for a site visit at Maryvale Mill in Gippsland, Victoria. This company is well known in Australia for their leading brand of paper - *Reflex*. They also produce recycled copy papers; printing and envelope grades; and packaging papers used to make sacks, bags and corrugated boxes. They supply both local and export markets as either standardised production or made-to-order requests according to customer demand. Maryvale Mill is owned by Australian Paper and forms part of the manufacturing arm of the global company *Paperlinx*, which has its headquarters in Melbourne and merchanting operations around the globe.

The mill employs approximately 1,000 people and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 440 hectare site has three pulp mills, five paper machines and a waste paper processing plant - along with extensive wetlands specifically designed to help minimise the impact of the mill on the environment by aiding water recycling and clean-up. This is the largest pulp and paper operation in Australia. The plant capability is about 538,000 tonnes per annum; producing about 250,000 tonnes of white paper and 330,000 tonnes of brown.



**Photo courtesy of Maryvale Mill**

The pulp used at the site is processed from pine and *Eucalyptus* chips. All of the pine pulp is sourced from plantation-based trees with 20% supplied as sawmill chips. The end-use of any paper determines the type of pulp required for production; as the pine pulp has long and flexible fibres it is better for making paper that requires strength and flexibility such as industrial sacks. Approximately 700,000 tonnes of pine chips are required per annum.

Initially *Eucalyptus* chips were considered not suitable for paper production however Maryvale Mill pioneered the technique for their use. Eucalypts, a hardwood, typically have short fibres and tend to be best for making stiff paper. The Eucalypt pulp is sourced from 50% Victorian-owned State Forest, 35% plantation *Eucalyptus* and the rest from saw mills. Approximately 785,000 tonnes per annum of Eucalypt chips are required for the current level of production.

The site also has a waste paper treatment facility that recycles wood fibre from old paper, magazines, and cardboard. It also has extensive waste water treatment facilities that maximise water reuse. The site has a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS) that provides the process and procedures for compliance with environmental requirements. This includes specific licences issued by federal and state Governments as well as standards and codes of practice. This EMS complies with the international standard ISO 14001 for environmental management which is the leading standard for manufacturing sites.

The visit to the Mill was extensive and followed the paper-making processes from the arrival of logs on timber trucks, through the different stages of paper production to quality testing and packaging ready for distribution. The whole site - including the wetlands - was visited over an afternoon, with an excellent running commentary of the activities and detailed explanation of the processes. This was a site well worth visiting. Our thanks go to Roland Collings (our excellent guide), Carole Smith, and Ben McLean for their time and support and the delicious lunch provided.



**LAA Committee member Kate Hughes thanks Ben McLean,  
Customer Services Manager, Maryvale Mill – Australian Paper**