

Historical Timeline



Cheetham Salt

- 1862** Richard Cheetham (a manufacturing chemist from Manchester, UK) arrived in Victoria to establish a salt works.
- 1888** Richard Cheetham began construction of a saltfield on low lying swampy land leased from the Victorian Government, between Limeburners' Point and Point Henry. It was a difficult undertaking and involved much personal industry by Richard himself. Financial backing came from A.W. Cunningham and the partnership was known as "Richard Cheetham & Company Pty Ltd".
- 1894** The first salt was produced.
- 1903** The name of the organisation was changed to "The Cheetham Salt Proprietary Limited"
- 1924** Demand for Cheetham Salt products was such that further land was purchased between Laverton and Point Cook in Victoria. The first harvest of salt at Laverton was in 1926.
- 1927-34** Agreements with a number of salt producers and operators were formed through Australian Salt Co. at Port Wakefield. Marketing agreements were established with the Bowen Salt Co. in Queensland during 1934.
- 1940** Construction of a refinery was completed at Laverton to produce food and industrial grades of salt. The facility included on-site accommodation for employees and families.
- 1950** Land at Avalon in Victoria was purchased and some leased for the construction of an additional saltfield around Corio Bay. The "Lara" saltfield produced its first harvest of 500 tonnes in 1954.
- 1963-64** Cheetham Salt took up a number of leases on Lake Tyrrell, near Sea Lake in north western Victoria. Operating originally from a rudimentary harvest and bagging facility at the southern end of the field, it later established its current facility that produces large quantities of both bulk salt and bagged product.
- 1971** The Ocean Salt Pty. Ltd. that operated out of Price in South Australia and its sister company Australian Salt Co. that operated from Lochiel in South Australia became wholly owned subsidiaries of Cheetham Salt Company Limited.
- 1981** Cheetham Salt acquired Central Queensland Salt Industries which included saltfields and refineries at Bajool and Bowen.
- 1987** Ridley Corporation was formed.
- 1988** Diamond Salt Proprietary Limited was then established on August 24, 1988 with sites at Corio (near Geelong, Victoria) and Kevin (near Ceduna, South Australia).
- 1992** Ridley Corporation acquired Cheetham Salt Limited in June, merging the facilities of Diamond Salt Proprietary Limited and Cheetham Salt Limited under the one name.
- 1993** Lake MacDonnell (adjacent to the Kevin factory in South Australia) salt fields were acquired in September.
- 1994-95** Cheetham Salt's Corio refinery operations gained certification to ISO 9002 standard, followed by all other Cheetham Salt locations.
- 1996** 50% share of Dominion Salt in New Zealand was acquired and an office was established in Jakarta, Indonesia as part of Cheetham Salt's international growth.
- 1996-98** Committed to continuous growth and improvement, significant technological advances resulted in a record salt harvest at Price in 1998.
- 1999** Cheetham Salt purchased the Port Alma salt field. Operated by Cheetham Salt on behalf of another company for many years, this site now adds significant capability to Queensland operations.
- 2001** Operations began at the PT Cheetham Garam salt refinery at Cilegon in Indonesia. Cheetham Salt opened it's office in Tokyo, Japan.
- 2005** Dry Creek salt field on the outskirts of Adelaide was acquired.
- 2007** Bajool acquired AS14001 Environmental accreditation.
- 2008** Cheetham successfully installed a new Enterprise Resourcing Planning (ERP) system
- 2009** Corio office closed and Cheetham consolidated its Head Office functions with those of Ridley Corporation to Bourke Street.
- 2009** Corio refinery relocated to Sea Lake.
- 2010** Sea Lake underwent a refinery upgrade.
- 2010** Cheetham completed a major upgrade of the Bajool refinery. This new facility will help satisfy growing Queensland demand.
- 2010** Construction of new refinery in Cilegon, Indonesia. The new state-of-the-art refinery is located near the port of Cigading in West Java, Indonesia's deepest sea port.
- 2013** CK Life Sciences Int'l., (Holdings) Inc. acquire Cheetham Salt Limited on the 1st of March. Dry Creek salt field in Adelaide, South Australia, Bowen in Queensland, Lara and Moolap fields in Victoria, are retained by Ridley Corporation.