



High Flying GIVING



Laurie was educated at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, from 1935 to 1940. At the age of 18 he left his home in Moonee Ponds to enlist in the RAAF. After pilot training in Australia and Canada, he was posted to the RAF Bomber Command as pilot and captain of a crew flying Halifax bombers in raids over Germany. He survived this experience losing close friends and carrying the scars of war. In recent years he won much acclaim for his reconciliation work with citizens of the German cities he bombed. He was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French Government.

Laurie settled in Melbourne as a successful publican whilst continuing his generosity with community service work. In 1987, alongside Marguerite Ryan, Noel O'Brien, Leon Wiegard and

others, Laurie helped to establish the Christian Brothers' Foundation for Charitable Works (CBFCW).

He was highly regarded by many in the community and it was not long after that Laurie organised Laurie organised for Bob Hawke, then Prime Minister, to speak at the CBFCW dinner held at National Gallery of Victoria.

Laurie has been a constant and longstanding supporter of Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) the Trustee of the CBFCW. He is always first to buy tickets and brings a table of high profile racing people along to the 500 Supporters Group luncheons.

Now 98 years, Laurie remains a humble bloke and, when asked why he supports, replied that the Brothers who educated him also inspired him.

The move of the Brothers to work in East Africa gave Laurie much hope as he was aware of the great need there.

He has made many good friendships through his support of ERFA. And says,

"When thinking about whether to support,

remember the start you were given and give something in return".

