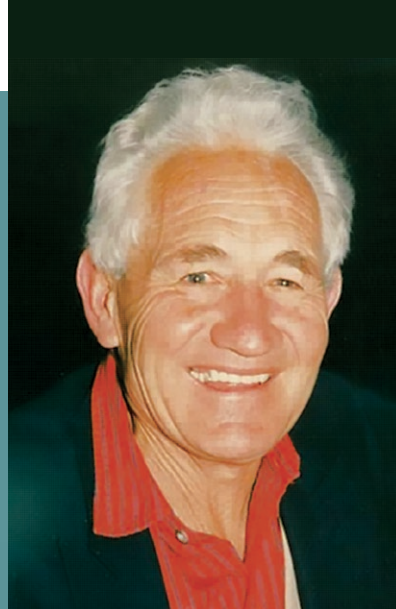


# VALE NOEL O'BRIEN



Noel O'Brien was an extraordinary supporter of ERFA from its inception in 1986. He was the founder of the 500 Supporters luncheons at the MCG.



Over 20 years ago, Noel began what grew into a most effective fundraising event with the twice annual luncheons, specifically for Christian Brothers' development projects in Africa. Over the years, many millions of dollars have been raised, which in more recent years have been devoted to the Ruben Centre, enabling the incredible work to continue.

Noel grew up in Essendon during the Great Depression. The Christian Brothers educated him without charge, for which Noel was forever grateful. While at school, he began selling peanuts at Saturday afternoon VFL matches, expanding his operation to many venues in Melbourne and later his enterprises nationally.

Through persistent hard work and effective networking, he became a successful businessman, specialising in hospitality.

Noel brought many with him with his charisma, intelligence and wisdom. Many a needy schoolboy earned some money at football matches working for Noel on Saturday afternoons. Noel was devoted to his wife, Carmel, and his 7 children. He was very generous and a great supporter of many good causes.

It was only at his funeral that the extent of his benefaction was understood. His support, given to so many of ERFA's works in Africa, was continuous and most memorable.

Noel visited projects in Tanzania and Kenya to see first-hand the issues and needs of people. Understanding that ongoing success of the many projects then being conducted by the Brothers would require more expertise, he enabled staff to receive further training. With his vision, Noel made a difference to a great number of lives. Never did he put himself at the centre of any donation, but rather the cause being advanced.

**He was truly humble.  
We are very grateful and will  
long remember this great man.**

*Rest In Peace.*

