

brotherhood action

Brotherhood of St Laurence

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SALVAGED AND RECYCLED

What does happen to the clothing we give the Brotherhood? Does everything have to be good quality? Do they really use it all?

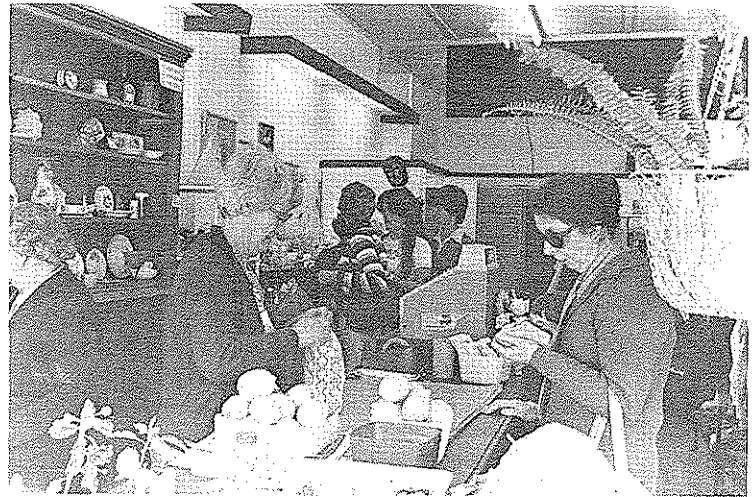
We are often asked these questions by people who are familiar only with the green Brotherhood trucks and perhaps one or two of our shops, and the answers involve quite a long story.

The Salvage Division was formed in 1958 to raise money for the Brotherhood's welfare services, and to provide second-hand clothing for people in need. The community was asked to donate their unwanted goods which would be

collected by our trucks on request. With careful planning, the Division has today become a large business, contributing over 10% of our total income. In the last few years, three separate divisions have been formed. Peninsula raises funds directly for G. K. Tucker Park, Carrum Downs; Geelong for St. Laurence Park, Lara; and Melbourne provides income for the Brotherhood's other welfare services.

In 1976 the combined profit of the three divisions was \$220,400, from a total of 19 retail outlets and a wholesale rag business. Melbourne Division alone this year received about 100,000 donations of goods and 250,000 customers in their shops.

How does all this happen?
After one of our voluntary



The Box Hill shop has proved a great success since it opened in October. Auxiliary member Mrs. Gwen Bunston helps a customer.

telephonists has taken a call, a truck collects the donation on the arranged day. It is taken back to our warehouse and carefully sorted into 'wearable' and 'non-wearable'.

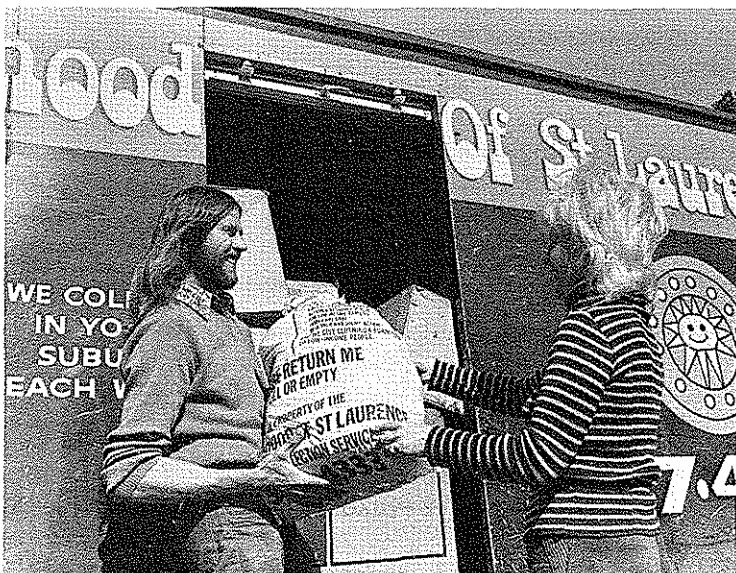
Some of the good quality clothing goes to our Fitzroy Material Aid Centre, to be given to those who cannot afford to buy. The rest, after cleaning, is distributed to the shops together with other household goods. The 'non-wearables' are then sorted into about forty different categories for sale to our wholesale rag market, developed only recently.

Two years ago, rag merchant Jerry Marshall decided to retire and give his business to the Brotherhood. Jerry came with the business, to teach our staff the intricacies of the rag trade, and ran it very successfully until his sudden

death in July this year.

Much of the 'rag' is in fact not used as rag, but is recycled. Men's jackets and trousers, for example, no longer wearable but made of wool, are exported to Italy, Spain and other countries where the fabric is teased, respun and blended with new wool. Other categories of rag are sold on the local market. These include soft cottons, used for polishing delicate machinery, and heavier cottons, used extensively by garages and industries.

Each Christmas the Brotherhood appeals to the community to clear out their cupboards. If you've just done this, and have given us your very old suit, you can be sure that the Brotherhood has benefited, and that perhaps a fashion-conscious Italian is wearing your recycled skirt or trousers.



Mrs. Kaye Humphrey of Brunswick gives her donation to Brotherhood truck driver Malcolm Shaw.