

LAURIE McIVER

The AUSTRALIAN AVIATION MUSEUM BANKSTOWN recognises the donation of the framework which contributed to the building of this Bellman Hangar for the display of aircraft and memorabilia. Planned for a new hangar for McIver Aviation, the framework was donated to the Museum by Laurie's wife, Paulette McIver, after Laurie's tragic death in a road accident. In recognition of Laurie McIver's involvement in so many facets of aviation, his love of aircraft and flying, and the esteem of pilots young and old, this Hangar was named the

LAURIE McIVER HANGAR on 16th February 2006.

Laurie McIver was a bird man, just naturally at home in the air. He could, and did, fly just about anything - from ultralights and gliders to medium and heavy multi-engine aircraft, not to mention helicopters of all breeds and sizes. He could walk out of one aircraft straight into the pilot's seat of another, and through the nature of his business he flew tens of thousands of hours of 'hazardous' operations. It is no surprise that he was not killed in an aircraft, for he never took unnecessary risks and treated aviation with respect. Laurie McIver's collision with a truck being driven on the wrong side of the road near Richmond, NSW, was a tragedy.

The typical version of an Australian, Laurie McIver was tall ('built like several yards of pump water'), laconic and with a broad smile under the typical peaked cap. He was an aviation instructor and examiner who was respected by all - an Aussie mate to those who knew him.

McIver Aviation was a company with many varied dealings in aviation. Laurie purchased a 1942 DC3 (VH-BPL) in a sad, sorry and cannibalised condition in Cairns and restored the aircraft to fly it to its new home at Hoxton Park, on the western edge of Sydney, thence to Camden for transport operations. In 1968 Laurie was giving endorsements on floatplanes when only he and a few others, such as Keith Robey, Tom Harrison and Jim Hazelton, knew anything about floatplanes. Relaxed and capable, he was a wonderful and respected teacher. In the mid 70's Laurie formed a helicopter business, his Jetranger VH AGL flying surveys of the gas pipeline from Newcastle to Canberra. Laurie McIver commuted to work from Sydney's north each day by helicopter, flying the city canyons as confidently as the mountains and the wide, red vastness of the outback.

'A Gentleman Pilot' 03.02.1944 - 14.07.1995