



The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust

Benefactor history - William Charles Frederick Thomas: 1863 - 1943

William Charles Frederick Thomas practised a very hands-on style of Methodism, as lived by his family. During his lifetime, Thomas was closely involved in the work of the Methodist Church and other charitable pursuits, for example in 1921 he became a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, the first Rotary Club in Australia.

Thomas was a prominent Australian businessman. He inherited and successfully grew his father's Victorian based flour mill and grain merchant business, W.C Thomas and Sons Pty. Ltd. In recognition of Thomas' service to the milling industry he was awarded the Order of the British Empire – Commander (Civil) [C.B.E.] in 1926 and was twice appointed the employers' representative by the Commonwealth Government of Australia at the International Labour Conference of the League of Nations in 1924 and 1930.

Beneficiaries

Thomas established the W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust in his Will. The aims of the trust are: “relief of poverty, advancement of religion, advancement of education, and such other purposes beneficial to the community as may be charitable though not falling under any of the preceding headings.”

The Trust was established with an initial bequest of approximately £100,000. Funds were first distributed to charitable causes in 1944 and today the Trust gives approximately \$150,000 per year. In addition, Thomas also left substantial bequests in his will to Orana Family Services and Uniting Church Beneficiary Fund.

The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust accepts grant applications from charitable organisations by invitation only. Mr. Ray Smith and ANZ Trustees are the trustees of the W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust.

Trust achievements

The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust has a long history of supporting charitable projects, predominantly in Victoria, with interests in: supporting people and children with disabilities, education and the needs of young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged. In the tradition of the benefactor, the Trust also supports Rotary International Humanitarian Projects.

The Trust has funded ground breaking projects including: The Young People in Nursing Homes Alliance, which influenced changes in the Government's support for suitable accommodation options for young people with acquired brain injuries; and seed funding for Leadership Plus, which supports and enhances the development of leadership skills for people with physical, cognitive, sensory and psychiatric disabilities. The trust also made a significant grant towards the building of the Timor-Leste embassy and cultural centre in Canberra.

ANZ Trustees

We are specialists in providing full granting advisory services and specialist investment services to the charitable sector, with over 100 years of successfully managing funds for private charitable foundations and not-for-profit organisations. We currently manage over \$1.3 billion on behalf of charitable foundations, trusts and not-for-profits, with funds ranging in size from less than \$50,000 to over \$150 million.

Our focus is on growing funds that can be distributed to charitable organisations and community projects to support lasting positive social change. Whether you're an individual wanting to create a lasting legacy or a not-for-profit with a goal for the future, ANZ Trustees can help you bring your vision to life, through our investment approach, charitable services and unparalleled granting expertise.

ANZ Trustees is a co-trustee and provides governance, investment and granting services for The W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust.

For Further Information please contact ANZ Trustees on:

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