

## **David Thomas/Thomas Foundation**

The Thomas Foundation was established in 1998 by David Thomas and his wife, Barbara. Initially, The Thomas Foundation focused on education, the arts and conservation. In the past three years, the Foundation has concentrated its support on conservation.

The Foundation adopts a strategic planning approach to its grant-making and considers its grants to be investments in forming social capital. The Foundation seeks to make things happen that wouldn't otherwise happen, and in doing so, seeks to encourage others to do the same.

This philanthropic vision grew out of David Thomas' entrepreneurial approach to business. David founded Cellarmasters in 1982, offering consumers quality wines delivered directly to their homes. Initially, Cellarmasters was established to run the American Express Wine Cellar in Australia. Today, it has more than a million customers in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the United States. It has grown to become the world's largest merchant of home-delivered wine. David sold the company to the Fosters Group in 1997.

David and Barbara have three children and four grandchildren, all of whom take an active interest in the foundation's work.