

Simon and Sandy Whittle – a planned gift for USC

BY TOM SNOWDON

SIMON WHITTLE is a lucky and rare breed – he was born, grew-up and has stayed on the Sunshine Coast. He was fortunate enough to get a job with his parent's paper, the Maroochydore Advertiser as it was known then, becoming the first ad manager for the Sunshine Coast Daily when it launched in 1980. Simon has witnessed many changes to the Coast over the years. When a university was proposed for the region he was thrilled.

"It became pretty clear to me very early on that this was the most significant thing to happen in my lifetime on the Sunshine Coast," says Simon.

Simon also concedes that it was, "a bit weird for someone like me, who was never been an academic and didn't go to university, but for some reason I've always loved universities."

The built structure, the landscaping, the buildings and the open spaces was what always drew Simon to universities.

Simon felt that the landscape of the planned site was a very high priority for Emeritus Professor Paul Thomas, USC's first Vice-Chancellor. He could see with the architects being employed to build the new campus that it was going to resemble the great universities Simon admired.

Simon says that he is proud of his early association with USC and enjoyed the time he had as a Council and Foundation Board member. "The graduation ceremonies were a great way to watch the University grow," Simon said.

Simon's wife, Sandy, a daughter of cane farmers in Maryborough, is a retired primary school teacher. The Whittles met through mutual friends and as Simon describes it, "Even though Sandy wasn't remotely interested in cricket, she came to watch me play", resulting in them marrying in 1991.

They have enjoyed living on the Coast and their friendship network is made up largely of people they have worked with in the volunteer sector.

When Simon and Sandy were first married, they created their Wills and as Simon grew older he became more involved in philanthropy and more comfortable talking about it. The Whittles see the enormous potential in leaving a bequest.



"As long as you talk to those involved and make sure partners and children are in the loop," adds Simon.

Simon and Sandy understand that a bequest can be transformative for an organisation and even a modest amount can make a big impact. They would like their bequest to support campus enhancement, protecting the landscape and nature reserve on which USC Sunshine Coast is located.

For many people, like Simon and Sandy Whittle, adding a charitable gift to their Will is one of the most powerful and enjoyable decisions they make. They know they have created a legacy that will have a lasting impact.

We encourage you to discuss your intended bequest with us and seek professional advice from a solicitor when planning your estate to ensure your wishes are expressed correctly. Please let us know if you have provided for USC in your Will so we may express our gratitude and keep you informed of the programs you care about. For any bequest enquiries contact Kate Evans on +61 7 5456 5136 or visit usc.edu.au/bequest

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The USC 1996 Society is a giving club that inspires conversations and action – not just about what is needed today, but about how philanthropists can shape and secure the future of higher education.

For more information about the USC 1996 Society contact Kate Evans on +61 7 5456 5136 or visit usc.edu.au/1996society