

**Media release from Tasman Valley 4WD & Argo Tours  
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**SEEnic tour at *Aoraki* Mt Cook gives back sight**

An Australian woman got far more than she bargained for last Saturday (1 October) when an Argo tour of Mt Cook's Tasman Valley, delivered much more than the promised adventure in a majestic environment.

Mrs Joan Gluer was travelling with her daughter when they decided to join a Tasman Valley Tours (4WD & Argo) in *Aoraki* Mt Cook National Park. Mrs Gluer (age 77) got bounced around a fair bit but loved the trip and just loved her tour guide (Graeme Slatter) who she nicknamed 'Handsome Harry' "I liked his moustache!"

But best of all, after returning to the Hermitage, she found she could see clearly from her bad eye which previously had very limited vision.

"We got a few spins in on the Argo and off we went over rocky terrain, up and down like yo-yos – lucky we had no milk!" said Mrs Gluer. "After the glacier walk that's part of the tour, Handsome Harry let me sit in the front – it was fabulous. We got back to the hotel and had a coffee and short rest. Then I realized, hang on a minute, I can see!"

"It was a bit like looking through a dirty window, but I could see. We don't know if it was the jolting about or not but it's just amazing for me... It didn't fix my hearing though."

Mrs Gluer's daughter Bernadette said her mother was almost crying with happiness that she could see. "I WAS crying with happiness," said Mrs Gluer.

Mrs Gluer's eye trouble started about three years ago when she lost 75% vision in her left eye. Following several uncomfortable procedures, including needles in her eye, her sight only improved to 50% vision with no centre (tunnel) vision. Further needle treatment was to be undergone after her return from New Zealand but that now seems unnecessary.

In layman's terms Mrs Gluer has blood blisters obstructing around one third of the back of her eye which cause black spots in her vision.

To test the newly found sight, the women went straight to see Mount Cook Magic, a 3D movie showing in The Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre at The Hermitage, (3D effects require vision in both eyes) and sure enough both eyes were working.

"I nearly jumped out of my skin a dozen times, I absolutely loved it," said Mrs Gluer who was able to see the full 3D effect clearly.

Several days later, Mrs Gluer and her daughter are in Dunedin and Mrs Gluer is still enjoying clear vision without the black spots.

"I really think we've fixed it. I think this is permanent and I'm delighted."

For more information visit: [www.mountcooktours.co.nz](http://www.mountcooktours.co.nz)

## **ENDS**

### **Photo captions (higher resolution available):**

- 1/. Tasman Valley 4WD & Argo tour guide Graeme Slatter with an Argo overlooking the Tasman Valley
- 2/. Argo tour guide Graeme Slatter driving alongside the Tasman Glacier Moraine Wall
- 3/. Joan Gluer at Aoraki Mt Cook

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### **More about Tasman Valley Argo & 4WD Tour**

A unique 4WD & Argo adventure with close-up views of the Tasman Glacier and its gigantic moraine walls. Your friendly guide is a real Mount Cook character, learn about the area and be entertained by their wealth of knowledge and local stories. A short walk to a vantage point overlooking the Tasman Glacier and Terminal Lake provides one of the most spectacular photographic opportunities in the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park.

ARGOs are 8 wheel all terrain vehicles capable of conquering virtually anything in their path including water, ice, deep snow and even steep mountain terrain in the most frigid of conditions making them ideal for our exploration of the rugged and beautiful Aoraki Mount Cook National Park.

Pick up and drop off is from The Hermitage Hotel. Check in required 20mins before scheduled departure at the Activities Desk located inside the lobby of The Hermitage Hotel. Purchase your ticket online or in person from the Activities Desk (due to limited availability pre bookings are recommended).