



OPTOMETRISTS  
ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA  
NEW SOUTH WALES

## ***Media information***

### **JOHN COHEN'S STORY**

John Cohen is a 55-year-old chartered accountant from Rose Bay in Sydney who believes he is lucky to still have his left eye following an incident involving an Octopus Strap while on holidays in New York in February this year.

John was securing snow skies to the roof rack of a four-wheel-drive when a Octopus Strap cord broke away from the hook on one side as it was being stretched across to the other side. The cord recoiled with such force that it cracked the hard contact lens he was wearing.

The impact left a hole in the middle of the contact lens, temporarily blinded John for several hours, and caused abrasions to his cornea. He suffered severe pain and undertook treatment involving antibiotics and drops, but fortunately, has no long-term damage to his left eye.

John Cohen believes he might have lost his eye if not for the large, hard contact lens he was wearing at the time.

He no longer uses Octopus Straps – replacing them with buckle-up non-elastic canvass straps. He warns those still using Octopus Straps to ensure they are not frayed and in good condition, particularly where the elastic cord joins the hook. John also recommends wearing safety glasses or some sort of mask or face protection.