

MABS MELVILLE  
AND HER LEGACY

WHAT DID YOUR  
DONATION DO?

NEW LIFE-SAVING  
EQUIPMENT!

MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE IN A LIFE

## Philanthropist invested in saving sight

Mabs Melville understood that saving and restoring sight is an expensive business. The best results come when we can expand the boundaries of knowledge, take advantage of technological break-throughs and ensure that emerging eye specialists and scientists can learn and contribute to new, improved techniques.

Over many years, Mabs Melville supported the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, helping us to invest in world-class eye treatment, research and medical education at the Sydney Eye Hospital.

In 2014, she left her final gift – substantial bequests to our Foundation and seven other charities.

This fine philanthropist will be sadly missed but not forgotten. She will be on our minds every time we award a Fellowship, fund a research project, purchase new equipment and contribute to education and training programs. Her legacy has strengthened our financial capacity to continue and extend our support for vital sight-saving treatment and research.

***She understood the importance of funding for eye health care from her own experiences with macular degeneration.***

Mabs was a very private person who never sought public recognition for her philanthropic work. One year, a boy knocked at her door selling raffle tickets to fund a boat for a local surf life saving club. Rather than buy tickets, she asked the boy how much they were trying to raise, then wrote a cheque for the full amount. When she later heard they had named the boat in her honour, she asked them to remove her name.

Born in New York in 1918, Mabs was deeply rooted in a strong philanthropic tradition inherited from her great grandfather, Ezra Cornell, a politician and co-founder of Cornell University. She outlived



three husbands, living in Honolulu for 20 years and moving to Australia in the course of her marriages. While living in Sydney, she supported a number of charities.

She made her final home in Macksville, New South Wales, from where she took a great interest in world events, the arts, language and technology, and local charities.

In one locally-famous act of philanthropy, Mabs responded to an approach from the Macksville RSL to support a young cricketer. She funded the young man's coaching for twelve months, including accommodation

in Sydney, and his first trip to India. That young man was Phillip Hughes.

Mabs used her fortune in thoughtful and generous ways, to help build community and support developments in medical care and research. For the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation, her foresight in making a provision for us in her will has enabled us to invest seriously in saving sight.

## Your donations do good work

The Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation thanks our generous donors, who made it an outstanding year.

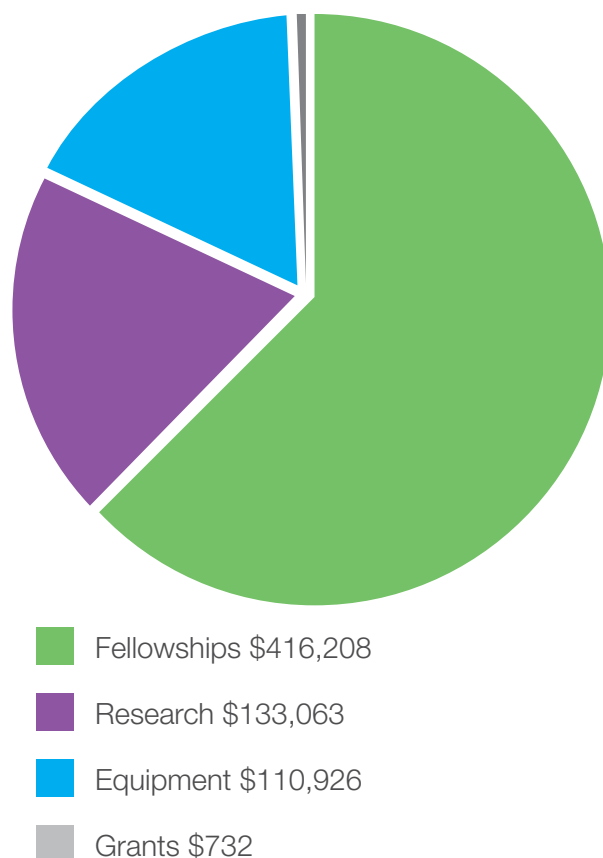
The clinical and research fellowships awarded by the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation in 2015 allowed 24 ophthalmologists to build skills and experience and push the envelope within the hospital, creating a more enriched and innovative environment.

The Foundation was able to allocate more than \$130,000 to essential research projects, including investigating keratoconus, the most common reason for corneal transplants in Australia.

Equipment worth more than \$110,000 was purchased for Sydney Eye Hospital, to keep it up to date with emerging technology, including supporting Keratoprosthesis and artificial iris implants, and glaucoma treatment.

**Did you know that you can direct your donation to an area that particularly interests you?** It's simple: just drop us a note along with your donation response slip indicating what area you would like to support. Whether it's Research, Fellowships or General Support, every area is critical to saving sight and providing the best possible eye care.

**Funding Breakdown  
for year 2015**



# Lumera 700 nearly ready to go

The new Lumera 700 retinal viewing system will be ready to use after Easter this year, its purchase made possible thanks to the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation's generous donors. Preparations have already been made to install this latest technology in the Sydney Eye Hospital's operating theatre.

The Lumera 700's brilliant illumination and powerful magnification make the delicate retina tissues more clearly visible during operations. The new technology will help surgeons to care for patients more safely and efficiently and will be particularly useful in emergency repair of retinal detachments. Surgeons will be able to see minute detail and the tiniest particles in the eye, which is extremely helpful when removing residue from bleeding inside the eye. The fully integrated system allows operations to be completed more quickly and without interruptions for equipment adjustments.



*Lumera 700*





## Making a difference in someone's life

A corneal infection lost Brian Barrie his left eye, but expert intervention by Sydney Eye Hospital ophthalmologists saved the sight in his right eye. He was thankful that the preserved sight allowed him to continue to drive and do things he loved.

During visits to the hospital, Brian became interested in the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation and explored ways that he could 'give back', as he told our staff, hoping he 'could make a difference in some small way to someone else's life'.

It turns out he could be making a big difference to a lot of lives.

He left a bequest to the Foundation, which we received after he passed away in 2014 at the impressive age of 92.

***His bequest is helping to fund the Sydney Eye Hospital's research into keratoconus, a major cause of visual impairment in Australia.***

It is a very common eye condition that results in a thinning and bulging cornea.

Researchers at the Sydney Eye Hospital have made break-through discoveries that have opened up new research into the causes of the disease. They are working on an idea that the problem lies in the cell communication and protein excretion in a layer of the cornea. Ultimately, uncovering the secrets of the disease will lead to new sight-saving treatments.

We thank Brian Barrie for his foresight and thoughtfulness – an act of generosity that could mean better treatment for thousands of Australians.



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All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible, a receipt will be sent to you shortly.

## YES! I Proudly Support the Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation

Please accept my gift of:

☐ \$50

☐ \$35

☐ \$100

OR My choice:  \$

☐ My cheque/money order is enclosed OR ☐ Please debit the amount above to my credit card:



We also accept donations online



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OR ☐ Please deduct \$  each month from my credit card until I advise otherwise.

Yes, I would like further information on (please tick)

☐ Bequests ☐ Planned Giving (eg: monthly) ☐ Volunteering

☐ I have already included Sydney Eye Hospital Foundation in my Will

**All cheques and money orders to be made payable to: SYDNEY EYE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION.**

**Thank you for  
your generosity**