

## From Newcastle to Tonga: Helping Build a Safe Haven

*Ready for Release*

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The people of Ha'Apai, Tonga, gained a new multipurpose community centre, a safe space where they could gather, celebrate, and take shelter during extreme weather. Jeff from Fin Windows & Doors travelled there on a self-funded aid visit to attend the centre's official opening and see the project he had helped contribute to in person. Fabricated in Newcastle and shipped across the ocean, the building featured Capral Aluminium Urban 281 double-hung windows with Amplimesh SupaScreen security screens, as well as the Urban Plus 397 Hinged Single and French Doors. The glass for the centre was generously donated by Tuffco Glass, while Assa Abloy contributed the door hardware, completing the building's fit-out.

Ha'Apai, like much of Tonga, is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, including powerful hurricanes that could devastate communities. The local residents needed a safe, multipurpose space where they could gather for daily activities, community events, and take shelter during storms. The project was ambitious, with just six months to design, fabricate, ship, and install a complete building capable of meeting these needs. Meeting this tight timeline required careful planning, strong collaboration, and the right materials.

To build the multipurpose community centre, Jeff selected a range of Capral Aluminium products designed for both functionality and durability, ideal for the job at hand. The Urban 281 Double Hung Window was chosen for its slimline profiles, neat appearance, and ease of operation. The windows were also compatible with the Amplimesh SupaScreen security system. Made from 316 Marine Grade Stainless Steel woven into a fine mesh, the system provided strong protection against cyclones while still allowing fresh air to flow through without letting in bugs or debris. On the deck side of the building, the Urban Plus 397 French Doors created a generous opening that connected the indoor space with the outdoor deck. Urban Plus 397 Single Hinged Doors were installed on the opposite side of the centre to provide additional access. Both options delivered a modern and timeless appearance along with reliable performance.

The new community centre in Ha'Apai made a meaningful difference for the local community. Officially opened by the Queen of Tonga and the Australian High Commissioner Brek Batley, the centre provided a safe, resilient space where residents could gather for events, meetings, and celebrations, and take shelter during extreme weather. "It was a humbling experience to see how much this building meant to the community," said Jeff. "Knowing that the windows and doors we fabricated in Newcastle were helping keep families safe and giving them a place to come together made all the effort worthwhile."

This project demonstrated the impact of collaboration, careful planning, and high-quality materials. From fabrication in Newcastle to installation in Ha'Apai, the community centre now stands as a lasting symbol of resilience and support, providing both practical shelter and a space for connection for the people of Tonga. **Products Used:**

- Urban 281 Double Hung Window
- Amplimesh SupaScreen
- Urban Plus 397 Hinged Door

## ENDS

Any questions or to request additional imagery or quotes please contact:

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