



"All in a day's work"

Meet Stasia Dabrowski

Known affectionately as 'the soup lady,' Stasia is a welcome and familiar figure in the streets of Canberra's central business district.

Week in and week out for more than a quarter of a century, she's been feeding and caring for Canberra's disadvantaged – the homeless, street kids and the drug and alcohol dependent.

"These people are my family," she says. "I do not judge anyone who comes to me because we are all in need of respect, love and kindness throughout our lives."

Respect is certainly something this tiny powerhouse has earned among the hundreds she cares for year in and year out. A typical day for Stasia starts at 6am when she makes her rounds by van to collect fresh vegetables, bread and other food from generous benefactors around the ACT. Then, home to the kitchen to make the life-sustaining soups and stews to feed her growing family.

The Polish born qualified nurse recalls her early days when all she had to work with was pots, pans and the bare ingredients to make soup. But, through persistence and hard work and with the help of local bakeries, markets and restaurants, Stasia has been able to increase her offerings to Canberra's needy. Each week, she prepares and gives away around 100 kilos of fresh soup and more than 1,000 rolls and loaves of bread.

Talk to people who have dined regularly with Stasia

Canberra International Airport Pty Ltd | ACN 080 361 548

2 Brindabella Business Park, ACT 2609

Telephone: **02 6275 2222** | Facsimile: 02 6275 2244

Editor: Ken Begg | Reporter: Sam Begg

Airport commissions major traffic study

Canberra International Airport is funding a key study into peak hour traffic flows on the major regional roads around the Airport.

Working with ACT Roads, the study is focusing on the origin and destination of vehicle movements to design a road system that resolves the current traffic delays.

The preliminary results reveal that much of the increase in early morning traffic is heading south from Gungahlin along Majura Road onto the Monaro Highway. This is resulting in major delays at the Majura Interchange where Majura Road and Fairbairn Avenue intersect with Queanbeyan traffic on Pialligo Avenue.

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, said that in the past 18 months, traffic on Majura Road had more than tripled from 5,000 to 16,000 cars a day.

Pialligo Avenue needed to be duplicated all the way to Civic and the intersections at Pialligo and near Duntroon had to be improved by the construction of additional lanes around the Majura Interchange. Both elements of these works had been funded in the ACT Budget in recent years, but unfortunately diverted to the Gungahlin Drive Extension.

Byron said the main reason for congestion was the sudden growth of traffic on Majura Road where single queue tail-backs of up to 4.5 kms were common between 8 and 9am. Traffic at this time is often delayed by 45 minutes for what should be a 2-3 minute journey.

The Airport is working closely with ACT Transport Minister, John Hargreaves, to try to remedy the situation. "The Minister is taking a pro-active approach and is keen to see major improvements delivered in line with an overall strategic Plan," Byron said.



Majura 'Hot Spots'

The Hub

Airport's Fast Forward to the Future

Canberra International Airport will make an immediate start on a \$50 million program to strengthen and extend its main runway for VIP and international operations.

This is the first major runway expansion in Australia since Sydney Airport's third runway was opened 20 years ago. It is a major upgrade to Canberra's runways, which are currently the shortest of any capital city in Australia.

The new works will:

- lengthening, to improve the national and international capabilities of the Airport and improve the performance of all aircraft departing Canberra, and
- strengthening, to enable the Airport to safely handle the increasing number of heavy aircraft – 747s and A340s – carrying VIP visitors to and from Australia.

"The lengthening program is critical to allow aircraft to fly at greater range. Longer range means greater fuel loads, and consequently the need for longer runways," said Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, "It also allows us to undertake a strengthening at the same time to accommodate VIP aircraft."

"The strengthening work will mean that there will be no effective limitations on the number of aircraft that will be able to come into Canberra and, in addition to that, they will be able to come under full-load conditions," Warren Truss, Minister for Transport and Regional Services, said at the announcement of the project. "In the past, 747 aircraft carrying foreign VIPs have been required to land in Sydney or Brisbane or some other port where passengers are transferred to smaller aircraft then onto Canberra."

Truss also announced that the Federal Government will contribute \$28.5 million to meet the cost of runway strengthening in order to accommodate the international VIP aircraft. These VIP aircraft strengthening works will go hand in hand with the Airport funded project to extend the main runway 600 metres to the south.

The runway lengthening is necessary for aircraft to fly to more distant destinations without having to "block out" seats. Aircraft do not perform so well on days with high temperatures. Currently longer range flights may not be able to operate out of Canberra at full passenger loads on days above 35°C because of insufficient runway length, making some routes commercially unfeasible. "This lengthening will ensure there is



Libyan VIP makes colourful entry to Canberra

virtually no limitation on available destinations" Byron said.

The runway strengthening was particularly important because Canberra will host the APEC meeting of world leaders next year. "We will have a large number of international visitors in Australia and it's entirely appropriate that our national capital ought to be able to welcome these people direct from their homeland," Truss said. "Because of the risk of permanent damage to the runway, safe operating parameters for the Airport currently restrict the number of landings of heavy aircraft. The strengthening of the pavement surface will ensure large aircraft can land safely at any time."

"This strengthening work will mean there will be no effective limitation on the number of aircraft that will be able to come into Canberra..."

Warren Truss, Minister for Transport and Regional Services.

"When Terry Snow purchased the Airport in May 1998 one of his visions was that it should serve Canberra and its national capital status. We are very pleased that with this sort of investment the Airport will be able to fulfill that vision." Byron said.

The lengthening will involve a 600m runway and taxiway extension to the south of the existing runway towards Pialligo Avenue. There will be no need for any change to Pialligo Avenue itself. The strengthening

of the runway and associated taxiways will require a series of asphalt overlays to a depth of 225mm.

Construction work will occur 6 nights a week between the hours of 10pm and 6am, minimising any inconvenience to the airlines. All works are scheduled for completion late this year.

"We are fully committed to this works program because it is fundamental to our region's future as a national and international destination," Byron said.



Non-stop services

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TERRY SNOW MADE A MEMBER IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA.

Piloting a 'safer future.'

Navigation aids at Canberra International Airport have been upgraded, with a major financial contribution from the Airport of \$262,000.

The Airport's Non Directional Beacon and Doppler VOR radio navigation aids were replaced with new generation equipment during December last year and January this year, says Airservices Australia.

"The new installations are part of Airservices Australia's upgrade program to sustain the ground-based navigation service at critical locations until transition to the Global Navigation Satellite System is completed around 2015," a spokesman said. The upgrade brings Canberra into line with similar installations around the country and ensures, among other things, reduced training requirements and routine maintenance inspections. It also enhances signal performance with a better quality service to pilots.

The new Non Directional Beacon has been re-located on the eastern side of the Airport. Following negotiations with the Departments of Defence and Environment, the new towers, antenna, shelter and equipment were installed and commissioned before Christmas. "This timing allowed the Doppler VOR upgrade to start early in January," the spokesman said.

The new Non Directional Beacon is a modern low-frequency radio transmitter with full radar control management system capability. It is used by pilots to track or 'home in' on an airport that is fitted with a Beacon using an automatic direction finder receiver.

The Doppler VOR is engaged by pilots to determine the direction of the aircraft from any position to or from the VOR. Airservices Australia says the Canberra Doppler VOR required new equipment including electronic racks, 49 antennas, and associated feeder cable and monitor antenna. "Airservices radio, electrical, mechanical and lines staff from Canberra International Airport completed installation of the new aids to a high standard and within tight timeframes," the spokesman said. "Airservices is pleased to continue working with the Airport to ensure all facilities provided maximum efficiency to airlines and the traveling public."



The new Non Directional Beacon



Airservices lays the foundation

Heightsafe

Maintaining a safe environment

Working at heights is a dangerous venture. Falling often results in serious injury and death. Maintaining a safe environment when working at height is an exacting and demanding business. It's what Heightsafe calls a 'niche business' and, if anyone "knows the systems," this new business enterprise does.

Having worked on iconic projects like the Sydney Opera House, the New Parliament House flagpole and the Snowy Mountains Hydro Project, Heightsafe's partners, Rodney Heart, Mark Lewis and Jon McQuade quickly realised the potential and need for a business that specialised in height training and safety compliance. And, when approached by Canberra based Construction Control last July to run a series of height safety courses for all workers on their jobs, they grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

"There are a lot of unaccredited people out there, so we decided to design a course that is solid in theory and best practice and provides practical hands-on training," Jon McQuade said. "Between us, my partners and I have over 50 years experience in the business so our courses are designed to provide peace of mind and empower people to make informed decisions about height safety."



John McQuade shows trainees the ropes

Established in 2004, Heightsafe:

- Provides systems management for companies with people working at height
- Brings the best of global research and technology to the Australian workforce
- Openly disseminates information to the benefit of any Australian that may be exposed to risk at height
- Assists Australian companies in creating a sustainable culture of zero harm at height.

Heightsafe has national expansion plans for their business and the partners recently traveled to the UK where they equipped themselves with the latest industry knowledge.

Heightsafe's Fairbairn base has a lecture room for theory training, a central hall for equipment and ropes and an external construction site where trainees are given a hands-on induction of their newfound skills.

Order of Australia 'a Humbling Experience'

Terry Snow has been made a member in the General Division of the Order of Australia.

Announced in the Australia Day Honours list, the Order recognises his service to the building and construction industry, the redevelopment of Canberra International Airport and his charitable work through the Snow Foundation.

Snow says that receiving the Order was a humbling experience. So too was the invitation after the disastrous 2003 Canberra bushfires from the former head of the Chief Minister's Department to join the ACT Bushfire Recovery Task Force.

With a reputation for getting things done, Snow said the experience of working with the public sector was positive. "They did an amazing job. They took responsibility and got on with the job in a way that was most caring and most efficient. Senior public servants were brilliant in sorting out insurance problems and organising counselling. No task was too difficult. The community owes all of them a debt of gratitude."

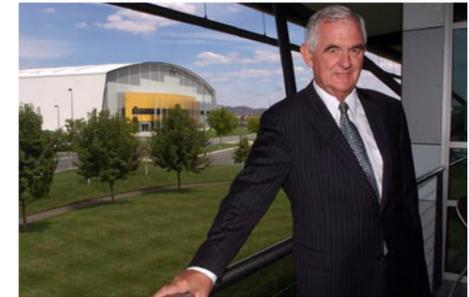
The redevelopment of Canberra International Airport was a key component of Snow's Order of Australia. More than 3,000 people worked at the Airport and a new terminal currently on the drawing board would be "a sensational addition." Also, Snow said the Brindabella Business Park was one of his proudest achievements. It rewarded him each day with a sense of joy and accomplishment.

The Order of Australia also recognises the generous and wide-ranging role of the Snow Foundation. Set up with brother George in 1990, the Foundation has directed more than \$1.4 million to more than 80 different organizations and individuals throughout the ACT and region. The Foundation has helped employ part-time medical specialists, the purchase of vital medical supplies; wheelchairs for the disabled;

helping youth at night on Canberra's streets, wigs for the Cancer Council, circus stunts to help children with balance and movement; art supplies for the Painting with Parkinson's Program; kitchen utensils for the blind; sleep monitors, sofas, bobcats and bikes.

"If you see someone struggling, you offer them a helping hand. That was the way I was brought up. It's no great sacrifice on my part. I help because I can," he said.

Snow said he was delighted to share the honour with many of his friends and colleagues.



Terry Snow AM

Caltex Manages New Airport Fuel Farm

Canberra International Airport's newest investment in aviation infrastructure was formally opened on Wednesday, 1 March.

It's a state-of-the-art underground aviation fuel farm. Built at a cost of \$5.5 million, it replaces the soon to be demolished above ground fuel tanks off Nomad Drive. Boasting a total of 550,000 litres of aviation fuel, the farm will operate 24 hours a day. Formally opening the new facility, Caltex Aviation Manager, Roman Tarnawsky, said: "Caltex are happy to be associated with Canberra International Airport in this exciting new venture. We look forward to providing even better levels of service to our customers from this secure new facility."

Congratulating Caltex, Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, said the fuel farm was 'the heart and lungs' of the Airport and must be able to cater for future growth. "It will play a vital role servicing the new heavy aircraft that will visit Canberra after our runway works are finished later this year."

The investment also reflected the Airport's growing, robust confidence in the future of the region, he said. "For reasons of security, we established the fuel farm airside. This means that fuel trucks delivering to aircraft will remain within the safety of the airside fence at all times. This approach is not only safer but it eliminates hundreds of unnecessary vehicle movements each week."

The fuel farm has five tanks buried deep underground

and operates under strict environmental controls. Encased in two layers of protective material, the tanks are fitted with sophisticated electronic equipment to monitor for leaks.

The fuel farm will significantly improve operations for the Airport's general aviation community. A new 20,000-litre tank, constructed at the end of the GA apron will operate around the clock and accept aero-refueling cards and credit cards. "This too is a major step forward in terms of fuel accessibility and availability," said Byron.



Airport MD, Stephen Byron, with Peter Wain and Caltex Aviation Manager, Roman Tarnawsky

Airport's fair cop

Canberra International Airport was the launch pad for a major new \$150 million counter terrorism initiative by the Federal Government and the Australian Federal Police.

Justice Minister, Senator Chris Ellison, and Federal Police Commissioner, Mick Keelty, chose the Airport's central terminal to announce the appointment of new Airport Police Commanders at major Australian Airports, including Canberra International Airport.

Commissioner Keelty said Police Commanders had started work in their new roles overseeing crime and security matters at 11 Counter Terrorism First Response Airports around the country.

"For the traveling public, the appointment of these new Commanders means a simpler and more streamlined approach to airport security and, ultimately, safer and more secure airports," he said.

A key part of their responsibilities will be the coordination of all Commonwealth, State and Territory law enforcement agencies operating within airport precincts. They will also liaise directly with airport operators and all businesses associated with safeguarding airports

Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron, welcomed the appointment of AFP Commander Steve Collins to Canberra and said he looked forward to working closely with him and his team.



Justice Minister Chris Ellison and AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty and the new Airport commanders