



'I never wore togs or went swimming with my kids. It was horrible'



PHOTOS: WINE CLARE

Mum-of-two Vanessa mortgaged her house to pay for a tummy tuck

weeklypeople

GO FIGURE

VANESSA CRAIG THE \$14,000 WOMAN

Mortgaging her home to pay for a tummy tuck was money well spent, according to mum-of-two Vanessa Craig.

Slim most of her life, Vanessa gained a whopping 38kg – going from 69kg to 107kg – when she started having her children 10 years ago.

And although she eventually lost all the weight, the Wellington office manager was left with a bulging flab of excess skin around her stomach – a sight that made Vanessa unhappy and self-conscious.

"I hated looking at myself in the mirror. I never wore togs, always wore long tops and never went swimming with my kids. It was horrible."

But more than two years ago, Vanessa decided to mortgage her home to fund the \$14,000 tummy tuck to get rid of her excess skin – a surgery performed by her local plastic surgeon John Masters.

"I walked into John's office and when I asked him about getting a tummy tuck,

he couldn't understand why I was there.

"Then I showed him my tummy and he said no amount of diet and exercise would get rid of it."

Seeing Vanessa wearing a skimpy bikini to pose for our photographer, it's hard to imagine that she once dreaded showing her body in public.

But she says her decision to mortgage her house in order to have the procedure is one of the best things she has ever done – not only to feel more confident about herself but, more importantly, to be able to do more with her children.

"I just love it. I now have five bikinis and have no problem getting in the pool with my kids."

BEFORE SURGERY

