



WILD & SNEAKY ART® FESTIVAL
let your inner artist sneak out

Generosity and creativity sneaks out into wild and sneaky couch rescues... and keeps on giving

This is a story of domino kindness, generosity and collaborative creativity. It's about how one act of generosity can inspire another.

Craig and Michelle Hunwick's daughter, Bo, received life-saving treatment at Starship Hospital. As a result of this she is now a happy, smiling 3-year-old. Craig and his team from Nyberg and Nelson Upholstery generously agreed to let their highly creative inner upholsterers sneak out, upholstering a couch as part of WASA!® 2010 Wild and Sneaky Art Festival. Award winning interior designer and WASA!® director, Julia Kelly, went wild with the couch design which everyone loved, also at no charge.

WASA!® wanted to acknowledge Craig's generosity, so Julia swung into action and raffled the couch to raise funds for The Starship Foundation. \$530 was raised for The Starship Foundation during WASA!® Festival Week 2010.



From wildly manky to magnificent: the couch, Julia and the money raised for Starship

A very delighted 4-year-old Bindi is now the proud owner of the gorgeous WASA!® couch. The couch has gone from being abandoned and left to die down in a back garden by three successive families to a wildly funky, colourful gorgeous piece of furniture that now resides proudly in the rooftop apartment of Bindi's family. Her Dad, Ajay, from the Mid City Motor Lodge said that Bindi felt like she had won the lottery – and her Mum, Rhonda, said she would probably want to sleep on it tonight.

We should add that the couch was very sought after, with one person buying 10 tickets in the hope of getting it (...we would like to say sorry you didn't win to Katrina from More FM! Despite her disappointment in not winning the couch, she generously offered to call up the lucky winner live on the air).

The WASA!® crew found it a little difficult to get five people and a couch into the elevator at once, however, it was totally worth it to be able to deliver the ultimate Christmas surprise to Bindi, send a cheque to The Starship Foundation and know the couch will be well loved.

Clearly, the moral of the story if you are a couch is that even if you are abandoned in a garden and filled with beer bottles and it seems like nobody gives a damn – don't give up! You might just be the next centrepiece for an event and there is always someone out there who will love you!!!!!!!

Official Couch Statement!

Meet Julia Kelly – dynamic, highly creative WASA!® director and moving lounge visionary – and the incredibly generous, talented team at Nyberg Nelson Upholstery. This is the Cinderella story of wildly wonderful couchy proportions.

A three times previously abandoned manky, lamb's poo (or mustard coloured, for the more delicately inclined), draylon garden party couch of some 30 years of age (120 in human years) had been left for dead in Kim and Biscuit's garden.



The three times previously abandoned couch of some 30 years of age

It was set to return to the earth heaven as compost and non- biodegradable bits. That is until a curious turn of fate saw it rescued, like an SPCA animal, by the Nyberg Nelson Upholstery Julia Kelly Ambulance and brought back to life. It has now manifested and been magnificently refurbished into the WASA!® Nyberg Nelson Upholstery Julia Kelly Designer Couch.

Firstly, we like the term WASA!® couch because, as we said, it WASA only just *a couch* when it was found. However, it is now completely rejuvenated inside and out and we think it fitting that it should become one of the Cinderella stars of WASA!®.

It's also symbolic of the kind of transformation that happens within us when we express more of our unique creativity and worry less about what others think; A.K.A let our creative magnificence sneak out. And it's never too late to do this.

The Nyberg Nelson Julia Kelly Upholstery Ambulance was dispatched on a cold, windy morning to Kim and Biscuit's garden. The couch presented with a range of manky symptoms; including a number of old beer and wine bottles falling out of the bottom, a somewhat rickety frame with a couple of castors abandoning ship and falling off with a clunk-clunk as it was stretchered onto the truck and various hitchhiking worms and slaters.

Back at Nyberg Nelson, team member John looked at the sad and maltreated couch with shock and horror. This was, after all, not your everyday couch refurbishing job... what were they thinking? Craig, his boss, assured him that this couch wasn't terminal; it could be saved and wasn't destined to RIP as a composting party couch and empty bottle rubbish tin.

Ever resourceful Julia, an award winning interior designer of much repute who had been instructed by the WASA!® team that the budget was fairly tight (aka non-existent), set about looking for fabric scraps that could be used to WASA!® the couch at minimal cost. When Craig generously said, "Why are you messing about? Have what you want!"

A beaming and highly appreciative Julia grabbed an arm load of samples, marshalled her visionary skills and headed back to incorporate as many bright WASA!® colours as she could into the old couch. Her teenage daughter, Bronte, added the appropriate style guidance (as only teenagers can) and a bright and stunning colour choice was made.



The magnificent Nyberg Nelson Upholstery Julia Kelly WASA!® couch rejuvenated

Julia is used to being called by upholsterers and furnishers when the unexpected happens during the normal furnishing process. So when she received the call from John at Nyberg and Nelson Upholsters two weeks later to come and have a peek, she was wondering if she would have to rethink things – especially given the state of the couch and John’s face when he first saw it. To her great surprise, Julia arrived to see a beaming John who said, “I want you to see this, it just looks amazing! We love it and it’s been so much fun to do. Heaps of people have commented on it. We would like to do this kind of thing all the time.”

That part made founding WASA!® Director, Nickola Blunt, smile. That is what WASA!® is all about – giving people permission to let their creativity sneak out. There is nothing quite like the satisfaction of seeing the fun people have with it and the amazing outcomes when they collaboratively domino their creativity.

Craig and John had taken the couch from RIP manky to magnificent and, even more amazingly, they had offered to do it for free. At this point there was a discussion about how the couch generosity could be repaid. Craig said he wanted very little, except that it would be great if the couch were raffled afterwards, and the proceeds donated to Starship Hospital. When Craig and Michelle daughter, Bo, was 18 months old she developed a life threatening heart condition. Being able to stay at Ronald McDonald House made a huge difference. She may not even be alive today if it was not for Starship Hospital.

So this gorgeous and vibrant couch with its strong new frame and feet has been raffled off after WASA!® for \$5.00 per ticket, with all money going to The Starship Foundation.

Craig said he is looking forward to doing an even more amazing wild and sneaky upholstered master piece next year.



More on Bo from Michelle, her Mum

As discussed, Bo was born with a rare congenital heart abnormality known as TAPVD, as well as Cor Triatriatum, neither of which were picked up until she was 18 months old. She was pretty sick when she finally got referred to the Nelson paediatric department.

Our appointment was on a Wednesday afternoon at which Bo was booked in for a day of tests on the Friday to find out what was wrong with her. The first test they did was an echo on her heart and found the Cor triatriatum.

The next day we were air ambulated up to Starship hospital where they found the TAPVD. The following Thursday she was being operated on and the Wednesday after that (Christmas Eve) we were flying home.

It was a pretty traumatic experience, but having Ronald McDonald house there took so much of the pressure off us. It is a wonderfully positive place run by fantastic people, which is why we want to give something back to them so that other families in a similar position to us can benefit from it too.

Since the operation, Bo has completely recovered, requiring no further surgery or treatment. Apart from the big scar down her chest, you would never know what she's been through as she is just a normal, cheeky little girl!!

Below are links about TAPVD & cor triatriatum in case you want to know more about it – it is the first time I have really researched TAPVD and never knew that 80-90% of babies with this die before they reach 1 year old if they're not operated on. No wonder they were so amazed by Bo getting to 18 months without it even being picked up!

TAPVD: http://www.bristol-inquiry.org.uk/final_report/annex_a/chapter_3_25.htm

Cor triatriatum: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cor_triatriatum

