

Media release

Vesna strikes back – with 108 Wanjina Watcher flowers

Failed attempt to relocate the *Wanjina Watchers in the Whispering Stone* sculpture in Katoomba, the City of Art Censorship

On Friday 5 August 2011, ModroGorje owners Vesna and Damir Tenodi attempted to comply with the Land and Environment Court decision to uphold the Blue Mountains council order and to relocate the *Wanjina Watchers in the Whispering Stone* 8.5 ton sandstone sculpture by Benedikt Osváth from the front lawn of the ModroGorje Gallery at 71 Lurline Street, Katoomba, Blue Mountains, to the back of the house.

The house is now leased out, and the owners were prevented, by the tenant and a group of objectors, from complying with the court order.

Vesna said, “The order was to remove the sculpture from its Lurline street position. Even though we completely disagree with this blatant case of enforced censorship, we decided to temporarily move the sculpture to the back of the house, until we find a more permanent solution.

“We had to call the managing agent, the council, and the police. They were unable to obtain the tenant’s co-operation, but made a note of our attempt to comply with the order.”

With the truck and the crane waiting for 1.5 hour, Vesna and 12 supporters of the DreamRaiser project were planting 108 Wanjina Watcher flower-like sticks, representing sacred Wanjina symbols. The event was called **“Wanjina spirits are reaching for every Aboriginal heart”**.

But soon an angry group of objectors rushed to pluck them out, throwing them onto the footpath.

“The council worker was very hostile towards us, refused to take note of the slanderous graffiti on the front wall, and just watched the objectors throwing our Wanjina flowers onto the footpath.

“All this defies logic – for a year and a half the objectors were demanding that we should remove the sculpture from our Lurline street front yard. Now, when we tried to do that, they created such an ugly scene. This caused us a lot of distress, as well as considerable expense, and waste of time and effort.”

