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**Media Contact:**

## **New Public Art Project Celebrates Wollongong's Migrant Community**

Commissioned by Wollongong City Council, with contributions from many local businesses, artist Nerine Martini has created a series of sculptural artworks that celebrate and honour the contribution that migrants have made to the social, cultural and economic fabric of the City of Wollongong.

The *Migration Project* comprises two separate artworks. Constructed mainly from steel, the artworks reference the industry and business that many of the migrants helped to establish in the Wollongong area. In addition to the funding from Wollongong City Council, many businesses have generously contributed in-kind support to the fabrication and installation of this project, celebrating the continuing contribution migrants make to the City of Wollongong.

- *The Boat* is a contemporary landmark sculpture expressing the symbol of an elevated boat form constructed from stainless steel and corten (rusted) steel. The symbol of the boat is a compelling reminder of the journey that migrants have made in search of a better life. The 4m long stainless steel skeletal boat form is elevated on rusted steel I-beams which evolve into ladders more than 5 meters in the air. The base of the sculpture is made from granite stone tiles etched with evocative stories and images adding a further layer of meaning to the artwork.
- *Dwellings*, is three corten steel artworks mounted on beautiful recycled ironbark timber posts. These works reflect the story of humble beginnings, hard work and contribution to family and community life.

***The Migration Project is currently under construction at George Dodd Reserve, Wollongong and will be launched on the 23 January 2015 (TBC).***

### **About the Artist**

Nerine Martini has more than 20 years experience as a practicing visual artist and holds a Master of Fine Arts from COFA, UNSW. Nerine is regularly commissioned to create public artworks; her sculptures are located in Canberra, Katoomba in the Blue Mountains, Blacktown and Glenwood in Western Sydney and Hue, Vietnam.

In addition to solo and group exhibitions, Nerine's work has been selected for major prizes including Sculpture by the Sea on five occasions and the Blake Prize 2005 & 2012. She has won several awards including the People's Choice Award for the Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Awards, 2008.

For more information on the artist visit [www.nerinemartini.com](http://www.nerinemartini.com)