

# Geraldton goes Wajarri

A city revitalises its endangered Aboriginal language

The slow extinction of the languages of the Aboriginal people, persecuted and exploited by Australia's "civilised" conquerors, was until recently the declared goal of the colonial power. In Geraldton, a harbour city on the continent's west coast, Wajarri is the main Aboriginal language – albeit spoken fluently by less than 50 persons.

The project aims to give the language a larger forum by smuggling Wajarri into the city's public spaces. Geraldton's residents were invited to adopt a Wajarri word and special T-shirts featuring the imprinted word functioned as a communicative signal. This shall not only put a halt to the vanishing of a language but also serve as a reminder of the ongoing repression Australia's indigenous population are still exposed to.



Community-based project, Geraldton, Western Australia 2014/15

Video-Link: <https://vimeo.com/pialanzinger/geraldton-goes-wajarri>

*spaced 2: future recall*, Perth, Western Australia 2013-15

Exhibition of *spaced 2* at the Western Australian Museum, Perth 2015

