

RESEARCH INFORMATION LETTER v12.5.21

Caretaker of Lost Selves (View from the Magpie's Nest 2021)

April 2021

Dear participant/ guardian,

Thank you for your interest in this research project. The purpose of this document is to provide you with an overview of the study and what is required of you if you choose to participate. Please read the information carefully and feel free to ask for further explanation.

Due to your intended involvement in *Caretaker of Lost Selves (View from the Magpie's Nest 2021)* as an elder, community participant, cultural consultant, project coordinator or professional artist would like to invite you to provide information about your experience across the duration of this project.

Participation in this research is voluntary and you should feel under no pressure to take part if you do not wish to do so.

1. Purpose of research

The purpose of the research into the *Caretaker of Lost Selves (View from the Magpie's Nest 2021)* is to primarily contribute towards my PhD research. In gathering information from you and reflecting on the creative component of the program, I will be able to address questions surrounding engaging with diverse stakeholder groups within a single community singing project. It is hoped the research will provide an in-depth analysis of the project allowing all collaborating organisers the opportunity to improve practices of singing and intercultural community engagement within the Great Southern. This research may also be included in my future publications and presentations.

2. Background

The *Caretaker of Lost Selves (View from the Magpie's Nest 2021)* project has been in development since late 2018 by Breaksea Incorporated led by me (Matt Ward) with support from the Vancouver Arts Centre. As the Creative Director, it is important to me that an examination of the project takes place to ensure the continuous development of, and improved success of my community singing programs. In the capacity of a PhD Candidate at Edith Cowan University, this is an exceptional opportunity to study the course of a community singing project from the first devising workshops to final full performance.

3. Funding

This research project is not supported by funding.

4. What is required of research participants?

Depending on your role in the project you will be invited to contribute information in two or more of the following methods.

4.1 Surveys

There will be two surveys, one before the start of the project and one after the final performance. In the anonymous online surveys you will be asked to provide answers to 17 multiple choice questions and your opinions surrounding *Caretaker of Lost Selves (View from the Magpie's Nest 2021)*.

Surveys will be distributed by email invitation. By following the included link, you will be able to complete the anonymous survey. Please note, your personal details are not linked to your completed survey answers.

4.2 Focus Groups

In the focus group, you will be asked your opinions surrounding *Caretaker of Lost Selves (View from the Magpie's Nest 2021)*. Focus groups will be audio recorded and your name will not be attached to the recorded interview and transcripts. Please note that if film is collected it will only be used to transcribe the conversation and not for distribution.

Focus groups will be conducted in the large meeting room at the Vancouver Arts Centre, 85 Vancouver St, Albany WA 6330.

If this venue does not suit your needs, please advise and a mutually agreed location can be arranged.

Focus groups will run for roughly 60 minutes.

4.3 Interviews

In the interview, you will be asked your opinions surrounding *Caretaker of Lost Selves (View from the Magpie's Nest 2021)*. Interviews will be audio recorded and your name will be attached to the interview. Please note that if film is taken it will be for archive and transcription purposes only and not for public distribution.

If you would prefer to contribute towards this research on an anonymous basis please select this option in the consent form. If you change your mind later, it will possible to remove your name from the interview transcript. In order to do so you must notify me at the time of interview or in writing after the interview. Please note that due to your profile in the community, in this project and the limited number of interviewees I cannot guarantee full anonymity even if your name is removed. If you desire to participate in this research project with full anonymity, I recommend we discuss an alternative manner for you to contribute information.

Interviews will be conducted in the large meeting room at the Vancouver Arts Centre, 85 Vancouver St, Albany WA 6330. If this venue does not suit your needs, please advise and a mutually agreed location can be arranged.

Interviews will take between 30-40 minutes.

4.4 Post Workshop Expression Worksheets

At regular intervals throughout the project you will be provided with an opportunity to record your experiences as part of the program. Each workshop participant (13 years of age and older) and professional workshop leader will be provided with a simple worksheet asking for a quick entry. This entry may take the form of text or image, that is up to the discretion of the participant.

Worksheets will be retained by the chief researcher and you have the option of entering your name on the worksheet, or to submit it anonymously. These submissions may be quoted or reproduced in the final thesis.

4.5 Researcher journal and observations.

Community participants will not be identified by name.

Professional artists will be identified by name, unless a special arrangement is made in writing.

Data relating to minors will be recorded in a non-identifiable manner. References to names and identifiable physical appearances will be omitted. Characteristic behaviour and or experiences may be recorded due to the nature of the nature of the research questions related to participant experience and effect.

5.5 Audio recorded and filmed workshops and performances.

Audio and film recordings of workshops and performances will be collected and form part of the creative portfolio accompanying the final PhD exegesis. Professional artists and community participants are likely to be identified in these outputs. This is standard with most performance programs, where recorded material of the creative process and performance is publicly distributed post project.

Some minors will not be able to be identified in image or film, and therefore will not be recorded. I will work with schools to ensure these individuals are not identified.

5. Registration and Consent

To participate in the research project you will be required to complete an online consent form or sign a hard copy. An online link will be provided to you via email. A hard copy version of the consent form will also be attached to the email for you to print if you wish. In addition, copies will be available for collection from the City of Albany's Vancouver Arts Centre (Vancouver Street, Albany, 6330, WA). This consent form also doubles as a participant registration form for the project and will ask you to complete personal details such as name, contact details and some basic demographic details. The Registration and Consent form is valid for the full duration of the project.

Minors will require a carer/ guardian to sign the form on their behalf.

The consent form will ask you to choose if you would like your name attached to some of the information you provide via focus groups, interviews and journals.

6. Participant reimbursement for involvement in research

No reimbursement or financial provisions are available to participants. Taking part in the research is on a voluntary basis only.

7. Risks, discomfort and inconvenience to participants

No great risks will be experienced by participating in this research. Due to the nature of the themes explored in this research project and the large number of participants involved you may experience discomfort or mild distress. If this occurs, you are welcome to withdraw from the research process at any time. No explanation will be required.

The time commitment may pose an inconvenience to some research participants.

Participants are expected to modify their physical activity when involved in singing and movement workshops to ensure personal injury does not take place. Participants may also be asked to refrain from sharing some stories with the workshop group if it is identified as a risk to the psychological wellbeing of other participants.

Guardians of minors in the 13-16-year-old group attending some community workshops, will need be collected from the workshop by a guardian/ carer. No minors in this group will be permitted to leave the workshops with other minors or by themselves. It is the responsibility of the carer/ guardian to ensure these satisfactory transport requirements.

The chief researcher and professional workshop facilitators all hold current working with children checks. Carers/ Guardians are welcome to view proof of these checks at any point.

8. Benefits

Your views and opinions are important. As a valued member of the Great Southern community, providing feedback about this project will help contribute to more successful future projects which you may participate in.

9. Intended use of research data

Collected data may be employed in the publication of my PhD, future publications and presentations.

10. Ethical Considerations

This research has been approved by the Edith Cowan University Ethics Committee.

As Chief Researcher I am working closely with the Vancouver Arts Centre and local elders (including Eliza Woods and Rachael Colmer) to ensure this research is both respectful and sensitive to persons of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. This research does not discriminate against anyone based on race or racial origin.

11. Data access and security

Please be advised that only the researcher and named supervisors will have access to the collected data.

The prospective research publication will be employed in as an integral part of my future PhD research.



Future data access is also restricted to the researcher and named supervisors. Data will be stored in the secure online ECU server as directed by the ECU Ethics Committee.

Data will be retained for a period of time determined by the youngest participant reaching the age of 25.

12. Participant withdrawal

As a survey participant, it will not be possible to remove any of your answers or comments after the completion of the survey. Information provided in a focus group, interview or via an identified journal may be retracted. Please provide me with written intent of your withdrawal listing all forms of data collection you were a part of.

13. Participant access to published results

Should you require an update as to the progress of this research please contact me after the 31th of December 2021.

Mr. M. Ward,
Mobile: 0490855982
Email: mward2@our.ecu.edu.au

14. Questions and further information

Prospective interviewees will be contacted in person by the Chief Researcher.

Should you have any questions or require additional information concerning the research at any time, you may contact the following persons. We would be more than happy to assist you.

Chief Investigator:

Matthew Reuben James Ward
Mobile: 0490855982
Email: mward2@our.ecu.edu.au

Principal Supervisor:

Dr Helen Rusak
Telephone: 63046160
Email: h.rusak@ecu.edu.au

Supervisor:

A/Prof. Jonathan Paget
Telephone: 9370 6404
Email: j.paget@ecu.edu.au

Edith Cowan University Research Ethics Officer:

If you wish to speak to an independent party, you may contact the research ethics officer.



waapa

Edith Cowan University

Telephone: 6304 2170

Email: research.ethics@ecu.edu.au

Thank you very much for your interest in this research.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Reuben James Ward (PhD Candidate Edith Cowan University)

Mobile: 0490855982

Email: mward2@our.ecu.edu.au

15. Complaints

The Human Research Ethics Committee at Edith Cowan University requires that all participants are informed that, if they have any complaint regarding the manner, in which a research project is conducted, it may be given to the researcher or, alternatively to the Human Ethics Research Officer, Human Ethics Research Committee, Edith Cowan University, 100 Joondalup Drive, Joondalup, WA 6027 (Tel: 6304 5655, Email: research.ethics@ecu.edu.au).

All study participants will be provided with an electronic or hard copy of the Research Information Letter for their personal records.