

Participant information sheet

Narrative and perceptions of the land in a rural Queensland community.

The purpose of this study:

This research project aims to provide a better understanding of rural Australians' relationship with place and with the land, particularly how rural Australians define, interpret, and respond to environmental and weather events. It examines how community members in North West Queensland and Outback Queensland more broadly express narratives about life on the land or in rural townships. This includes how people may invest places with stories or memories and how people relate to the environment after major climatic events. It also investigates the relationship between literary or media representations of "the bush" and contemporary lived experience.

This research seeks to contribute to understandings of rural Australian culture, rural resiliency, and weather events. Possible applications may be cultural heritage, community welfare, natural disaster response, and oral history.

What is involved:

I am interested in your experiences and views of the environment, your knowledge of the local region, and any stories ("bush yarns") you might know. I would like to speak with you for about one hour or two hours, though we may talk for longer if you would like to. In this time, I would also like you to show me around your home, property, or workplace; I'm interested in seeing places that might be special to you, have a story attached to them, or show traces of past weather events.

I would also like to participate in, observe, and take notes on everyday activities around the community, including on cattle stations and properties. This is so that I can gain a better understanding of everyday life in a rural community.

I may take audio recordings, photographs, or films so that I can later review what we've spoken about or what I've seen. If you are not comfortable with this, please don't hesitate to tell me and I'll make changes accordingly. If this is that case I may take handwritten notes instead.

Your participation in this project ensures that a range of views and experiences are included in the study. I encourage you to speak without fear of judgement. There is a risk that the process of the interview may bring up experiences that upset or distress you. I will assist you to access appropriate trained support if it is needed.

I will send you newsletters and updates throughout the three-years of this research to update you on the progress of the project. You are welcome to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Participation and withdrawal:

Participation in this research is voluntary, and participants may withdraw at any point without prejudice. You may refuse to answer some questions or request to end the interview early.

Should you wish to withdraw from the project completely, simply tell the researcher. All data obtained from you will be destroyed and will not be included in the study.

Confidentiality and security of data:

All data collected in this study will be stored confidentially. Only members of the research team will have access to identified data.

In the final report, I may make reference to our conversations. However, unless you have explicitly stated that you would like to be identified, this will be done in such a way that responses cannot be linked to individuals or companies.

Ethics clearance and contacts:

This study adheres to the guideless of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the *Nation Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*. While you are free to discuss your participation in this study with the research team, if you would like to speak to university staff member not involved in the study, you may contact the ethics coordinator on 33653924. The ethical clearance number for this project is RHD3_2017.

Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Regards,

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