



The Bristlecone Project

# NEWSLETTER

**November, 2017**

Greetings Bristlecone brethren:

I received an email from a fellow survivor a few days ago. He had just discovered the Bristlecone website, and he had spent hours reading the biographies and staring at the photographs. He found men whose stories were very similar to his own. He resonated with so many of the experiences he read about. He told me that he could not yet imagine volunteering for Bristlecone, but he was profoundly inspired by the courage on display on the site, and for the first time, he knew that he was not alone. His email sums up the mission of this project.

## **Basic Stats**

At the end of November, 2017, there are 118 men on the Bristlecone web site, and approximately 100 men waiting for their interviews and portrait sessions.

Bristlecone is also becoming increasingly international. On the website now are men from:

Australia  
Cambodia  
Canada  
Great Britain  
New Zealand  
Norway  
South Africa  
Uganda

Plans are being made for Bristlecone tours of Uganda and Great Britain, where there are multiple volunteers waiting to participate. In addition, the 24 New Zealand men now on the site have been joined by about 15 new volunteers from that country. So a return trip is in the cards.

# Bristlecone Exhibition – Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand

For the first time, a Bristlecone Exhibition is being hosted by a museum. Timed to coincide with the first day of the South-South Institute on the Sexual Victimization of Boys and Men, the exhibition opened on November 6, 2017, and it will run until April, 2018.



## A Word About the Wait

Some of you have been waiting for too long for your Bristlecone interview and portrait session. I apologize, and I can't tell you how much I wish it was not so. The best I can offer is an explanation.

By design, Bristlecone is very labor intensive. Individual interviews with survivors from all over North America, and increasingly, all over the world. Each volunteer deserves that degree of care and attention. But that means that Bristlecone requires time, a lot of travel, and a fair amount of money.

I would love – absolutely love !!! – to devote myself to Bristlecone full time. But I can't. The funding for Bristlecone comes from two sources. 1in6 has invested considerable money and labor into editing the videos that will begin to be included on the website in the coming months. But the front-end costs of Bristlecone – the interviews – are financed by me personally. A portion of the money I earn as a forensic consultant is funneled into the project.

That means that I need to continue my forensic work in order to fund Bristlecone, which in turn limits the amount of time I can devote to Bristlecone. We are continuing to seek new sources of funding, and it is my fervent hope that I will eventually be able to shift the balance of my time to Bristlecone. In the meantime, we will all need patience.

I thank you for yours!



### Bristlecone Facebook Group

Want to be in contact with your brethren? The Bristlecone Facebook Group is member run and can be joined simply by letting myself, or John Benton ([jabenton3@gmail.com](mailto:jabenton3@gmail.com)) know and we'll get you signed up.