

Entheogenesis Australis 2009 FAQ

Last updated 31/10/09

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General Information

Disclaimer

EGA is a conference ABOUT plant substances and altered states, not a conference ON plant substances or psychedelics - so please do not bring any items that would endanger the organisers or the future of the event (but do feel free to bring as many books, notes, pictures, photos etc as you like!). Also keep in mind there are police-operated random drug and alcohol testing buses operating all over Victoria and certainly we anticipate that this will include in and around our event.

Context

Entheogenesis Australis (EGA) is a not-for-profit association that exists to create a supportive environment that fosters mature, open discussion about psychoactive plants and chemicals. We seek to explore ways to assess societal impacts and examine the positive applications of plant-based psychoactives and empathogens.

All content on the EGA 2009 program is the opinion of the individual contributors and does not directly represent the views of Entheogenesis Australis itself.

Format

On site there is one main conference dome, a smaller second stage, workshop areas and a market space. There is also a communal art space, the 'Mykopod' where people can chill out and relax for some down time during the program (please remember to bring your own cushion/rugs for the art and main conference space).

Important Notice about Tickets

The EGA 2009 conference is **strictly a pre-sale event** with very limited numbers and there are no tickets available at the actual event. Please do not bring any additional people with you who don't already have tickets – **We don't want any misunderstandings on the gate.** No ticket no entry.

Tickets are available in Melbourne from **Happy High Herbs** until sold out.

Fitzroy Shop - 317 Smith Street Fitzroy Vic

Phone: 03 94191277

St. Kilda Shop - 1/186 Barkly Street St. Kilda Vic

Phone: 03 9534 9361

What's the site like?

This year's EGA is located at the most amazing site nestled in the beautiful Strathbogie Ranges in North East Victoria, Australia. When at the site we ask you to

treat it and its owners with respect. We very much hope to return to the site in the coming years, so let's all behave ourselves so we are welcomed back. There will be bins on site (but please try to minimise waste as much as possible) as well as public toilets and some showers.

Bring along good shoes and appropriate clothing for warm days and cool nights. Bicycles are also good for travelling around the site in a fast and eco manner.

What's the accommodation like?

There are two types of accommodation: Cabins and camping. Campervans are also welcome on the property, but may be in a separate camping area.

Cabins – Sold out

Cabins are currently booked out. People who have reserved a bed in a cabin will be required to pay at the gate upon entry. Cabins contain bunk-style beds. A few contain ensuite bathrooms and others have shared toilet/shower areas. If you're staying in a cabin you will need to bring your own bedding (i.e. sheet & blanket or sleeping bag, pillowcase and pillow). Check with the accommodation co-ordinator if you're unsure what amenities you have in your cabin. There are no kitchen facilities on site to cook, however there will be food stalls on site. There is a general store in Swanpool approximately 15 minutes off site (2373 Midland Highway – 03 5768 2261) and supermarkets around 35 minutes drive away in both Benalla & Mansfield.

I'm camping, like most people - what should I bring?

Tent, shade structure/tarp and ropes

Camping chairs, esky and ice

Water – it will be hot, make sure you have enough!

Sunscreen, hat and insect repellent

Torch – (There's a lot of space between cabins and the conference space, which we do not have the capacity to fully light so a torch is definitely recommended. Head-torches work brilliantly)

Sleeping bag

Appropriate clothing for hot weather (30 degrees plus) and cold nights

Appropriate footwear for camping/bush conditions

Swimmers

A bicycle if you have one

Your own cushion/rugs for the art and main conference space to sit on

Whatever you might need to live for 4 days in the outdoors

Raincoat

Yes, you can bring campervan, etc.

We recommend you bring a small first-aid kit if you have one

There will be mobile **toilets** and simple **bucket showers** available on site – bring a towel and (to be on the safe side) a spare roll or two of toilet paper.

How long does the conference go for?

Gates open 12 noon Friday 6 November and the Opening Ceremony for the conference begins at 5pm. However there will be warm-up talks starting at 2:30 pm and the main address starts after dinner at 6:15 pm. Generally talks will continue until 1am with a little bit of folk music to take us to around 3am on Friday and Saturday. The last talk will be late Sunday evening at approximately midnight. On Sunday night we will host a costume party and Monday we will have a large group sound workshop from sunrise. The conference officially ends Monday evening, however, if you need to, you can stay until Tuesday morning. Everyone (except for core crew) must leave the site by noon Tuesday – this is a direct request from the property owner which we would ask you to kindly respect.

When can I go on site?

Attendees are welcome onsite on Friday 6th Nov from 12 noon onwards. *No attendees will be admitted before this time* so plan your travel accordingly. If necessary, there is a small camping ground on the same road before the site or alternatively consider staying at a local caravan park on the Thursday before the conference if you are in the area early. Try <http://www.mansfieldholidaypark.com.au/> Tent sites are \$20 a night for two people, \$6 extra for each additional person. There are also powered sites, cabins and facilities including a pool and caravans.

I want to stay on until Tuesday...what do I need to do?

If you anticipate you will need to stay on Monday night/Tuesday morning, inform the info tent or gate volunteers who will collect a \$10 fee - which goes directly to the property owner. Please do the right thing as EGA has to front an additional cost per person for any people staying on an extra day.

Will there be food available?

Yes! There will be a delicious vegetarian restaurant on site and some additional food stalls providing vegetarian-friendly meals at good prices from Friday night dinner through to Monday morning breakfast. You can buy each meal individually. We do recommend bringing your own snacks or other food if you have special dietary requirements. The onsite restaurant also caters for vegan, wheat-free and dairy-free diners. There is no cooking equipment available on site so you will need to bring your own. There is a **General Store** in Swanpool approximately 15 minutes off site (2373 Midland Highway – 03 5768 2261) and supermarkets around 35 minutes drive away in both Benalla & Mansfield.

FOOD STALLS on site :

1. **Semilla's Kitchen** - Organic vegetarian food: Breakfasts, Lunch, Dinner, Desserts.
2. **Jerry's burger stall** - Vegetarian burgers, chocolates, soft drinks and bottled water
3. **PsyBusSpace** - Chai tea, blended herbal teas, organic fairtrade coffee, hot choc.
Lentil soup, Quesadillas (vegetarian and mexican wraps). Sweets - carrot/zucchini cake, chocolate balls and other treats.

BYO alcohol

There will be no alcohol available or served on site, but you can bring your own in responsible quantities. Excessive drinking is not appropriate for this event and on the site. Illegal substances are not permitted on site.

I heard there's going to be a banquet?

On Sunday afternoon EGA is providing a free light communal banquet to all paying attendees. We wish to encourage attendees to enjoy this delicious social event and share a lovely outdoor meal together in the spirit of the event.

Please bring blankets, cushions or chairs to ensure you dine in comfort. Feel free to bring anything you wish to contribute to the feast space.

Can we have fires?

Summer fire restrictions come into effect for the region on the weekend of the conference. We will have up to date information regarding fire restrictions at the info tent. Please observe any public notices regarding restriction levels and warnings – particularly if a day of total fire ban is declared. We will have some designated fire pits; beyond them, please refrain from making your own fires and help keep the communal fires burning.

What's the conference space like?

The main dome can hold approximately 400 people. Limited chairs will be available so we encourage you to bring your own seating (chair, beanbag, blankets and so on...). The conference structure is designed to provide shade but unfortunately is not 100% waterproof, so if there's heavy rain predicted you should bring a waterproof jacket. While we will have an effective sound system installed in the dome, it will not be possible to keep outside noise from intruding into the space – so, if you want to chat to friends outside, please move away from the main conference space so you're not disturbing those inside.

Info Tent and First Aid

We will have an info tent near the main conference dome. The info tent will be open from about 8.30am to 10pm each day. Outside these times, the main contact point for any matters will be the entrance gate.

The info tent will have a continually updated version of the conference programme, a notice board, directions to all parts of the conference site, directions to towns and facilities off site, and a raffle table for purchase of tickets.

We will have a number of qualified First Aiders on hand at all times. Should you need medical assistance of any kind, the two points of contact will be the info tent and the front gate, both of which will have radio links to assistance.

Bins and Rubbish

Try to minimize your rubbish. There will be approximately 20 bins on site - use these and be respectful of the site.

What time will XYZ person be speaking? Is there a timetable?

All full paying attendees will receive the Journal when they arrive on site. This will list the program as it was intended at the time of printing... times may alter slightly, so check at the info desk for up to date schedules.

We will also have a provisional timetable at the event which will be updated regularly at the info tent, be clearly visible and nearby to the conference space. We will do our best to stick to the timetable, some sessions may run overtime, some speakers may be running late due to unforeseen circumstances... basically things that are out of our direct control. We can however tell you that our keynote speakers will be speaking after dinner on Saturday and Sunday nights.

We will do our best to keep to our planned timetable, and we request all attendees to assist us wherever possible. As you will appreciate, we have a very full programme and at times we will need to work hard to keep things tight – so please understand that our Moderators/MCs will need to limit speakers to their allocated times, and in some cases limit question time after presentations.

What's going on with the raffle?

The Raffle will be drawn Sunday 8th Nov around midnight at the main conference space. Anyone, except for the raffle organizers, can purchase as many tickets as they like. Winners will be notified by phone or email if they are not present to collect their prize. Please show your support, as it is the raffle that helps keep this event alive economically. For more info see <http://www.entheo.net/2009helpEGA.htm>

Is it true that there is a dress up party / Masquerade Corroboree - An experimental Sayonara Psy Soiree?

The answer is Yes, on the Sunday after midnight and all day Monday. So bring a costume – more info here <http://www.entheo.net/KrustyMasqueradeCorroborree.pdf>

What's the parking like?

There is loads of space to park; however, camping may be separate from parking in some camping areas.

Do mobile phones work on site?

Not all phones work, but most can SMS from so part of the site.

Can we record the conference or take photos?

We will be recording it for release at a later date on an EGA DVD, so no recording equipment is permitted. Photos are allowed. However, please be respectful of the speakers and don't use a flash at inappropriate moments.

Can I bring my children or my pet?

No dogs/animals allowed. Children okay though.... under 15 years free of charge but must have a guardian with them at all times. We will not be providing childcare in any form, nor will we be responsible for attendee conduct in the presence/vicinity of any children on site.

Can I get a passout?

Yes – you can get a passout at any time from the volunteers on the gate, as long as you have your EGA armband on. A 2009 armband will need to be displayed to re-enter the event.

Neighbours and Sound pollution

The site is very close to neighbouring properties, and we all have to be respectful of our surroundings. So please keep sound to a respectful level, especially during the night hours. Examples of not so kind activities would be playing drums in the camping grounds, which are located closest to the neighbouring properties. When we turn off our PA system for the evening, take that as a cue to keep the sound down, as we have agreed hours of operation with the council and neighbours.

Where can I get fuel/supplies etc?

The nearest small town is Swanpool. There is a general store in Swanpool approximately 15 minutes off site (2373 Midland Highway – 03 5768 2261) and supermarkets around 35 minutes drive away in both Benalla & Mansfield. Ask the gate volunteers for directions.

How do I get there?

***** EGA Coach *****

We have taken the liberty of organizing a coach from Melb CBD and Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport for people attending the conference. As over half of EGA attendees come from outside of Victoria, we hope that this service may make your journey to the conference a lot smoother from a logistical point of view – as well as being cheaper. Naturally everyone's travel will be slightly different, but below is some more information so you can judge for yourself. As we will be booking bus sizes based on demand, booking your bus seat earlier rather than later will make our lives a little easier. The coaches will also need a minimum of 14 seats booked to operate. See the notices page online for full details.

<http://www.entheo.net/2009directions.htm>

**** EGA Coach UPDATED ****

There are a few spaces left on the EGA Coach. Confirmed Coach times are as follows:

* Friday - Departure Fed Square 11.30am, Departure Tullamarine 12.30pm, Arrival on site at 3.30pm

* Tuesday - Departure site at 8.30am, Arrival Tullamarine 12.00pm, Arrival Federation Square 12.30pm

For those requiring transport from the site on Monday, we will bring you to the Mansfield bus station where you can catch a Vline bus to Melbourne. The Vline departs Mansfield at 1.30pm on Monday, and arrives in Melbourne at 4.35pm. You can make bookings online at: <http://www.vline.com.au/index.aspx?sid=0>

To discuss options, or what is still available, please email admin.entheogenesis.australis@gmail.com.

Driving to the site

We have written up some directions but we recommend using a Melways, GPS, or getting a road map from the airport if you are flying in, or from a large service station or town info centre if you are driving.

From Melbourne Airport....

Leave the airport via the Tullamarine Freeway (43)

Take the first exit to the Western Ring Road (M80) then take the Hume Freeway (M31) exit.

Keep following the Hume Freeway all the way to Benalla then refer to Option 1 directions.

Option 1 – from Melbourne

Head up the Hume Hwy towards Benalla.

At the Benalla exit turn right towards Mansfield onto the Midland Hwy (B300).

Follow Midland Hwy for approx 19km until you get to Swanpool.
Turn right when you see the hall and netball court.
About 1.5 km along this road turn left into Lima East Rd – dirt road take care and go slow as there are 4WD and dirt bike campers in this area as well as local traffic using the road, so drive safe and do not stop in the middle of the road.
Travel along this road to the camp... it is at the end of the road, through the gate across the cattle grid. Head downhill to the checkpoint (gate).
You will recognise that you are there because there are big gates and signs that say Strathbogie Outdoor Education Centre.

Option 2

Travel to Yea.

Head towards Mansfield. Go through Bonnie Doon and just after Maindample turn left onto the B300 (Midland Hwy link – takes you onto the Midland Hwy).

Follow Midland Hwy for approx 34km until you get to Swanpool.

Turn left when you see the hall and netball court.

About 1.5 km along this road turn left into Lima East Rd – dirt road take care and go slow as there are 4WD and dirt bike campers in this area as well as local traffic using the road, so drive safe and do not stop in the middle of the road.

Travel along this road to the camp... it is at the end of the road, through the gate across the cattle grid. Head downhill to the checkpoint (gate).

You will recognise that you are there because there are big gates and signs that say Strathbogie Outdoor Education Centre.

Drive safe and bring plenty of good vibes and plants to share for all

Love and Light,

EGA

HQ