



MEDIA RELEASE
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Victoria to Host International Conference on Psychedelic Science

Entheogenesis Australis (EGA) is gearing up to convene its eighth annual symposium on psychedelic medicine, culture and related topics from 2 to 5 December 2011. The EGA Conference is an international event, bringing together leading scholars, researchers and interested public to discuss the nature of psychedelics and their many rich contributions to medicine, culture, spirituality, art and history.

Headlining this year's event are the founders of Erowid.org, a website established in 1995 as an independent public library of information about psychoactive plants and chemicals. Erowid's vision is to create "a world where people treat psychoactives with respect and awareness; where people work together to collect and share knowledge in ways that strengthen their understanding of themselves." The organisation tracks a vast amount of experiential data posted by psychedelic users and acts as a repository for up-to-date information about hundreds of natural and synthetic psychoactive compounds, many of which are unknown and unresearched by the medical community. The site also provides data for harm minimisation, health and educational organisations. Erowid's founders have spoken at conferences sponsored by groups as diverse as the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the North American Association of Clinical Toxicologists and the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies. Representing an incredible source of knowledge on psychedelics, they will offer EGA Conference attendees a rare insight into their fascinating world - not to be missed.

The EGA symposium is unique in Australia and is one of only a handful of similar events globally. Set in the beautiful bushland of the Strathbogie ranges, the EGA event runs over four days and features lectures, workshops and panel discussions presented by expert speakers from Australia and abroad. Other international guest speakers include visionary author James Oroc and ethnobotanist Keeper Trout, well known for his groundbreaking work with the sacred cacti of South America. Jonathan Carmichael, EGA President, says "the EGA Conference is a unique gathering which promises to broaden our minds. Its purpose is to engage, provoke, inspire, and ultimately connect us with a subject matter that has long been stigmatised, and only now is starting to see a resurgence in popular culture. EGA is the perfect synergy of cutting edge medical research, critical theory and visionary art."

About Entheogenesis Australis

EGA is a non-profit organisation that seeks to open a fresh dialogue about psychedelic drugs and plants, and their potential for therapeutic and medicinal uses. Now in its 8th year, the EGA Conference has established an international profile and has attracted several notable guest speakers in the field. In recent years, international guests have included world renowned ethnopharmacologist, Dennis McKenna; Rick Doblin, founder of the [Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies](#) [MAPS], sponsor of clinical studies into the therapeutic effects of psychedelic drugs; and Robert Jesse of the Council on Spiritual Practices, co-author of the groundbreaking Johns Hopkins University study of the extraordinary spiritual effects of psilocybin.

What: EGA Conference – lectures, workshops & discussions on psychedelic drugs and plants
When: Friday 2 – Monday 5 December, 2011
Cost: \$185-265
Where: Charnwood Outdoor Education Centre, Northeast Victoria
Tickets and more information: www.entheo.net

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