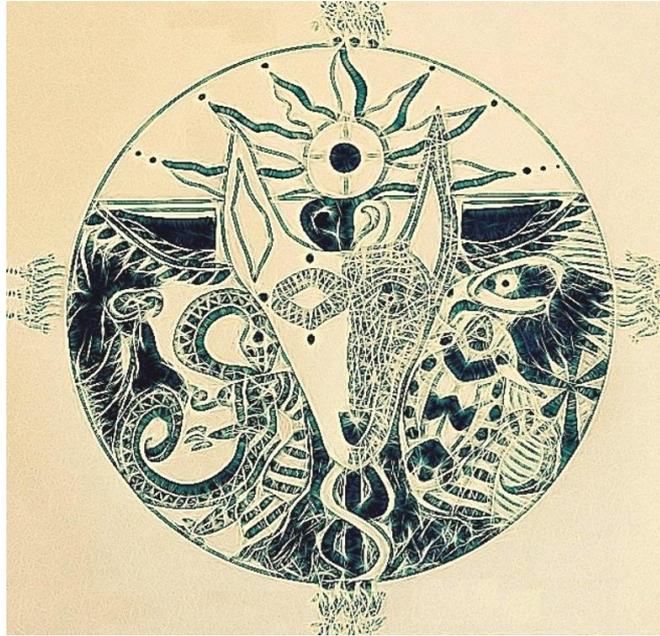


# SOTEMS WINTER SCHOOL



28 June – 8 July 2020

WONGA PARK, VICTORIA

SPIRIT OF THE EARTH MEDICINE SOCIETY



## WINTER SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Shamanism within Australia has too often been appreciated and propagated as something which comes from somewhere else. Most often, when exploring shamanic practises in contemporary society, the emphasis is still upon shamanism which is distinctively North or South American, South East or Eastern Asian, occasionally European or African, but fundamentally not of here, not of Australia.

In recent times there has been a recognition of the extraordinarily long history and sophistication of Aboriginal shamanism, spiritual beliefs and practices. Aboriginal people have been on this land for an estimated 40,000 to 100,000 years, whose shamanism is of primary significance to the life of this country, particularly for the Aboriginal people, whose cultures have been largely destroyed, and the remnants of which have become more precious and tied to their own survival and growth.

If we wish to pursue an Australian shamanic perspective as contemporary modern Australians, then we are bound to acknowledge and respect Aboriginal culture. However, their ways, lore and traditions are sacred and not available for plunder nor appropriation.

As immigrants or descendants of immigrants, we are tainted by a strong history of colonialism on this land and a ubiquitous materialistic approach which treats this land as merely a collection of resources, available for our own personal gain.

We are engaged in a life, on a very unique continent, that contains its own unique biodiversity of flora and fauna. This consequently, influence our perspectives, both within this world, and spiritually in a very particular manner. As such, it is here, on and in this land, that we will find where our individual and communal paths extend and what they harbour.

If we choose to view our lives on this land on a shamanic level, we owe it to ourselves and those beings of this land, to discover new visions of living, healing and building of culture within modern Australia. A way of viewing this land, not merely as a collection of resources, but a recognition of our intertwined connection to this land on all levels : physically, emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. We accept the responsibility to uncover our own path of realisation on how this land can provide a deeper wisdom for navigating the terrain of life's vicissitudes ... its hopes and promises, despairing moments and failures and sources of strengths and weaknesses.

We will seek to explore through this winter school, the relevance of how this land continues to speak to us, despite being modern Australians living in a contemporary world consumed by materialism and reductionism. It is an opportunity to realign our personal and spiritual connection to the land. We will explore the language that arises from this land and discover new maps and pathways that draw us into a fuller range of human experience. In turn, this provides navigation and meaning to our lives in relation to the richness of wisdom and spiritual healing that is ever present on this continent.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program is open to participants with all ranges of previous shamanic experience and will cover 2 major areas of significant aspects required for a better understanding of traditional shamanic practices:

1. **The mastery of ecstasy** – The term ecstasy comes from the ancient Greek word 'ekstatis' which means to stand outside of oneself. From a shamanic point of view, this means the ability to perceive oneself or our engagement to other things outside of an ordinary or taken-for-granted reality i.e. Altering one's state of consciousness in order to retrieve specific information beyond that which can be accessed through ordinary means. The main areas covered in this section are as follows :
  - Overview of traditional shamanism across cultures and the principles of animism.
  - Understanding the relevance of engaging in altered states of consciousness in order to commune with the spirits of our experiential worlds.
  - Comparisons between a shamanic and psychological perspectives of Self in order to perceive how one can alter the notion of self, in order to navigate and retrieve information beyond which the rational mind can conceive.
  - The Emotional Landscape – Understanding our emotional and psychological domain, and how it affects our perception of the spiritual realms and defines the landscapes through which we travel.
2. **The mastery of spirits** – A shamanic initiation requires one to incorporate the mythos (mythological stories) of the communities for which they serve. These stories not only underpin the social fabric of the relevant community (relating to creation, law, illness & death, fortune, healing etc.) but also serve as the working and living domain of a shamanic perspective. The spirits that inhabit these domains must be engaged with (obeyed, negotiated with, tamed, overcome, appeased etc.) as dictated by the relevant cultural mythos in order to gain favour from those spirits. The main areas covered in this section are as follows :
  - Perceiving our psychological and emotional domain through a shamanic lens and how it affects our inner worlds and defines our perception of the landscapes through which we travel. .
  - Foundations of mythological stories and spirits, superstitions and beliefs and how they are used to construct and define the significant points of the journey through our inner landscapes.
  - A map and compass for navigating the domain relevant for a contemporary Australian society.
  - Understanding how to engage with this land and the beings that present themselves on a spiritual level.
  - Building a personal and culturally relevant dreaming mythos relevant for living within a contemporary Australian culture.

## THE LOCATION



The program will be held at the Clifford Park Recreation Centre in Wonga Park, next to Warrandyte. Address is 7 Clifford Drive, Wonga Park, Victoria 3115

The location is beautifully wooded and is held within a crescent of the Yarra River. It has many environments which are easily accessed.

All participants need to be at the Winter School site by no later than 12pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The program will complete at 12pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 12pm.

In addition:

- The school is residential: There are 4- and 6-bed heated cabins (bunk beds).
- Please bring a towel, sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries.
- Please bring a sarong for optional sweatlodge ceremonies.
- Food (3x meals/day) is supplied.
- Art materials are supplied by you may wish to bring your own as well.
- Follow up support is provided.
- Other specific items to bring will be discussed closer to the time for those that register.

## SPIRIT OF THE EARTH MEDICINE SOCIETY



The Spirit of the Earth Medicine Society [SOTEMS] is a community spiritual organization which is nationwide. It is dedicated to the cultivation of medicine ways, the practices and philosophy which focus on healing ... healing ourselves, others, the community and our relationship with the environment.

SOTEMS is also profoundly committed to assisting in the creation of an Australian spirituality and has established ceremonial and healing practices which reflect this. The Society has been in operation in Australia for 20 years. Currently, SOTEMS operates in WA, SA, Victoria, Queensland and NSW

## PROGRAM FACILITATOR

Guy is a Ceremonial Leader and initiated shaman in the Spirit of the Earth Medicine Society.



Guy is also a traditionally trained and initiated sangoma. A sangoma is a traditional healer of Southern Africa, effectively a shaman of the Zulu and related Nguni cultures.

Born and raised in South Africa, he is one of only a handful of westerners that have undergone the long and intense ordeal of thwasa (the formal traditional training and initiation process) in order to become initiated into the traditions of the Southern African traditional healers.

Since moving to Australia, Guy is passionate about contributing to the development of a shamanic perspective for contemporary Australians that is harmoniously informed by both our unique, and often disjointed, ancestral stories and the land upon which we live.

## COST

The Winter School cost is \$1350 which includes meals and accommodation. An Early bird discount of 15% is offered for those that register before 1 April 2020.

A deposit of \$300 is required to register for the Winter School with the balance paid in instalments by no later than 4 weeks before the start of the Winter School

All registered participants will be sent additional information at least 4 weeks before the Winter School begins. This information will include the following:

1. Further details of what items to bring
2. Details of Ceremonial materials to bring
3. A code of conduct for participating in the Winter School

## CONTACT DETAILS

SOTEMS Winter School

Phone: Guy (0407-495-076)

Email: [guy@sotems.com.au](mailto:guy@sotems.com.au)

## SOTEMS 2020 WINTER SCHOOL REGISTRATION



To register, please send the following details back to [guy@sotems.com.au](mailto:guy@sotems.com.au) along with details of your registration deposit. Original document can be found at <https://www.sotems.com.au/ceremonies/sotems-winter-school>

Full Name:

City & State of Residence :

Age :

Phone Contact :

Email Address :

Date :

Dietary Requirements (If Any) :

The Winter School cost is \$1350. An Early bird discount of 15% is offered for those that register before 1 April 2020.

A deposit of \$300 is required to register for the Winter School with the full balance paid in instalments (Max 5 monthly) by no later than 4 weeks before the start of the program.

	Early Bird	WS Cost
Registration Deposit	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Instalment 1	\$ 169.50	\$ 210.00
Instalment 2	\$ 169.50	\$ 210.00
Instalment 3	\$ 169.50	\$ 210.00
Instalment 4	\$ 169.50	\$ 210.00
Instalment 5	\$ 169.50	\$ 210.00
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 1,147.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,350.00</b>

### Banking Details

Preferred method is EFT. To ensure we can track your payments, please include "WS 2020 " + your Name to the description of the transfer and send an email notification of deposit to [guy@sotems.com.au](mailto:guy@sotems.com.au)

**Account Name** : Spirit of the Earth Medicine Society

**BSB** : 063-008

**Account** : 010031305

Full payment by 1 month prior to commencement of the program, please. No refund on deposits after this date.