

# VISION QUEST



Annually

18 April – 23 April (3 Day)

18 April – 25 April (5 Day)

or

1 September – 6 September (3 Day)

1 September – 8 September (5 Day)

CENTRAL DESERT

SPIRIT OF THE EARTH MEDICINE SOCIETY



## THE VISION QUEST

The Vision Quest is one of the most powerful and enduring experiences which is available to us in our contemporary society. It is an opportunity to step outside of all the routines of everyday life and see one's self and one's life through a new set of lenses. Drawing upon the ritual and traditions of indigenous cultures from around the world, and framed by the spiritual landscape of Australia, the Spirit of the Earth Medicine Society [SOTEMS] takes each participant into the wilderness to encounter the opening of a personal, spiritual pathway, a cleansing and renewal so that each may return regenerated. There are few opportunities like this within our contemporary society wherein we can step out of everyday life and submit ourselves to a process which clears our horizons. It is a peerless experience.

*The Vision Quest involves:*

- A meditation in nature, alone, within a medicine wheel
- It occurs in a place which speaks to you and you alone
- It spans three days and three nights
- It requires the discipline of fasting and diminished sleep
- It involves facing the east each morning as the sun crosses the horizon so that Spirit may speak and renew you
- You are given songs and meditations which enrich and focus your vigil and search
- It begins and ends with the traditional purification of the sweat lodge ceremony
- There is the opportunity to share your story and to have your personal needs for integration of the experience met.
- It is, overall, a ceremony of transition and renewal
- For one week before the quest proper begins, you will be required to do daily meditations. Once you are registered for the quest, the details of these practices will be supplied to you.

Throughout and beyond the vigil, you are supported by highly trained personnel from SOTEMS, the Spirit of the Earth Medicine Society.

### ***The Vision Quest leader:***

Dr. Rafael Locke, the Ceremonial Leader of SOTEMS, who is an initiated shaman and medicine person and who has worked with healers and shamans in many cultures. He has been conducting Vision Quests for over 30 years.

Dr. Locke will be assisted by trained SOTEMS personnel.

## **THE LOCATION**

The Vision Quest is held in wilderness areas so that there is no contact with the circumstances of everyday life and immersion in Nature is maximized. The Quest has been run at the Hugh River, an ancient place, the second oldest river in the world with a history of some 3-400 million years.

Participants should arrange to travel to Alice Springs where they will be met and transported to the Quest location. It is best to arrive the day before the Quest begins.

Upon enrolment, a package of information will be sent which covers:

1. Preparation for the Quest;
2. What you should bring;
3. Travel and meeting arrangements;
4. Follow up arrangements;
5. A request for information on your personal health status and needs

## **SOTEMS**

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

## OPTIONS

The basic VQ involves a 3-day vigil with preparation and debriefing. A 5-day option is available also, preferably to experienced VQ persons.

Costs:

	SOTEMS member	Non-member
3-day	\$995.00	\$1195.00
5-day	\$1195.00	\$1395.00

All participants need to be in Alice Springs by the start date mentioned on the website

All participants will be sent additional information at least 2 weeks before the quest begins. This information will include the following:

1. Details of what camping items to bring
2. Travel details to and from Alice Springs
3. Accommodation arrangements in Alice Springs
4. A code of conduct for participating in the quest
5. Preparation requirements for the VQ: daily practices

## CONTACT DETAILS

SOTEMS Vision Quest

PO Box 525, Fremantle, 6959

Phone: 0417-964-777

Email: [rafael43@bigpond.com](mailto:rafael43@bigpond.com)

**REGISTRATION**

Name: .....

Address:.....

.....

Phone

Home : .....

Mob : .....

Email:.....

Enclosed: Cheque/Money order for:

Deposit: \$250.00 [ ]

Fee : \$

[ ] SOTEMS member;

[ ] Non-member

[ ] Direct Deposit to Dr. R. Locke, Westpac, Fremantle

BSB : 124-001 Acc # : 22531427

Or Master Card [ ] or Visa [ ]

# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV : \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit # on back of card)

Name on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Full payment by 1 month prior, please. No refund on deposits after this date.  
No cheques or money orders. Direct deposit preferred.

Payment to: Dr. Ralph Locke, Box 525, Fremantle, 6959