

Bruno Gennaro charged after alleged drug bust in Ivanhoe.

by Emily Power - November 20, 2007

An Ivanhoe man, arrested after being found screaming in an alleged drugs lab, has been charged over what could be one of Victoria's largest ever drug busts.

Bruno Gennaro, 33, from Ivanhoe, faces charges of trafficking a large commercial quantity of methamphetamine, possessing methamphetamine, and possessing prescribed precursor chemicals.

He was arrested yesterday at an alleged secret laboratory in a bedroom at an Ivanhoe house.

When police arrived they found Mr Gennaro inside screaming.

Defense lawyer George Balot told Melbourne Magistrates Court that Mr Gennaro was in a psychotic state when he was arrested.

Mr Balot said Mr Gennaro was suffering from asthma and drug-induced psychosis.

At the property detectives uncovered alleged chemicals for making drugs, including mercuric chloride, nitromethane, and phenylacetic acid.

Police say the alleged precursor chemicals were enough to produce 25kg of ice, with a street value of over \$7 million.

They believe it is one of the state's biggest drug busts.

Police made the discovery after responding to a burglary alarm.

Magistrate Phillip Goldberg ordered Mr Gennaro receive medical treatment in custody.

He was remanded to appear in court in March next year.