

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

New Plymouth Branch



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President/Treas.: Jim Scrivener, Ph 021-2511 011 or 06-758 3511; tsnewplymouth@gmail.com

Vice President: Nicola Haines, Ph 021-316 615; nicolainthestudio@gmail.com

Committee: Norah Lambie, Donna Willard-Moore, Jo Watson, Benjamin Upton

PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER October – December, 2023 revision 6

October 2023	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 18 th	5.30pm	HPB's 'The Voice of the Silence' by Jim Scrivener	MF
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An introduction to this important little book, which was the last H.P. Blavatsky wrote.
 Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.15pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share)

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Wednesday 18 th	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting of our branch (See agenda page 3.)	MF
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Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Saturday 22 nd	11am-12noon	Visit from TS Governance Board representative	MF
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Kirsty Morton, TS Governance Board Chair, is visiting branches to provide an update regarding strategy info and take the opportunity for discussion for an hour or so. Afterwards, those who wish can join us for lunch at a café.

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

November 2023	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 1 st	5.30pm	The Value and Approach to studying the Ancient Wisdom by Renée Sell	MF
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A special presentation about theosophy in all its aspects. When Annie Besant spoke of the ancient wisdom she said '...there is something for everyone in theosophy: you can dip your toes in the water's edge, or dive into the deepest ocean of theosophy.'

Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share)

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Wednesday 1 st	7.30pm	Cyclic Evolution by John Vorstermans	P
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Theosophy teaches that the universe and all within are under a constant process of cyclic evolution. Looking at the world around us, we can see many examples of this and with this understanding, can impact our actions in the present, giving us the opportunity to make a powerful future.

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Wednesday 15 th	7.30pm	Unmasking the Void by Benjamin Upton	P
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Within the limits of observation we know of nothing but vibration and void. Could this basic division really be the source of all that we experience?

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

December 2023	Meeting Type*
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Saturday 2 nd	12 noon	End of year picnic	MF
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Join us for a members, friends and families picnic at Lake Mangamahoe on Saturday the 2nd Dec at 12:00 noon. (BYO food and drink.) Meet in the car park right at the end.

In the case of bad weather, Jo Watson has kindly offered her residence, 8 Drake St, Vogeltown, NP.

Venue: Lake Mangamahoe, meet at the carpark right at the end

Note: Events may change due to unforeseen circumstances — check the latest programme at

<https://theosophy.nz/centres/new-plymouth> and scroll to the bottom of the page, where you can download the latest pdf

*Meeting types: MF = Members & Friends; P = Public (all are welcome)

Zoom meetings: While in-person meetings are definitely the best, if you can't make it person, you can join the some meetings - those marked, by Zoom. (The link is the same for all meetings) **Click on the link below**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4642392089?pwd=bHcyMUJ6SWVzWnZOYkhseUkvTTMxQT09>
or use the following : **Zoom Meeting ID: 464 239 2089** **Passcode: 9aR2ZP**
Help with Zoom: let Jim know if you'd like help using Zoom. Ph 021-2511011 or email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com

Brief biographies of the speakers listed

Donna Willard-Moore, BFA, MA, MFA is an Artist, sculptor, art historian, iconographer, public presenter, researcher and joined NP Branch of the Theosophical Society in 2010.

Jim Scrivener is a retired architect with an interest in music and theosophy. He plays french horn in the Taranaki Symphony Orchestra and since 1988 has been involved in various roles of the NP Branch of the Theosophical Society.

Nicola Haines is a Teacher, installation Artist and Designer, based in Taranaki. She has had a lifelong interest in Spirituality and Ancient traditions, and joined the New Plymouth Branch of the Theosophical Society in 2018

Benjamin Upton is a software developer from New Plymouth who spends his spare time uncovering the connections between the scientific and the spiritual. A keen follower of scientific theories that have been swept under the carpet by the mainstream scientific dogma, he hopes one day we as a collective will experience a consciousness renaissance.

Richard Sell comes from a Theosophical family in New Zealand and first joined the Theosophical Society as a teenager. Richard loves all things theosophical, but he is especially interested in the self-awareness and transformation process that is undertaken by the individual and how this can be applied in everyday living. He is a history buff and theosophical history is near to his heart. He is the National President of the Theosophical Society in NZ, and a past President of HPB Lodge in Auckland. Richard has presented throughout New Zealand as a National Speaker and has also presented internationally at Adyar, Indonesia, The Philippines, and the World Congress in Singapore. He contributes articles to theosophical magazines and is very active in promoting theosophy as a founder of the theosophy.world resource website.

Renée Sell is a dedicated student of the Ancient Wisdom teachings and has been active in the Theosophical Society in various capacities over the last 25 years and currently President of the Auckland Branch. She is passionate about weaving the Ancient Wisdom teachings into everyday life and loves to share and explore theosophy with all who touch its shores. She is a past National Vice-president of TSNZ.)

John Vorstermans has a diploma in Ayurveda healing and herbology and for the last 40 years has studied many aspects of Theosophy – the ageless wisdom. Through their practical application the real learning takes place and being able to share this with others so they might be inspired to do the same is one of his goals. He is a past National President of TSNZ .

Julia Tarnawsky. As a teacher and private- practising psychologist earlier in life, Julia's interest has always been in psycho-spiritual development. She has taught in the Adelaide Lodge and has done several speaking tours for the TS in New Zealand. She particularly likes to engage people in the influence of Theosophical ideas on their inner and outer lives. Julia has a Master of Science degree in Esoteric Psychology from the University of the Seven Rays. She lives and teaches with her husband Orest at the Southern Lights Centre meditation school at Akaroa www.southernlights.org.nz

Orest Tarnawsky. With tertiary study in visual arts and education, Orest had an early career as an art teacher and sculptor. Deep interest in the Ageless Wisdom teachings led him to attaining a Masters of Science in Esotericism through the University of the Seven Rays. Combined, these developed Orest's passion for and skill in mentoring those on the quest towards awakening consciousness and in teaching the Ageless Wisdom teachings through creative expression, study and meditation to all that enquire the way. He has a particular interest in plasma, sound and electricity in their microcosmic and macrocosmic aspects. Orest has a Diploma in teaching, Studied Sculpture, Bachelor of Arts (visual arts), is a Teacher of art/photography and has a Master of Science in Esotericism (esoteric psychology)

Annual General Meeting Agenda

- Present/ Apologies
- Minutes of last AGM 19/10/22 & Matters Arising
- Reports: President's, Treasurer's, Library
- Election of Officers
- Delegate to Convention
- General Business

Please do come to the Pot luck dinner and AGM – and for those who have been a member for more than two years (which is most of you), consider being available to stand for committee, or if you are a new member consider being co-opted. We need new committee members! Many of you will already be on committees - this is one is not particularly onerous – we aim for monthly meetings timed with a pot luck dinner prior to either a Public or a Members & Friends meeting. Most meetings are devoted to planning forthcoming programmes and how we can serve our members better. If you are on the current committee but are unable to attend the AGM, could you email the president and advise if you are available to stand for the committee again.

Ideas for future talks or events: Please get in touch with any of the committee with your ideas.

Members & Friends meetings

If you're thinking of bringing a friend to a members & friends meeting, as a courtesy to the hosts, please phone them to let them know beforehand. Ideally we invite people to members & friends meetings after they have been to at least a couple of public meetings and show interest. If your friend hasn't made it to a public meeting and is still interested, then either point them to the Theosophy New Zealand website <https://theosophy.nz/> or hand them first some of the pamphlets and the 'green book' as an introduction, so they will have some idea of what we're about. Ring or email Jim Scrivener (see details above), for extra copies of pamphlets etc.

New Plymouth Branch Programme/Newsletter

We publish this usually every 1-2 months with the programme. We welcome a short article, quotation, event report, book review etc. either your own thoughts or others' that is theosophically related, or generally helpful, please email it in to Jim at tsnewplymouth@gmail.com While inclusion is not guaranteed we will do our best depending on content and space.

NATIONAL EVENTS

see <https://theosophy.nz/events>

Other events outside our branch – keep an eye on the Theosophy NZ website <https://theosophy.nz/> for upcoming events you might be able to attend. Also keep an eye on neighbouring branch activities via the pages at <https://theosophy.nz/centres> (e.g. Whanganui, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Napier, Wellington) - if there is a talk or event you'd like to attend, email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com to see if other members here are also interested in getting a car-load together.

Events accessible by Zoom

In addition to checking what's on at other NZ branches on the TSNZ website, from time to time some international Zoom talks are available from the very active Theosophical Society in the Philippines and I endeavour to send links to members in emails as they come.

Other resources on the web – Theosophy World

<https://www.theosophy.world/>

Have a look at a wealth of articles publications, ebooks, video and audio archives, all searchable and perfect to help you research something.

New Plymouth Branch Library of over 750 books is now in shelves sorted & catalogued by author at the president's place. Work is under way to classify them by subject to make it easier to use. To visit, please phone or text Jim on 021-2511 011 (or email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com) to arrange a time. We have recently received some new books from National Office.

Membership subscriptions reminder

Subscription invoices issued on 23rd August, 2022 for the Sept2022-Aug2023 year were due on 20th September, 2022. A reminder that we have to lapse members when they are a full 2 years in arrears of the invoice date, so please check if you've had a reminder, or if you have any questions, email the treasurer Jim (tsnewplymouth@gmail.com) or ph 021-2511 011. Even if you can't make it to meetings, bear in mind the subscriptions are at a similar level to those for National Section members who are not affiliated to any branch, but still receive the magazine and all the other advantages of membership.

Two of our members are running independent courses in New Plymouth currently:

Donna Willard-Moore

- **Art/drawing** classes; Details - phone 027-349 8372; or email dwm2442@gmail.com

Katherine Kingsbury

– **'Meditation and Relaxation for Beginners'**.

Details - phone 027-697 6660 or email kkingsbury@xtra.co.nz

Appearances do not bind, but attachments do. So, Naropa, cut off the attachments.

Longchen Rabjam, from 'The Practice of Dzogchen. Reprinted from The Theosophist, Vol. 144.7, April, 2023