

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

New Plymouth Branch



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

PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER March - July 2024

revision 1

March	Meeting Type*
Wednesday 6th 7.30pm <u>Recent archeological discoveries</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore & Nicola Haines</u> P The work of Matthew LaCroix, carbon dating of new sites - temples older than 33,000 years <u>Venue:</u> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link next page.	
Wednesday 20th 7.30pm <u>Indigenous cultures—understanding their diverse views on the nature of existence</u> by visiting international speaker <u>Matthew Greenwood</u> P Views of Maori, Australian, North American Indian—their Galactic beginnings and how they came here during times of great upheaval. <u>Venue:</u> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link next page.	
April	Meeting Type*
Wednesday 3rd 7.30pm <u>Highlights from the January NZ TS Convention</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore & Jim Scrivener</u> MF Donna, Jim and Nikki were fortunate to be able to attend the Convention in Christchurch this year—some of the highlights and what to look out for when videos of the talks eventually become available on the TSNZ website. <u>Venue:</u> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
Wednesday 17th 7.30pm <u>H. P. Blavatsky's 'The Secret Doctrine'</u> by <u>Jim Scrivener</u> P An introduction to this remarkable book published in 1888 which is a foundational text of the Theosophical Society. The book combines elements of Eastern and Western philosophy, science and spirituality, offering a comprehensive view of the universe and human existence. <u>Venue:</u> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link next page.	
May	Meeting Type*
Wednesday 1st 7.30pm <u>Further studies on H. P. Blavatsky's 'The Secret Doctrine'</u> by <u>Jim Scrivener</u> MF A chance for Members & Friends to discuss their discoveries about the book, and have a look at a study course. <u>Venue:</u> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
Wednesday 8th 5.30pm <u>Heaven Worlds or Devachan, life and death are one cycle.</u> by visiting Australian TS speaker <u>Barry Bowden</u> MF It is a state to live in bliss; Devachan or Heaven is a dynamic state. This is where aspirations are followed and practised, becoming abilities in the next incarnation! The world of thought is more real than our physical world. If we understand this, we have a powerful tool to change our character in the next life. The seeds of Devachan are planted in the physical life. <i>Followed by a potluck dinner—please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert to share</i> <u>Venue:</u> Community House, 32 Leach St, New Plymouth (next to YMCA Gym).	
Wednesday 8th 7.30pm <u>How to Hear the Voice of the Silence</u> by visiting Australian TS speaker <u>Barry Bowden</u> P Silence and stillness are common points in most of the more profound texts. Silence is a natural state on the higher planes. The book, "Voice of the silence" Poetically outlines the way to the supreme Silence of the Soul. <u>Venue:</u> Community House, 32 Leach St, New Plymouth (next to YMCA Gym).	

May continued	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 15th	7.30pm	<u>The Universe on a Wavelength</u> by <u>Benjamin Upton</u>	P
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Let's explore the most unifying aspect of creation - vibration. How can we apply this basic awareness for better health? Is there a path to self awareness through science? Are science and religion really opposites?

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link below.

June	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 5th	7.30pm	<u>Further studies on H. P. Blavatsky's 'The Secret Doctrine'</u> by <u>Jim Scrivener</u>	MF
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A further chance for Members & Friends to discuss their discoveries about the book, and continue a study course.

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

Wednesday 19th	7.30pm	<u>An introduction to the Labyrinth</u> by <u>Nicola Haines</u>	P
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An introduction to the Labyrinth and its use as a meditation tool.

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link below.

July	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 3rd	7.30pm	<u>The Keys to the Ancient Wisdom</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u>	P
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A summary of the dominant texts in India, Sumeria, Egypt, Turkey and Armenia.

Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link below.

Wednesday 17th	7.30pm	<u>Themes from the National Convention</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u> & <u>Jim Scrivener</u>	MF
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A further look at some of the themes from the National TS Convention in Christchurch in January, this time with some video clips from some of the talks.

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

Zoom meetings: While in-person meetings are definitely the best, if you can't make it person, you can join some of the public 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 some of the speakers

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.

Barry Bowden—Barry will tell you, nature has been his greatest teacher!

He worked with farming for many years as a Bio-dynamic farmer through the processes of nature, both challenging and rewarding. How there is a process going on inwardly, a sensitization through nature, which always stimulates the inward life. Carefully guided by an understanding of deeper Theosophical truths, this knowledge has helped him understand himself. How this is the key to understanding others and life itself. His passion is Theosophy. Theosophy illuminates the hidden processes of nature, which when understood become practical. He aspires to help people realize the hidden potential within themselves, and awaken the their inner life, and is a National lecturer for the Theosophical Society in Australia as well as being involved in Toowoomba group and Brisbane Lodge. He spent time recently in Brazil, as a guest at their Theosophical farm and speaking at the South American Convention.

Brief biographies of some of the speakers, continued

Matthew Greenwood has been involved with counselling, personal, psychic and spiritual development and Shamanic healing practices since 1990. Since 2001, where he spent an initial 5 months, Matthew has taken many journeys to live with the Lakota people on Rosebud Indian Reservation. During these visits he lived with and learnt from different Elders and people in the community. He is actively involved in sharing his skills and knowledge through workshops, public speaking, personal mentoring and counselling. In his workshops and counselling, he teaches people how to be self-aware.

Matthew will also be giving a talk in the “Beyond the Boundaries” Conference, - see below.

“Beyond the Boundaries” Conference

8th—10th March 2024

One of our keen members, Donna Willard-Moore, has organised an event from **8th—10th March 2024** that many of you may be interested in—the **“Beyond the Boundaries” Conference**.

Check out the website at <https://events.artesia.co.nz>

for ticket purchase, more information about all the presenters and their topics as well as the session times and the full schedule! For tickets, visit <https://events.artesia.co.nz/buy-tickets/>

For any questions email Donna dwm2442@gmail.com or Email: events@artesia.co.nz

One of the speakers, Freddy Silva, has sent a [video](#) on his two presentations. The Saturday night event is unique to New Plymouth. It is the subsequent talk to last February's talk which some of you were present for. We get this bigger picture talk first and the rest of New Zealand will hear it next year.

Freddy Silva 's talks -

Friday night 8th March: 7pm **TRANSFORMERS: The Sacred Science of Ancient Temples.**

Friday night, People have been visiting sacred places for thousands of years to experience special types of energy, to heal, or to reach higher states of consciousness. But how exactly does the process work?

Saturday night 9th March: 7pm **Traces of the Former World of the Gods.**

presentation We have a shared inheritance, how it shaped our understanding of the bigger picture of human history, and the teachings that emerged from these profoundly spiritual places — the very tools we now seek in times of upheaval and change.

Donna writes

“We look forward to seeing you again. Please tell your friends about this conference.

Warm regards, Donna.”

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.

NATIONAL EVENTS

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

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Check out replays of the 148th international convention at

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUiu6C_LsrOZDiGsUQMI8ZlnPKmlelPL4

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, if the meeting is at someone's houses, 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.

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.

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.

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 25th August, 2023 for the Sept2023-Aug2024 year were due on 20th September, 2023. 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.

Why is there, one must ask, this division – the Russian, the American, the British, French, German, and so on – why is there this division between human and human, between race and race, culture and culture, one series of ideologies against another? Why? Why is there this separation? Humanity has divided the Earth as yours and mine – why? Is it that we try to find security, self protection, in a particular group, or in a particular belief, faith? For religions also have divided humanity, put person against person – the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians, the Jews, and so on. Nationalism, with its unfortunate patriotism, is really a glorified form, an ennobled form, of tribalism... This terrible desire to identify oneself with the group, with a flag, with a religious ritual, and so on, give us the feeling that we have roots, that we are not homeless wanderers. There is the desire, the urge, to find one's roots ...

It is our Earth, not yours or mine or his. We are meant to live on it, helping each other, not destroying each other. This is not some romantic nonsense but the actual fact. But humanity has divided the Earth, hoping that it is going to find happiness, security, a sense of abiding comfort. Until a radical change takes place and we wipe out all nationalities, all ideologies, all religious divisions and establish a global relationship – psychologically first, inwardly before organising the outer – we shall go on with war. If you harm others, if you kill others, whether in anger or by organised murder which is called war, you, who are the rest of humanity, not a separate human being fighting the rest of humanity, are destroying yourself.

Excerpts from *Krishnamurti to Himself*. Reprinted from *The Theosophist*, Vol. 145.2, January, 2024