

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

New Plymouth Branch



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 Website: <https://theosophy.nz/centres/new-plymouth> Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheosophyNP/

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

Vice President: Donna Willard-Moore, Ph 027-349 8372; dwm2442@gmail.com

Committee: Jo Watson, Nicola Haines, Benjamin Upton, Jan Gargan

PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER August - December 2024

August	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 7th	7.30pm	<u>Big Mind, Big Heart</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u>	P
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The "Big Mind, Big Heart" teaching of Zen Buddhist teacher Genpo Roshi, also known as the Big Mind Process, is a mindfulness and meditation approach that aims to integrate various aspects of the self and expand one's awareness.

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

Wednesday 21st	5.30pm	<u>Living in Wisdom</u> by visiting speaker <u>John Vorstermans</u>	MF
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What does it mean to live in Wisdom and interact in the world we find ourselves in? This is a practical session where we discuss and explore together, wisdom practices we can use in our daily lives. This will enable us to incorporate wisdom practices into our lives and interactions with others – which can lead to life expanding changes in ourselves and those around us.

*Followed by a **potluck dinner**—please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert to share*

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

Wednesday 21st	7.30pm	<u>Developing Effective Relationships</u> by visiting speaker <u>John Vorstermans</u>	P
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This is a workshop exploring genuine listening and effective communication. How to truly listening to those who talk to us and how responding with respect and positive language creates real bonds between us all.

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

September	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 4th	5.30pm	<u>Beyond the 5 senses to the heart of matter and the Far Reaches of Time</u> by visiting speaker <u>Murray Stentiford</u>	MF
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This talk will lead us through the remarkable discoveries of clairvoyant investigators in the Theosophical Society as they looked deep into the heart of physical atoms. They even found isotopes that science didn't discover until 25 years later. We will also hear about the remarkable observations of noted clairvoyant Geoffrey Hodson when he looked into prehistoric fossils, describing their living forms and ways of life. Murray will tell us what it was like to work with such a gifted person, as he assisted Hodson in two clairvoyant research projects.

*Followed by a **potluck dinner**—please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert to share*

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

Wednesday 4th	7.30pm	<u>What is it with NWO and the Illuminati? piercing through to Spiritual Realities</u> by visiting speaker <u>Murray Stentiford</u>	P
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The terms "New World Order" and "Illuminati" are common objects of suspicion and nod-nod wink-wink derision in the circles of conspiracy hunters and cognoscenti all over the internet. But is their so-certain 'knowledge' actually true? Are there deeper layers that even seasoned conspiracy-diggers have not reached yet?

This talk will venture into this underground, showing that these terms had honourable beginnings but were soon subverted, as happens to many a good thing. We shall see how the reality is something like veined marble – light interwoven with dark, and dark interwoven with light, spiritually as well as physically. Questions and discussion welcome.

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

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

September continued	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 18th 7.30pm <u>Cultural changes triggered by H P Blavatsky - 1888 to 2024 and beyond</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u>	P
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When a world view changes everything changes. This talk will show you how it works.

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

October	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 2nd 5.30pm <u>Annual General Meeting</u> of our branch (<i>See agenda page 3</i>)	MF
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Please come to the AGM & Pot luck dinner – 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 more committee members! It's 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, please email the president and advise if you are available to be on it again.

*Followed by a **potluck dinner**—please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert to share*

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

Wednesday 2nd 7.30pm <u>Are we about to create a genuine artificial intelligence?</u> <u>How might that impact your life?</u> by <u>Benjamin Upton</u>	P
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Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link below.

Wednesday 16th 7.30pm <u>Megalithic Stone Circles and what they can teach us</u> by <u>Jim Scrivener</u>	P
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Drawing on the work of the late Professor Keith Critchlow, this is an exploration of how some of these circles were set out, symbolisms they might represent and how those symbolisms are important today helping us understand our place in the universe.

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

November	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 6th 5.30pm <u>Between the Sun and Earth</u> by visiting speaker <u>Carole van Weede</u>	MF
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Interesting facts incl. types of Coronal Mass Ejections, current sheets, its effects on earth and weather, pole flips of the sun and earth and the potential effect of severe impacts to earth and the people. Note: there is some disturbing content which should be discussed.

*Followed by a **potluck dinner**—please bring a vegetarian dish or dessert to share*

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

Wednesday 6th 7.30pm <u>Atlantis - the Myth and the Modern World</u> by visiting speaker <u>Carole van Weede</u>	P
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Is there substance to the stories?

Not sure on that heading yet as it is still evolving. I explain Plato's accounts of its origins and beauty and size with locations: will include Edgar Cayce's comments, the Emerald Tablets, and potential locations which can be discussed of course.

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

Wednesday 20th 7.30pm <u>An introduction Roman Imperial History</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u> & <u>Jo Watson</u>	P
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Augustus to Constantine. Stories of the good and bad emperors.

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

December	Meeting Type*
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Saturday 7th 12 noon <u>End of year picnic</u>	MF
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Join us for a members, friends and families picnic at Lake Mangamahoe on Saturday the 7th 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

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

Note: Events may change due to unforeseen circumstances — check the latest programme at theosophy.nz/centres/new-plymouth where you can download the latest pdf Newsletter.

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

Note: From time to time, the meetings listed with a Zoom option cannot be zoomed for reasons of either the speaker not wishing to or technical issues with their computer. We apologise in advance for the inconvenience .

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.

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.

Carole van Weede Currently a TS member of HPB Lodge in Auckland, Carole has been prior to theosophy, a president for the Pakuranga Spiritualist Centre and a main co-ordinator for the Star Network a friendship group organising activities for (at one time) over 250 people under 30 years, around Auckland. She has a diploma in Holistic Pulsing (a therapy involving rocking the body) and spent five years looking into the well-known but very deep book, A Course in Miracles.

Her current interests are particularly around ancient history, but wherever there is a mystery, she is looking into it!

She has enjoyed teaching many people meditation, healing, spirituality, and personal development. I also host a monthly discussion group called Outside the Square, for spiritually open-minded people and gives talks that she hopes will interest others on their pathways.

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.

John Vorstermans has a love for the works of Blavatsky and the Esoteric movements of both the East and West - at their hearts they are all the same, the challenge is to make their teaching a reality in our lives. John has held various administrative positions in the Society in New Zealand and elsewhere; however, there is nothing better than to have time to explore and share real theosophy.

Murray Stentiford has a wide knowledge of science and spirituality, music and social issues from a lifetime of work and interest in those fields. With a Masters degree in Physics, he has not only worked in a variety of scientific and engineering disciplines, but has played professionally on several musical instruments as well. Murray is a National speaker with the Theosophical Society in New Zealand, and has held various roles within the Society.

Murray delights in widening paradigms and building bridges between science and spirituality, consciousness and matter, and just about anything you can think of. He has a special interest in meditational and energetic practices for healing and transformation of people and other life forms on Earth, with a vision of Global Consciousness ever in mind. Another deep interest is the realm of non-physical creative intelligences in Nature, aka the deva/angelic kingdom, found in not only Theosophy but many cultures as an experientable reality.

One of the highlights of Murray's life was to assist noted seer and writer Geoffrey Hodson in clairvoyant research projects on science and music. This comes up in several of his presentations.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

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

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Check out replays of the 148th international convention and other resources at <https://www.youtube.com/@TheosophicalSocietyAdyar>

Events accessible by Zoom

If you can't do Wednesday nights for our branch's meetings, check out **Wellington branch's** Hybrid Zoom meetings at 7pm on Tuesday nights at

theosophy.nz/membership/local-centres/wellington

A New Study Course - calling all keen members!

Four of us - Donna, Nikki, Jan and Jim have just finished an 8-session study course on HPB's 'The Secret Doctrine'. It made for some interesting discussions over a cuppa. We held these weekly on Wednesday afternoons from 3-5pm approximately at one of our homes. Study courses are a great way to get more out of theosophy and hear other people's interpretations of what they've read.

We are planning another one, so this is a great opportunity to get involved. We are currently considering a course called '**Theosophy—an introductory study course**' by John Algeo. It has 12 chapters, so we could potentially meet for 12 sessions. This study course among others can be found on the TSNZ website at <https://theosophy.nz/membership/membership-resources> under the heading 'Self Study Courses'.

We need a day and time that suits as many as possible, so if you're interested, **please email** us on tsnewplymouth@gmail.com and let us know the day of the week and time that would suit you (and more importantly the ones that wouldn't) and we will try to suit as many as possible. It could be during the day or evening. Also, if you can share your home for the purpose, let us know too - that would be fantastic.

Annual General Meeting 2/10/24 Agenda

- Present/ Apologies
- Minutes of last AGM 18/10/23 & Matters Arising
- Reports: President's, Treasurer's, Library
- Election of Officers
- Delegate to Convention
- General Business

Members & Friends meetings

If you're thinking of bringing a friend to a members & friends meeting, if the meeting is at someone's house, 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.

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

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.

Palmerston North—Regional Event 7-8 September check out theosophy.nz/events/theosophical-society-central-region-gathering

New Plymouth Branch Library of over 750 books is sorted & catalogued by author at the president's place. To visit, please phone or text Jim on 021-2511 011 (or email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com) to arrange a time. We receive new books from time to time 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.

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 Programme/Newsletter

We publish this usually every 6 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.

**Love and Compassion are the true religions to me.
But to develop this, we do not need to believe in any religion.**

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

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