

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

New Plymouth Branch



Correspondence.: Pres. Jim Scrivener, 30 Hine St, New Plymouth; tsnewplymouth@gmail.com
 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: Jan Gargan, Mary Ann Turbitt, Jo Watson, Benjamin Upton

PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER April — June 2025 revision 1

April	Meeting Type*
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rev1
Wednesday 2nd 5.30pm **Discussion on the previous public talk** **MF**
 A chance to delve further into Ben's 'Exploring the Potential Impact of AGI/Singularity' talk.
Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)
Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Wednesday 2nd 7.30pm **Engaging with "Character"** by Donna Willard-Moore **P**
 The Literary traditions looking at human consciousness as a counterpoint to story and themes in literature and movies.
Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Wednesday 16th 5.30pm **Discussion on the previous public talk** **MF**
 A chance to delve further into Donna's 'Engaging with Character' talk.
Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)
Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

rev1
Wednesday 16th 7.30pm **Numerology, an ancient system of self discovery** by Stephen Waitere **P**
 A fun introduction to the topic with surprising insights. Numerology is also a reminder that everything is connected through vibration. You might be surprised by what you can learn about yourself.
Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

May	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 7th 5.30pm **White Lotus Day (8 May)** by Jim Scrivener **MF**
 In her will, HPB suggested that her friends might gather together on the anniversary of her death (May 8, 1891) and read from Sir Edwin Arnold's *The Light of Asia* and from *The Bhagavad Gita*.
 Also a chance to discuss the previous talk on Numerology.
Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)
Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

Wednesday 7th 7.30pm **An Exploration of Ongoing Conspiracies** by Benjamin Upton **P**
 Looking into the expanding list of ex conspiracy theories - let's look at some of the so-called proof and along the way learn some methods to discern fact from fantasy.
Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.

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

May continued	Meeting Type*
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rev1

Wednesday 21st 5.30pm <u>The Impact of our thoughts</u> by <u>John Vorstermans</u>	MF
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Thoughts affect us and those around us, creating our realities. Becoming aware of them is the first step to understanding a part of ourselves that can unlock the unreal. Theosophy and science have a lot to share in this.

Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)

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

Wednesday 21st 7.30pm <u>Awakening the Heart-Mind</u> by <u>John Vorstermans</u>	P
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In today's world, we mainly work with the mind; the heart is often forgotten. This presentation explores the importance of balancing the heart and mind, as both are essential to a well-balanced individual. We will use myths, modern stories, and science to illustrate our points.

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

June	Meeting Type*
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Wednesday 4th 5.30pm <u>Discussion on the previous public talk</u>	MF
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A chance to delve further into John's 'Awakening the Heart-Mind' talk.

Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)

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

Wednesday 4th 7.30pm <u>'The Golden Stairs' by H. P. Blavatsky.</u> by <u>Jim Scrivener</u>	P
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Pointing a way to divine wisdom as found in a short poem by H. P. Blavatsky.

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

Wednesday 18th 5.30pm <u>Discussion on the previous public talk</u>	MF
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A chance to delve further into Jim's 'The Golden Stairs' talk.

Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)

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

rev1

Wednesday 18th 7.30pm <u>The Hermetic Laws as they exist in Art & Philosophy</u> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u>	P
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Delving into the Male/Female polarity aspect as found in art.

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

***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 technical or other reasons. We apologise in advance for the inconvenience.

Brief biographies of some of the speakers

Donna Willard-Moore has a robust research background, presenting at numerous national and international conferences, primarily focusing on Integral Theory, educational topics, and art history. She moved to New Zealand in 1996 and discovered the New Zealand Theosophical Society in 2010, where she was delighted by the learning and research opportunities it offered. The organization features extraordinary speakers addressing relevant topics, fostering a sense of community among fellow researchers and friends who share her passion for discovery, writing, and research. Born in Lubbock, Texas, and raised near Houston, Donna holds a BFA, MA, and MFA (all with honours) from the University of Houston and the University of Missouri. She has taught at 12 American universities and served as an Assistant Professor at William Woods University.

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.

Kirsty Morton has been a Theosophical Society member since 2012 based in Whanganui. Her favourite things include; books 'Key to Theosophy' by HPB and Mabel Collins' 'Light On The Path', the word 'Equanimity', and a quote from Richard D. Bach's book Jonathan Livingston Seagull: "It's good to be a Seeker, but sooner or later you have to be a Finder. And then it is well to give what you have found, a gift into the world for whoever will accept it."

rev1

Stephen Waitere has spent years mastering skills from sustainable building and self-sufficient systems to alternative medicine and life coaching. His passion is helping others improve their lives. So, where does numerology fit in? Stephen sees it as an ancient self-discovery tool and a reminder that everything is connected through

rev1

Save the date—20/21 September

New Plymouth Branch is organising a Central Regional Event in New Plymouth. More details later.

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.

rev1

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 .

A New Study Course - calling all keen members!

Four of us - Donna, Jan, Mary Ann and Jim are currently on a third study course "The Pilgrim and the Path: Living Theosophy" by John Algeo. It makes for some interesting discussions over a cuppa. We currently hold 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.

If you are interested this is a great opportunity to get involved. The current course and the two previous ones 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.

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

Members & Friends meetings

If you've been to a few public meetings or are a friend of a current member, check out first the Theosophy New Zealand website <https://theosophy.nz/> to get an idea about the Society is about. Then, feel free to attend the Members & Friends meetings. These meetings begin with a Healing Service for the benefit of people we know personally, who are currently ill. This is followed by a short meditation. (Feel free to bring a suitable short meditation.) The rest of the meeting is devoted to further discussion on the previous public talk or some other theosophical idea, and is a good way of widening one's perspective.

New Plymouth Branch Programme/Newsletter

We publish this twice a year with the programme, with updates as necessary. 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.

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 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.

NATIONAL EVENTS

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

INTERNATIONAL TS YouTube channel

Check out replays of conventions and more at <https://www.youtube.com/@TheosophicalSocietyAdyar>

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.

Intuition is soul guidance, appearing naturally in man during those instants when his mind is calm. . . . The goal of yoga science is to calm the mind, that without distortion it may hear the infallible counsel of the Inner Voice. Solve all your problems through meditation.

Lahiri Mahasaya

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. . . . The intellect has little to do on the road to discovery. There comes a leap in consciousness, call it intuition or what you will, and the solution comes to you and you don't know how or why. All great discoveries are made in this way.

Albert Einstein

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The Mahayana Buddhists say that enlightenment comes only when there is deep compassion, a deep feeling for the misery and suffering which exist in the world. The real reason for finding enlightenment should be an altruistic sympathy and compassion for all who suffer.

Radha Burnier.

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