

# THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

## New Plymouth Branch



Correspondence.: Pres. Jim Scrivener, 30 Hine St, New Plymouth; [tsnewplymouth@gmail.com](mailto:tsnewplymouth@gmail.com)  
 Website: <https://theosophy.nz/centres/new-plymouth> Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheosophyNP/](https://www.facebook.com/TheosophyNP/)

**President/Treas.:** Jim Scrivener, Ph 021-2511 011 or 06-758 3511; [tsnewplymouth@gmail.com](mailto:tsnewplymouth@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Donna Willard-Moore, Ph 027 349 8372; [dwm2442@gmail.com](mailto:dwm2442@gmail.com)

**Committee:** Jan Gargan, Mary Ann Turbitt, Jo Watson, Benjamin Upton

## PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER - July—August 2025

July	Meeting Type*
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 5.30pm</b> <b>Discussion on the previous talk</b> <b>MF</b> Following a healing service and short meditation (please bring one you'd like to share), a chance to discuss the previous talk by Donna Willard-Moore—The Hermetic Laws as they exist in Art & Philosophy. <i>Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)</i> <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm</b> <b>Mystery Movie night</b> <b>P</b> Come along for an interesting movie and a chance to discuss its themes afterwards <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm</b> <b>The Esoteric Section of the Theosophical Society</b> by <u>Ganesh Kumar</u> <b>MF</b> Guest speaker Ganesh Kumar from HPB Branch in Auckland will join us by Zoom to give us a talk on 'The Original Program of the Theosophical Society and the Preliminary Memorandum of the Esoteric Section' <i>Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)</i> <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link below	
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b> <b>Three Ways of Thinking Yoga</b> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u> <b>P</b> The School of Theosophy 2025 by Juliana Cesano was about 3 'Yogas'. Yoga means - Union. 1. Jnana yoga - about wisdom/ learning 2. Bhakti yoga - Emotional temperament - Love. 3. Karma yoga - For a person of action - Service to others. How they merge into a fuller and even more interesting understanding. <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom Link below.	
August	Meeting Type*
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm</b> <b>Discussion on the previous talk</b> <b>MF</b> Following a healing service and short meditation, (please bring one you'd like to share), a chance to discuss the previous talk by Donna Willard-Moore—Three ways of thinking Yoga. <i>Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)</i> <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b> <b>The Universe on a Wavelength</b> by <u>Benjamin Upton</u> <b>P</b> 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? <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm</b> <b>Discussion on the previous talk</b> <b>MF</b> Following a healing service and short meditation, (please bring one you'd like to share), a chance to discuss the previous talk by Benjamin Upton—The Universe on a Wavelength. <i>Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm talk)</i> <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	

**\*Meeting types: MF = Members & Friends; P = Public** (all are welcome - suggested koha \$2 members; \$5 Public)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** **Megalithic Stone Circles and what they can teach us** by **Jim Scrivener**

**P**

Drawing on the work of Professor Keith Critchlow and Freddy Silva, 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.

**\*Meeting types: MF = Members & Friends; P = Public** (all are welcome - *suggested koha \$2 members; \$5 Public*)

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

**Zoom meetings:** Some meetings are noted in the 'Venue' part "Or, use Zoom link below". While in-person meetings are definitely the best, if you can't make it person, you can join those ones, 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](mailto: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.*

*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.*

### **A New Study Course - calling all keen members!**

Six of us currently - Donna, Jan, Mary Ann, Dennis, Tee 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 Thursday mornings from 10.30am—12 noon 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](mailto: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.

### **Save the date—27/28 September**

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 800 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](mailto:tsnewplymouth@gmail.com)) to arrange a time. We have recently received some books from the library of Peter and Nina Vink.

### **Membership subscriptions reminder**

Subscription invoices issued on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 for the Sept2024-Sept2025 year were due on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. 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](mailto: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.

**Believe that nothing is impossible for you, think yourself immortal and capable of understanding all, all arts, all sciences, the nature of every living being. Mount higher than the highest height; descend lower than the lowest depth.**

Giordano Bruno

*Reprinted from The Theosophist, Vol. 146.3, December, 2024*

**Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway.**

Mother Theresa

**To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night follows the day, thou canst not then be false to any**

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*.

*Reprinted from The Theosophist, Vol. 146.4, January 2025*