

# THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

## New Plymouth Branch



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 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, Dennis Carswell, Teena Carswell

## PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER September - November 2025 - revision 2

### September Meeting Type\*

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>** 5.30pm Discussion on the previous movie MF

Following a healing service and short meditation (please bring one you'd like to share), a chance to discuss the previous movie, or anything else.

*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 17<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm Varieties of Consciousness by Donna Willard-Moore P

Human history records systems of defining or characterising people. Astrology is the earliest, but 20th century psychology refined consciousness definitions giving individuals personal terms of character identification.

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

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** 12 – 9pm Regional Event—see details below P

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** 9am—1pm Regional Event continued —see details below P

### October Meeting Type\*

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>** 5.30pm Discussion on the previous talk MF

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—Varieties of Consciousness, the Regional Event or anything else.

*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 1<sup>st</sup>** 7.30pm To be advised by Benjamin Upton P

Watch for an updated newsletter programme. Ben gives amazing talks, so save the date.

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

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>** 5.30pm Annual General Meeting of our branch (See agenda page 4) MF

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. It's not particularly onerous – we aim for monthly meetings timed usually 9am on the last Thursday of the month. 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 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 15<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm Māori Spirituality by Guest Speaker Manu McGrath P

(The speaker will present via Zoom)

**Venue:** Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom link next page.

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

| November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Meeting Type* |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm</b> <u><b>Discussion on the previous talk</b></u> <b>MF</b><br>Following a healing service and short meditation, (please bring one you'd like to share), a chance to discuss the previous talk by Manu McGrath on Māori Spirituality, or anything else.<br><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><br><b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.                                                               |               |
| <b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b> <u><b>The Law of One</b></u> by Guest Speaker <u>Scott Baker</u> <b>P</b><br>The Ra Chronicles in relation to the planet and in particular to Ancient Egypt.<br><b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |               |
| <b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm</b> <u><b>At the Feet of the Master</b></u> by <u>Jim Scrivener</u> <b>MF</b><br>Following a healing service and short meditation, (please bring one you'd like to share), a look at the wisdom contained in this little book which lays out simply, the four requirements for the spiritual path and discipleship.<br><i>Followed by a pot luck dinner at 6.30pm - please bring a vegetarian dish to share, and stay for the 7.30pm movie)</i><br><b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. |               |
| <b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b> <u><b>Mystery Movie night</b></u> <b>P</b><br>Come along for an interesting movie and a chance to discuss its themes afterwards<br><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)

*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**

*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.*

*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.*



# Exploring latent human potential

## A Central Regional Event in New Plymouth

27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2025

Hopefully you have saved the dates mentioned in the last 2 newsletters.

New Plymouth Branch is organising a weekend seminar event consisting of a series of presentations with meals, and we'd like as much attendance from our branch as possible. We look forward to hosting 5 visiting speakers - from National Office, the Governance Board and other TS branches in our central region (Palmerston North and Wellington), along with 3 speakers from our branch, to hear their thoughts on the theme, along with a short panel discussion at the end. There will be time for questions and discussion after each presentation. This is a great chance to meet people from other branches if you are not normally able to travel to national conventions or regional events out of town.

Registrations will be limited to 25 to suit the size of the venue.

Registration fee for the weekend is \$50 for TS members and \$60 for members of the public. Registrations will open for members first, followed by public, and will be on first come first served basis until 25 is reached or a cut-off date roughly a week before the event. (You will not be able to register on the day.) So that the maximum number of people can enjoy it, registrants need to attend the whole event.

Vegetarian meals will be provided— two lunches and one dinner, along with morning & afternoon teas. We can't specifically cater for every type of dietary requirement, so please make your own arrangements if this applies to you. (There will be a fridge available). Dishes will have ingredient lists beside them.

Go to <https://theosophy.nz/events/theosophical-society-central-region-workshop> for details and to register, Don't miss out—at the time of writing there were 8 places left.)

Time: arrival from 11am, on the Saturday, with the event starting with lunch at noon, to 8.30pm and restarting 9am on the Sunday, finishing with lunch at noon.

Venue: Jan Gargan's Retreat Room, 99 Beach Road Extension, Omata, New Plymouth. (This is in a delightful rural setting overlooking the sea with views to Paritutu, which, weather-permitting, will allow a chance for short walks in the breaks.)

If you can't attend yourself, there may be opportunities to help by driving people to and from the airport or bus station. Please email Jim at [tsnewplymouth@gmail.com](mailto:tsnewplymouth@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this event.

**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 or more a year, 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, international Zoom talks and meditations are available from the very active TS in the Philippines. <http://www.theosophy.ph> Email C J Romero [theosophilpres@gmail.com](mailto:theosophilpres@gmail.com) to be put on their email list.

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### **Annual General Meeting 15/10/25 Agenda**

- Present/ Apologies
- Minutes of last AGM 2/10/24 & Matters Arising
- Reports: President's, Treasurer's, Library
- Election of Officers
- Delegate to Convention
- General Business

**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. Palmerston North, Hawkes Bay, 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 [www.youtube.com/@TheosophicalSocietyAdyar](http://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 a book from National Office—Tim Boyd: 'On the Verge of Wisdom'

### **Membership subscriptions reminder**

Subscription invoices issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2025 for the Sept2025-Sept2026 year **were due on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025**. A reminder that we have now to lapse members when they are one year in arrears of the invoice date, so please check if you've paid. 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.

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Compassion is not merely an emotion, but a deep intelligence and love that encompasses all living things. It is the denial of the "me" and requires a freedom from attachment and the ego.

J. Krishnamurti

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