

# THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

## New Plymouth Branch



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

## PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER February—March 2026

February	Meeting Type*
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm</b> <b><u>Discussion on the previous movie</u></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 movie "One Fire", books you've been reading, or anything else. <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 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b> <b><u>Reincarnation Through the Ages</u></b> by <u>Ingrid Vercammen</u> <b>P</b> From the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Druids, early Christianity and Eastern traditions to modern Theosophy teachings, beliefs in reincarnation have shaped humanity's understanding of life, death, and purpose. In this introductory talk, Ingrid Vercammen explores how different cultures perceived the soul's continuity and how these ideas evolved into contemporary Theosophical thought. This talk is the first of a three-part series: Part 2 examines scientific, psychological, and near-death research, while Part 3 delves into the soul's journey between lives and the lessons carried across lifetimes. <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm</b> <b><u>Discussion on the previous talk</u></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 Ingrid Vercammen, books you've been reading, or anything else. <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 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b> <b><u>The Rose and the Lotus</u></b> by <u>Donna Willard-Moore</u> <b>P</b> By metaphor, symbol and recognition we examine various facets of the spiritual path and learn how you are "an active partner in this shared adventure of awakening". <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
March	Meeting Type*
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>h</sup> 5.30pm</b> <b><u>Discussion on the previous talk</u></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, books you've been reading, or anything else. <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>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm</b> <b><u>Vibroacoustic Therapy</u></b> by <u>Dennis Carswell</u> <b>P</b> VibroAcoustic Therapy uses gentle, low frequency sounds, as vibrations through the use of direct contact devices. It is a non-invasive, drug free approach to aid in healing and enhancing general health and wellness. It is used for pain and stress relief, post-surgery recovery, insomnia, lowering high blood pressure, reducing Parkinson's & Alzheimer's symptoms, to name a few, supported by 40 years of clinical studies. Vibroacoustic therapy aligns with Theosophical principles by supporting holistic self-development, harmonising body and mind, awakening subtle awareness, and fostering inner balance that encourages deeper spiritual insight and compassionate living . <b>Venue:</b> Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
<b>*Meeting types: MF = Members &amp; Friends; P = Public</b> (all are welcome - <i>suggested koha \$2 Members; \$5 Public</i> )	

**Wednesday 18<sup>h</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 Dennis Carswell, books you've been reading, or anything else.

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

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm **The Great Adepts** by Guest Speaker **Richard Sell**

**P**

It is said that the purpose of evolution is the unfoldment of consciousness and that for Humanity, our goal is reached when union between the Higher Self and lower self is realised. When this glorious state is achieved, the illumined individual is called an Adept, a Master of the Wisdom or Mahatma. What is a great Adept and what is their purpose? Who are these great Beings and how might we become one ourselves one day? These questions and more are explored in this presentation.

**Venue:** 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**

**Ingrid Vercammen** is an intuitive entrepreneur, author, and former psychotherapist with over three decades of experience in emotional development and spiritual exploration. She holds a Master's Degree in Political and Social Sciences from KU Leuven and spent many years in Belgium practicing psychotherapy, using modalities such as NLP, Voice Dialogue, Regression Therapy, Hypnosis, Script-As, and guided visualisation. She also taught seminars on positive thinking, non-verbal communication, meditation, and conflict handling.

After emigrating to New Zealand, Ingrid co-founded Van Dyck Fine Foods, the company behind the award-winning 'Marcel's' pancakes brand. Under her leadership the company grew into a successful international business.

Her later work in women's empowerment led to the creation of Women Beyond Ordinary, a platform dedicated to strengthening women's inner leadership and confidence.

A member of the Theosophical Society since 2023 — though long connected to spiritual study — Ingrid brings a grounded, life-experienced, and open perspective to the topic of reincarnation

**Dennis Carswell** is a recently retired industrial refrigeration engineer with an innate interest in all things to do with mechanics, electrics and hydronic (fluids).

He has found a connection to these through sound and thus vibration so the Vibroacoustic Therapy Practitioning is a perfect fit for him to transition into.

**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.

## **Brief biographies of some of the speakers continued**

**Richard Sell** comes from a Theosophical family in New Zealand and first joined the Theosophical Society as a teenager. Richard loves all things theosophical, but he is especially interested in the self-awareness and transformation process that is undertaken by the individual and how this can be applied in everyday living. He is a history buff and theosophical history is near to his heart. He is the National President of the Theosophical Society in NZ, and a past President of HPB Lodge in Auckland. Richard has presented throughout New Zealand as a National Speaker and has also presented internationally at Adyar, Indonesia, The Philippines, and the World Congress in Singapore. He contributes articles to theosophical magazines and is very active in promoting theosophy as a founder of the [theosophy.world](https://theosophy.world) resource website.

**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.

**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.

My guide, my soul, your only sadness  
is when I am not walking with you.  
In deep silence, and with some exertion  
to stay in your company,  
I could save you a lot of trouble

Rumi

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