

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

New Plymouth Branch



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

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

PROGRAMME / NEWSLETTER October—November 2026

October	Meeting Type*
Wednesday 7th 5.30pm <u>Committee meeting</u> M Following a healing service and short meditation (please bring one you'd like to share), members are welcome to observe the committee meeting <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> Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
Wednesday 7th 7.30pm <u>What Does it Take to Have Real Peace? - Is peace just the absence of war?</u> P by <u>Murray Stentiford</u> via Zoom	
People hoped that World War I would be 'The War to End all Wars', and pretty much the same for World War II. Yet here we are with several wars going on right now. But is Peace just avoiding getting into a fight? Can we have Peace in the world when there is widespread injustice and people are a turmoil of voices within? This talk will tease out the spiritual and energetic factors that underpin war, yet are often ignored. Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth. Or, use Zoom link below	
Wednesday 21st 5.30pm <u>Annual General Meeting</u> of our branch (<i>See agenda page 3</i>) M 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 – monthly meetings 5.30-6.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month, Feb-Nov. 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. <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> Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
Wednesday 21st 7.30pm <u>Movie: "Alive Inside: A Story of Music and Memory"</u> (<i>a 2014 Documentary</i>) P Come along for an interesting movie and a chance to discuss its themes afterwards Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
November	Meeting Type*
Wednesday 4th 5.30pm <u>Committee meeting</u> M Following a healing service and short meditation (please bring one you'd like to share), members are welcome to observe the committee meeting <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> Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
Wednesday 4th 7.30pm <u>Death & reincarnation, and what happens between life incarnations</u> by <u>Scott Baker</u> P In the Law of one we are taught that reincarnation is the process used at all levels of the creation to cycle us through many life experience. It's also employed as one of the mechanisms through which we progress to higher dimensions of consciousness when we are ready. Between incarnations we are given opportunity to both deeply review past lives and to choose the next incarnation parameters. All is done within our free will and consent. This free will distortion is always considered sacrosanct. Venue: Disability Information Centre, 28 Young St, New Plymouth.	
*Meeting types: M = Members; MF = Members & Friends; P = Public (all are welcome - <i>suggested koha \$2 Members; \$5 Public</i>)	

Wednesday 18th 5.30pm The Fifth Dimension — Rising from the Ashes by Ingrid Vercammen**MF**

In this talk, Ingrid Vercammen explores the shift from fear to love, from the old game of life to a new way of living. Drawing on the ideas of Madame Blavatsky, including her teachings on the planes of consciousness, vibration and the Seven Rays, Ingrid explains what it means to be reborn without dying — to leave the old life behind while keeping our memories, experiences and wisdom.

Using the Phoenix as a powerful symbol of transformation, Ingrid shares how she rose from the ashes and created a dream life for herself, and how we can learn to catch the current and go with the flow.

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 18th 7.30pm Fools Gold - finding what matters by Kirsty Morton**P**

The term 'fool's gold' is used metaphorically to describe anything that seems valuable but is ultimately worthless or deceptive. We will explore some ideas about value, illusion, choice, the idea of an unfolding spiritual journey being the qualitative development of inherent potential, with a gradual revelation of what is already present, valuing energetic not just material perceived gain.

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

***Meeting types: M = Members; 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 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

**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

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 several roles in the Society over the years.

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 lighting it all.

One of the highlights of Murray's life was to help noted seer and writer Geoffrey Hodson in clairvoyant research projects on science and music.

Scott Baker is an internationally accomplished spiritual teacher and martial arts master with over 50 years of experience. He is a native of New Zealand but immigrated to the USA in 1985 to attend university. After graduating magna cum laude, he went on to earn a PhD in psychology in 1995 and spent more than 30 years teaching leadership skills within different corporations throughout the USA and internationally. He returned to his native home in 2015 to dedicate himself to the study of the Law of One, Kabbalah, and Hermetic principles. He is now retired and lives in the blissful countryside of Taranaki, between the mountain and the sea, spending up to 3 hours a day in meditation.

Kirsty Morton has been a Theosophical Society member since 2012 and fulfilled local branch roles, Governance Board chairperson and is currently National Vice President. She has a variety of work and community experience including facepainting and facilitating trauma informed workshops.

Brief biographies of some of the speakers cntd

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.

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 bi-monthly, 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, 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 to be put on their email list.

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. Palmerston North, Hawkes Bay, 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 www.youtube.com/@TheosophicalSocietyAdyar

New Plymouth Branch Library of over 800 books is in shelves sorted & catalogued by author at the president's place. Our wonderful Benjamin Upton has created an online searchable catalogue with brief summary for each book for the library. Type library.tsnp.nz into the address bar of your search engine (not into the search panel). For newer phones there is an app. you can download from there. To visit the physical library, please phone or text Jim on 021-2511 011 (or email tsnewplymouth@gmail.com) to arrange a time.

Membership subscriptions reminder

Subscription invoices issued on **14th August, 2026** for the Oct2026-Sept2027 year **were due on 20th Sept 2026**. 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) 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.

Annual General Meeting 21/10/26 Agenda

- Present/ Apologies
- Minutes of last AGM 15/10/25 & Matters Arising
- Reports: President, Treasurer, Library, Social Media
- Election of Officers
- Delegate to Convention
- General Business

Every day think as you wake up: Today I am fortunate to have woken up. I am alive. I have a precious human life. I am not going to waste it. I am going to use all my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others, to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. I am going to have kind thoughts toward others, I am not going to get angry, or think badly about others. I am going to benefit others as much as I can.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

Reprinted from *The Theosophist*, Vol. 147.12, September, 2026