



PRANA

Newsletter of the Wellington Branch of the Theosophical Society

Volume 37: Issues 2-3, 1 MAY - 31 DECEMBER 2020

Greetings Members and Friends!

This is a combined issue of the *Prana* Newsletter. During the Lockdown since 26 March - 14 June 2020 I have been sending you weekly e-Newsletters by email. I hope you have found it helpful being in touch with the local, national and international Theosophical community.

The Committee has been meeting since 23 June 2020 every month to plan and execute the various things we needed to do to open the hall to the members and public. There are health and safety issues to be considered.

Preparations are also underway for hosting the Annual Convention in January 2021 at Wellington.

We have been having **Working Bees** every Sunday from 14 June 2020 onwards and on some Tuesdays as well.

Arzoo, Sai, Louise and Hillary have also been dusting and cleaning the books in the Library because most of the shelves were covered in dust after a plastering job done in the Ladies Bathroom. Silvia Soto-Bussard, our Librarian has been directing the operations so that we may complete most of it before the end of this year.

Plumbing repairs were carried out to remove the blocked drain in the kitchen and a dripping tap in the men's bathroom. The outside drain was cleared by Bryan Pollock.

We are fortunate in Wellington to have a Lodge building to hold our meetings and activities without worrying about organizing a venue each time. It is an opportunity for service to take care of our precious building which is over a hundred years old. Several members and visitors have

Special General Meeting (SGM)

Sunday, 6 September 2020
(2.00-4.00pm)

Notice: The Wellington Lodge of the Theosophical Society will be holding a Special General Meeting at 19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

2.00-3.00pm – Special General Meeting (Doors open 1.30pm)

3.00pm - Afternoon Tea (Please bring a vegetarian or vegan plate to share).

Agenda: To discuss and ratify changes to Clause 10(f) in the Wellington Branch Constitution around the appointment of an 'Auditor'. Members who would like a copy of the Constitution please contact Leigh Cain, Secretary: tswlgt@gmail.com

commented on the special atmosphere -- 'it is an oasis in the city'. 'I feel uplifted every time I visit our Lodge' and so on. This has been made possible because of the sincerity with which our members work to create a space that is welcoming, tidy and inspiring to all those who enter it.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all those who make the time and effort to help with the various tasks involved in maintaining the building over the last few years, and the running of the Lodge of the Theosophical Society.

The value of having a branch in our city must have been apparent over the Lockdown period for many of us.

-- Sushma Webber,
Lodge President

Welcome to New Members

Sai Raje
Louise Black (rejoined)

132nd Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Sunday, 18 October 2020
(2.00-5.00pm)

Notice: The Wellington Lodge of the Theosophical Society will be holding its 132nd Annual General Meeting at 19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington.

2.00-3.30pm – Annual General Meeting (Doors open 1.30pm)

3.30pm - Afternoon Tea (Please bring a vegetarian or vegan plate to share).

4.00pm - Members' Forum:

An opportunity to discuss and receive feedback on activities, and plan for the coming year.

Nominations are invited for the Office holders and Committee members from those who have been members for not less than two years. Nominations, seconded by any two financial members, duly signed by the Nominee, must be sent to the Secretary before **30 September 2020**.

We usually have from 12-16 members attend our AGMs to encourage and support our Committee and Theosophical workers.

Level 2 to 1 - News in Pictures



Tree-Planting on World Environment Day, 05 June 2020

An impromptu TOS (Theosophical Order of Service) activity was organized and Sushma Webber was able to go tree-planting to mark a new beginning after the COVID-19 Lockdown moved to Level 2 in May 2020. Conservation New Zealand organizes a weekly tree-planting mostly in the winter months.



Working Bees - every Sunday from 14 JUN-30 AUG 2020: Silvia, Simon, Faye, Esme, Brett, Arzoo, Hillary, and new members Sai and Louise, have been regularly helping and meticulous in getting the Hall and Library ready to be opened for regular meetings.



21 June 2020 - Afternoon Tea and informal Members' Forum: to discuss how we can move forward in the coming months.

Central Regional Event at Palmerston North Branch

Sat-Sun, 1-2 AUGUST 2020 (2-Day Weekend Workshop)

THEME: Exploring the Realities of Our Existence, Harmonizing Spirit and Matter and Liberating the Soul



Friday, 31 July 2020: On the train to Palmy!

The recently concluded Regional Event was hosted by Palmerston North Branch was a successful and inspiring weekend. Around **30** persons attended the 2-day event including members from the Central Region branches viz., New Plymouth (2), Hawke's Bay (5), Wellington (7+1), and also Far North Branch (1). Two of our members were billeted in a member's home, and we thank her.



Saturday, 1 August 2020 - Attendees getting ready for the next session.

Some of the presentations given were: **Exploring the Realities of Existence** by Anthea Clement; **Unmasking the Void** by Benjamin Upton; **Living in Tune with Cosmic and Planetary Cycles** by Sushma Webber and **Sound and Its Use in Healing** by Jim Scrivner.



Day 2: Wellington attendees in front of Palmerston North Branch. Louise had left to drive back home.

The following members have offered to help:

TEAM - Theosophy in Action

PRANA Proof readers - P. Stainton, S. Raje, L. Cain
Tuesday Facilitators - E. Ridgeway, G. Henderson
Sunday Study support - Esme R. and Leigh C.
Lodge Custodians - Faye Tohbyn and Brett Carstens
Cleaning Bees - after Members' Meetings (optional)
Library Team - Silvia. S-B, A. Syeddah, Sai Raje

Team Members needed for:

Convention 2021 - volunteers - before and during
Meet and Greet - for Tuesday meetings/Events

The following tasks will be **DISCONTINUED** for lack of volunteers:

E-newsletter/Event Reminder - Mailchimp skills
Promotion - Facebook/Radio/Posters

Please note: PRANA NEWSLETTER will be the ONLY means of communication. Email reminders will **not** be sent henceforward. Members who wish to attend have to register before the events/study programmes - in person, by post, by email or call/text. Contact: **Secretary: tswlgn@gmail.com/ 027 387 8027**

MEMBERS' STUDY PROGRAMME

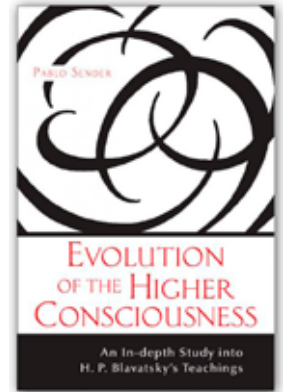
(7 FEB 2021 ONWARDS) See programme for Next Year

Next year we will continue our studies of Pablo Sender's new book '**EVOLUTION OF THE HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS -- An In-Depth Study into H. P. Blavatsky's Teachings**'.

We have studied Annie Besant's book *The Seven Principles of Man* as a preliminary to Pablo's book. Members who are interested in joining in this study programme are required to register in advance and also study Annie Besant's book if you have not yet done so.

Registration: \$20.00 (includes printed material/workbooks). To buy a **hard copy** or an **E-book** of Pablo's book please check out the website: <http://fohatproductions.com>

Last Date to Register: Sunday, 29 November 2020



Upcoming Events

WELLINGTON

Special Days of the Theosophical Society

SUN, 4 October 2020 (2.00-4.00pm)

**ANNIE BESANT'S BIRTHDAY,
CHARACTER DAY
and New Members Welcome**

TUE, 17 November 2020 (7.30-8.30pm)

**FOUNDATION DAY
and New Members Welcome**
(Remembering Col. Henry S. Olcott, H. P. Blavatsky
and past TSNZ workers)

NATIONAL EVENTS

**SAT-SUN, 3-4 OCT 2020
IMMERSION WEEKEND**

Saturday, 3 OCT 9.15 am - Sunday, 4 OCT 4.00 pm

Every year this special weekend is held to explore some of the key principles underlying the Modern Theosophical Movement introduced through the Theosophical Society at its founding. These ideas, based on the principles of the unity of all life, the cyclic nature of the universe and the pathways to the unfolding of awareness have been put forward for exploration.

- Venue: 4 Warborough Ave, Epsom, Auckland
- Cost: **\$65.00** (Registration and lunches)
\$105.00 (Registration, Breakfasts and lunches over the weekend and shared accommodation for out of town attendees.)

Contact: office@theosophy.org.nz

CENTRAL REGION EVENT

The Central Region Lodge Presidents have been working together since mid-2019 to organize regional events in every Lodge each year if possible. The next event is:

- **Sat-Sun, 26-27 September 2020** -- hosted by the New Plymouth Branch. Details to be announced.

7-12 JANUARY 2021

TSNZ ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by Wellington Lodge of the Theosophical Society

Details to be Announced

For details about National Events - see:

<https://theosophy.nz>

Wellington Branch of the Theosophical Society

19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011

PROGRAMME (1 SEP-29 NOV 2020) 7.30PM TUESDAYS

Registration per Theme: Members:\$10.00; Non-members:\$20.00

Registration required for all sessions due to COVID-19 precautions (7.00pm - Doors Open)

(Please Note: Tuesday meetings are for Members and New Enquirers; Sundays are for Members only)

DATE/DAY	TOPIC	Presenter/s
SEPTEMBER		
1 SEP, TUE	7.30pm - WELCOME BACK PARTY: Share your talent + Supper	Members, Family and Friends
6 SEP, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) -- (SGM) SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (see page 1) + Afternoon Tea	Members only
Theme: WORLD PEACE: An Individual and Collective Responsibility		
8 SEP, TUE	7.30pm - How to Prepare for a FORTUNATE REBIRTH	Bill Keidan
15 SEP, TUE	7.30pm - Guest Panel -- All for Peace, and Peace for All	Jason Cluley Charlotte McKay Joe Roberts
20 SEP, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) - LIBRARY Working Bee + Cleaning Bee	Members only
22 SEP, TUE*	7.30pm - 'Peace is the Way' to Global Change	Esme Ridgeway
29 SEP, TUE	7.30pm - Exploring Peace and Conflict Studies -- A Case Study on Sri Lanka	Marie Nissanka
OCTOBER		
Theme: MEDITATION: Its Practice and Results		
4 OCT, SUN	(2.00-4.00pm) - ANNIE BESANT'S BIRTHDAY + NEW MEMBERS' WELCOME + CHARACTER DAY	Members only
6 OCT, TUE	7.30pm - Introduction: The Purpose for Practicing Meditation	Sushma Webber Simon Webber
13 OCT, TUE	7.30pm - Meditation and the Bodies (Physical, Astral and Mental)	Esme Ridgeway
18 OCT, SUN	(2.00-5.00pm) - (AGM) - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING + MEMBERS' FORUM (see page 1)	Members only
20 OCT, TUE	7.30pm - DHARANA - Concentration	Simon Webber
27 OCT, TUE	7.30pm - DHYANA and SAMADHI - (Effortless Meditation and Meditative Absorption)	Allan Morse
NOVEMBER		
Theme: ANGELS in the Hermetic Tradition		
3 NOV, TUE	7.30pm - Introduction: Hermetic Science and the Angelic Hosts	Bill Keidan
10 NOV, TUE	7.30pm - Angels in the Jewish Kabbalah	Bill Keidan
15 NOV, SUN	(2.00-5.00pm): TOS GARAGE SALE + Afternoon Tea (Entry - \$2.00) + Cleaning Bee	Members, Family and Friends
17 NOV, TUE	7.30pm - FOUNDATION DAY (Honouring Col. Henry S. Olcott, H. P. Blavatsky and past TSNZ workers) + NEW MEMBERS Welcome	Arzoo Syeddah June Vallyon/Others
24 NOV, TUE	7.30pm - Angels and Humanity	Bill Keidan
29 NOV, SUN	(3.00-5.00pm) - GOVERNANCE BOARD UPDATE + Afternoon tea (6.00pm) - POTLUCK DINNER (Please bring a vegetarian/vegan plate)	John Vorstermans Renee Sell (for Members only)
1 DECEMBER 2020 - 15 FEBRAURY 2021 (CLOSED)		

Tuesday Meetings and Events are Open to Enquirers (unless specified)
Contact: tswlgn@gmail.com (Secretary) www.theosophy.nz

Library Timings
Tuesdays: 4.00-7.00pm
1 SEP-15 DEC 2020

* Committee Meeting at 6pm -- Members who wish to attend as observers may contact the Secretary a week in advance.