



theosophy auckland

HPB Newsletter

President: Renée Sell
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Secretary: Jeanette Blackburn
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Committee: Margaret Johns, Joe Swamy, Chris Watkins & Melanie Sell



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From the President's Pen

14 February 2024



Dear Members,

A belated **Happy New Year** to you all! I'm finally getting pen to paper to kick-start our theosophical year after a busy time over the holidays. Recently, I attended the Christchurch Convention and it was wonderful to see so many Auckland members in attendance. The programme was brilliant and it's always lovely to catch up with members from around the country. The **2025 Convention is to be held in Auckland** next year, and we're giving you advance notice that Auckland branch will be assisting with this National event.

We start the year with **Adyar Day** on 18th February at 7.00 pm followed by supper and a cup of tea – a lovely beginning to our theosophical calendar. Following that is our **TheosoFest Open Day** on Sunday 3rd March between 10am and 4pm. This will be a special opportunity to catch up with members and friends, listen to short presentations, browse the library, buy food and drink. We will also be fundraising for the TOS with various items and crystals for sale. We encourage you to check out the new book titles for sale at the book depot, including the reprinted version of Geoffrey Hodson's Spiritual Dairy '**Light of the Sanctuary**'. This has been out of print for some time. We hope you are able to pop in for at least part of the day and look forward to seeing you there.

Overseas guest speaker **William Meader** will be speaking on Tuesday 5 March. You will need to book and prepay for this event (details below). International speaker **Freddy Silva** is now fully sold out mid-March. Our **Monday evenings** will be starting again on Monday 11 March and monthly **Saturday morning discussion group** will begin again in April. I hope you are able to take advantage of some of these studies and special events on offer at the branch. See the programme for further details at the end of this newsletter and don't forget all the information is online as well. For those of you who know **Barry Bowden**, you may be interested in attending the School of Theosophy in April (25-28), which he is facilitating, so keep an eye out for that in your magazine or online.

Our **theosophical library** will open regularly again on Saturday 9th March at 10 am. As mentioned in my December email, head librarian **Johanna Vroegop** passed to higher service at the end of last year. A group of HPB branch members attended the service celebrating Johanna's life, and it was truly special to hear from others who knew Johanna and to listen to some of her poetry and see her paintings. I came away with a gift of one of these for the branch, which will be framed and put up in the bookshop. Johanna served in our bookshop and library for as long as I can remember, working quietly in the background. We will miss Johanna and are very grateful to her for the dedication of service to HPB. We wish Johanna Love and Light as she travels onward on the next part of her journey.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the branch committee, members Chris Watkins and Melanie Sell, along with a special thank you to outgoing committee member Anoma Ranaweera for all her hard work over the years and her support for the work we do at our branch. All the best to you Anoma!

I hope to see you soon. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any suggestions or queries. My email is: hbpres@theosophy.org.nz or you can text on 021 1755 170.

With best wishes,

Renée



TheosoFest ~ Open Day

Come join us:

Sunday 03 March, 10 am - 4 pm

Find out what theosophy is all about,

Mix with like-minded persons,

Library open, and food and drink to buy

Please bring cash

TOS fundraising table and crystals for sale.

Important upcoming events & dates:

Adyar Day Celebration Evening - Short presentations followed by a lovely supper 🍰☕📖

Sunday 18 February starting at 7.00 pm

HPB Lodge Annual TheosoFest Open Day

Love to see you there, on Sunday 03 March at 10 am - 4 pm

Monday Evenings begin again on Monday 11 March

Exploring theosophy together beginning 7.30 pm

The National TSNZ School of Theosophy to be held in Auckland 25 - 28 April 2024, details in the March issue of TheoSophia magazine.



All welcome as we discuss some very interesting topics:

Monday Evenings ~ 7.30 pm Exploring the Ancient Wisdom

Come join us beginning on Monday 11 March

Details in the attached programme

Short presentations followed by discussion
and enquiry

Visiting overseas guest William Meader

Tuesday 05 March 2024, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm 🌸📖☕

We are looking forward to hosting William once again and have a lovely evening planned. You will need to prebook and pay in advance. Seating is limited and

cost is \$30 per person/or \$20 non-waged, tickets can be secured directly:

Contact Joy Breayley via email: joyb@xtra.co.nz or phone: 027 420 0383

Must book and pay in advance, ALL WELCOME!



Visiting overseas guest Freddy Silva

Sunday 17 March 2024, 🌸☕ NOW FULLY BOOKED

We are excited to be hosting Freddy Silva at Auckland Branch

Saturday Morning Discussion Group 10.30 am - 12 noon Come join us for morning tea 🍰☕📖 Library open 10 - 12

All welcome as we discuss some very interesting topics:

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|----------|--|
| 13 April | Living Theosophy – what is Desirelessness? |
| 11 May | Living Theosophy – what is Good Conduct? |
| 08 June | Living Theosophy – what is Love? |

National Event: 2024 School of Theosophy, Auckland

25 - 28 April, **Impediments to Self-Awakening**

with international guest facilitator: Barry Bowden from Australia

Details are in *TheoSophia* magazine (March 2024 issue)

Further information online: <https://theosophy.nz/events/convention-2024>

This is a must register event and places are limited so book early.



Science Corner

One of our members, Peter Baker, has suggested an article from the NZ Herald back in 2011, by Dr James Hansen and colleagues, entitled “*The case for young people and nature*”, might be of interest. Dr Hansen makes the point that “... there is a huge gap between what is understood by the relevant scientific community and what is known by the people who need to know - the public.” Dr Hansen is an eminent climate scientist in the US.

If you wish to read the article you can Google “The Case for Young People and Nature, by Dr James Hansen” and it should be the first item on the search page.



Painting by Johanna Vroegop gifted to HPB Branch





The Temple Bell

If I sit very quietly
If I become very still
No movement of the mind
No stirring of the emotions
Sometimes I can hear the tinkle of a temple bell

If I am not expecting it
If I am not listening for it
It comes

From long ago?
Or from far away?
From deep inside?
Or from high above?

I do not try to see where it comes from
I do not think about it
It never comes if I reach for it
I never find it if I chase after it

Catharina Machielse
(Johanna Vroegop penname)

Happenings at HPB, Auckland

Pictures from our Christmas Gathering...



Beautiful evening with members and friends laughing and interactive participation in a Christmas carol as part of our activities for the evening together. (above)

We were very privileged to have NZ Opera Singer extraordinaire Gina Sanders who put together a beautiful line-up of young and emerging musical performers, who were just magical to listen to.

I enjoyed seeing all the smiles!



HPB member Trish Lynch sharing a story – many members contributed by sharing a poem or story as part of the evening.

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Members and friends having a great time!

Auckland Theosophical Centre
4 Warborough Avenue, Epsom, Auckland
PROGRAMME 2024

February 2024

Sunday 18
7.00 pm

Come join us for Adyar Day Gathering
Short Introduction followed by video featuring Adyar by
International President Tim Boyd
shared supper afterward
Bring a plate to share if you can

March 2024

Sunday 03
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

THEOSOFEST
OPEN DAY - HPB LODGE
Come join us for a great day out
(full details in the newsletter)

Tuesday 05
7 – 9 pm

International guest presenter on the Ageless Wisdom
William Meader
Forerunners of the Light
Must pre-register to attend, details in newsletter

Monday 11
7.30 pm

Exploring Theosophy
**An Introduction to Theosophy and the Ageless Wisdom,
the Society and its mission (1)**

Monday 18
7.30 pm

Exploring Theosophy
Who Am I ~ the sevenfold nature of the Human Being (2)

Monday 25
7.30 pm

Exploring Theosophy
Reincarnation (3)

29 March – 01 April

Easter Break
Please note the library will be shut over the Easter Weekend

April 2024

Monday 08
7.30 pm

Exploring Theosophy
The law of Karma (4)

Saturday 13
10.30 am – 12 noon

Saturday Morning Discussion Group
Living Theosophy – what is Desirelessness?

Monday 15
7.30 pm

Exploring Theosophy
The Power of Thought (5)

Monday 22
7.30 pm

Exploring Theosophy
An Introduction to Meditation (6)

25 – 28 April

National Event - SCHOOL OF THEOSOPHY
with international facilitator Barry Bowden
Impediments to Self-Awakening
Must register event, details: *TheoSophia* magazine March issue
and online: Theosophy.nz

Monday 29

Break

May 2024

Monday 06
7.30 pm

White Lotus Day Gathering
followed by shared supper afterward

Saturday 11 10.30 am – 12 noon	Saturday Morning Discussion Group <i>Living Theosophy – what is Good Conduct?</i>
Monday 13	Break
Monday 20 7.30 pm	International guest speaker Barry Bowden The Science of Self-Knowledge

Always much to ponder on

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Beauty is a light in the heart

Kahlil Gibran

The universe is the combination of a thousand elements, and yet the expression of a single spirit — a chaos to the senses, a cosmos to the reason.

Helena Blavatsky

