



Prana

NEWSLETTER

Volume 29: Issue 1, February - May 2012

Welcome to the first issue of the Prana Newsletter this year. Wish you all a very Happy and Inspiring New Year. Last year was eventful and interesting. The year ahead has many exciting things in store for us. The Wellington Branch was the first Lodge/Branch to be established in New Zealand in 1888. To celebrate the 125th Anniversary we will be hosting the Annual Convention 2013 in Wellington.

The Annual General Meeting was held last year on 18 October 2011 and the Committee for the current year consists of the following:

Committee Member

Sushma Webber - President
Simon Webber, Vice-President
Katie Harris -Secretary
Allan Morse – Treasurer
Silvia Soto-Bussard – Librarian
Brett Macdonald
Bill Keidan
Rachel Scholes
Diane Morse
Clive Conland

Coordinator/Team Member

Talks/Presentations Team
Social Team/Healing Group
Social/Interior Design
Building Maintenance
Social/Interior Design
Library/Building Maintenance
Mentor – Public Meetings
Publicity – Stall Organiser
Hall Usage Requests
Publicity

The Committee members have offered to be coordinators of different teams and team members as mentioned in the second column. Those who would like to volunteer in a particular area of Branch work may approach them.

We thank Simon Webber, who has stepped down as the Branch President, and Brian Hart, who chose to step down as a Committee Member, for their tireless work. Simon has been elected Vice-President for the current year. Brian has been a long serving member on the Committee. He and the late Russell Graham have been opening the Library and facilitating the Tuesday Lunchtime Discussion and Fellowship for the last 15 years. Brian has offered to continue to keep the library open and all are welcome to drop in on Tuesdays between 12.00-2.00pm to have a chat and a cuppa.

The Year that Has Been

In November 2010 our members Sherryn Mak and Sushma Webber travelled to Adyar, the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society in Chennai, India. Sherryn Mak stayed there and worked as a volunteer in the Adyar Library and Research Centre for six months. They both attended the School of the Wisdom and the 135th International Convention in December 2010. They shared their experiences when they returned to Wellington. We also welcome Bernice Croft, a long time member, back to New Zealand. She worked as the Secretary to the International President Mrs Radha Burnier for more than 10 years at Adyar and has travelled extensively with her.



TS Stall at
Newtown Fair,
6 March 2011

To spread the word of Theosophy and the TS, Rachel Scholes organised a stall at the Newtown Fair (6 March 2011). This set the ball rolling and our next stall was at the Vegetarian Food and Lifestyle Festival (1 October 2011), then at the Waitangi Park during an event called Evolving Consciousness (20 November 2011) organised by a new Wellington Branch member Mathew Marsh. Thank you all those who volunteered for the stalls. We have had a good response from the public, and gave away brochures and magazines to those who were interested to learn more.

Notices placed about the public talks in the 'What's On' in *Capital Times* and Community Listings in *City Life News* and *Independent Herald* have also had a good response.

Wellington Branch of the Theosophical Society in New Zealand
19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011
Phone: 04 4791924 / 021403389; E-mail: tswlgtn@gmail.com
www.theosophy.org.nz/branches/Wellington

Welcome to New Members

A hearty welcome to the following members who have joined the Wellington Branch since October 2010:

Margaret Bond	Mathew Marsh
Edgar Soro	Gavin L. Burgess
Faye Tohbyn	John Furlong
Leon Chin	Dominic Munton
Joanna Tung	Marguerite E. Hutton (rejoined)
Randall Stainton	Angela Meiklejohn
Deborah Rosin	

Passed On: Wallace David Hopkinson (1923-2012)

Library

The library has acquired several new books published by Quest Books, USA and the Theosophical Publishing House, India. We have received a few CDs and DVDs as donations for our digital collection.

Librarian, Silvia Soto-Bussard and Shaun Crisford together have successfully upgraded our library digital database to the latest version of Koha, an Integrated Library System software. Silvia, Shaun and Franz Schleicher, attended a one day Koha User Group Meeting on 26 July 2011 organised by the Horowhenua Library Trust in Levin.

Members are invited to bring along their friends to the Tuesday lunchtime and Friday evening sessions at the library for chat and a cuppa. Please note that we will be closing the library at 8.00pm on Fridays henceforward.

Interview on Radio New Zealand National

On 20 November 2011, Ideas took a look at the philosophy and practice of Theosophy which has had adherents in New Zealand - including a former Prime Minister and an Attorney General. Chris Laidlaw and Jeremy Rose talked to Sushma and Simon Webber of the Wellington Branch of the TS, Professor Peter Lineham and June Vallyon a TS member from Tauranga. You can listen to it on: <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/audio/2502988/ideas-for-20-november-2011>

Charities Commission Forum and AGM

On 30 November 2011, the Charities Commission held its Forum and AGM in Wellington and it was well attended by charities' representatives from throughout the country. Sushma Webber and Katie Harris represented the Theosophical Society in New Zealand Inc., and found the meeting inspiring and useful. There were three presentations by Theresa Gattung, of Eva Doucas Charitable Trust and Wellington SPCA, David Hanna Director, Wesley Community Action and Chris Clark, CEO, World Vision. You can view their presentations on: <http://www.charities.govt.nz/news/events/agm/2011>

Regional Activities

In the latter part of the year an initiative was taken at the national level to reinvigorate regional programmes where

branches that are geographically close to one another may have opportunities to interact and organise workshops and events. Katie Harris is the regional representative from Wellington Branch. Last year in early December Katie, Silvia and Brett attended a workshop at the Palmerston North branch of the TS on 'Awakening the Soul' by Julia Tarnawsky a member from Christchurch.

Annual Convention 2012, Hamilton

Nine members from Wellington Branch attended the Annual Convention held at Hamilton from 5-11 January 2012. They will be sharing their experiences on 9 February 2012 at 7.30pm Please bring a plate for supper afterwards.

Current Term (February-May 2012)

You will observe many changes when you look at the programme overleaf. We have introduced weekly members' meetings on Thursdays. C. Jinarajadasa, the fourth International President in his article, 'Ever Now Theosophy', *The Theosophist*, March 1941 writes:

There are two facts about the study of truth that many of us still need to understand. The first is that study is a dual process of studying alone by oneself, and of studying in company with others who are aspirants like ourselves. A fundamental truth – perhaps the most fundamental truth – of Theosophy is that the nature of God resides in the nature of man. If God is the Divine Wisdom in perfection, then, in some mysterious manner, each man is an embodiment of that Wisdom of God. It follows therefore that the complete Secret Doctrine which reveals all the secrets of the universe is composed not only of those truths which the Adepts of past and present ages have discovered by their researches, and are given to us in the Mystery teachings, but is also composed of truths deposited in some secret recess in the heart and brain of every man. To study in fellowship with others means to seek to understand the Secret Doctrine which is every man. That knowledge of man is essential, in order to understand the Secret Doctrine of the Sages.

Hence this term we will be going deeper into the core teachings and principles of what is known as Theosophy and studying together.

Mentors for Public and Members' Meetings

Our long time members who have been actively involved with the Theosophical Society between 20-50 years have agreed to act as mentors during both the Tuesday (public) and Thursday meetings (members only). They will be available to answer any queries during discussions and share their knowledge, insight and experience. Members are invited to take this opportunity and attend the meetings as often as possible.

90 Days Project

You will wonder what this '90 Days Project' might be. It has been inspired by a course called '100 days of Design' a project at Yale University, USA. Sushma Webber had the idea to adapt it to apply the Theosophical principles in daily life. All are welcome to join and can also choose what

they would like to do for 90 days. For example: Meditate, Being in the Now, study a subject or a book, etc. Anything that will help enrich one's life in a spiritual aspect.

It is only when knowledge is applied to human service, that our intellectual knowledge becomes an inseparable part of our inmost self. – C. Jinarajadasa

Workshop: This term we have organised a workshop as part of the regional programme. It will be held from 2.00-6.00pm on Saturday, 25 February 2012 and will include afternoon tea. Registration is \$5.00. The workshop is open to members and their friends.

Julia Tarnawsky will be the presenter and she will be exploring the soul's journey through life, death and rebirth. More details will be available closer to the time.

Stall at Newtown Fair: There will be TS stall at the Newtown Fair on 4 March 2012. All are welcome.

Next Term (June-September 2012): During the next term we will focus our attention outward and explore the aspects of Theosophy and its expression through different fields like religion, science and art. If you have any suggestions on who we can invite, please contact Sushma Webber.



Members' Meetings

February - May 2012

All Meetings and Activities are held at the Theosophical Society Hall at
19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Thursday at 7.30 - 8.30pm (unless otherwise shown)

DATE	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
February		
9 THUR	Annual Convention (5-11 January 2012) Slide Show (Please bring a plate for supper afterwards)	Participants Input
16 THUR	ADYAR DAY (Koha for the Adyar Day will be collected)	Panel
23 THUR	Theosophy and the Theosophical Society	Discussion
March		
1 THUR	Awakening the Soul (Follow up from the Workshop on 25 FEB)	Julia Tarnawsky
8 THUR	Discrimination (Book: At the Feet of the Master - Alcyone)	Study Group
15 THUR	Healing Ceremony - The Method and Significance	Simon Webber
22 THUR	Jainism - Its History, Principles and Art	Sushma Webber
29 THUR	Both Effort and Letting Go are Needed	Discussion
April		
5 THUR	Significance of Easter	Clive Conland
12 THUR	Desirelessness* (Book: At the Feet of the Master - Alcyone)	Brett Macdonald
19 THUR	The Need for Inner Freedom	Discussion
26 THUR	Non-Violent Communication	Murray Stentiford
May		
3 THUR	The Psychology of Yoga	Simon Webber
10 THUR	Wesak Full Moon - An Important Buddhist Festival	Panel
17 THUR	Good Conduct (Book: At the Feet of the Master - Alcyone)	Sushma Webber
24 THUR	Ideas Alone Cannot Change a Person	Discussion
31 THUR	The Yoga of Light - Guided Meditation	Group

Wellington Branch of the Theosophical Society

Public Meetings (February - May 2012)

All Meetings and Activities are held at the Theosophical Society Hall at
19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington

Tuesdays at 7.30-8.30pm (unless otherwise shown)

DATE	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
February		
14 TUE	DVD/Video Night: Meditation - Part II	J. Krishnamurti
21 TUE	Study Course – What is Theosophy*	Sushma Webber
25 SAT	WORKSHOP - Awakening the Soul (2.00-6.00pm) (\$5.00)	Julia Tarnawsky
28 THUR	Study Course – The Ancient Wisdom in the Modern World*	Allan Morse
March		
6 TUE	DVD/Video Night: Bridging the Faith Divide - Part I	H.H. The Dalai Lama
13 TUE	Study Course – Universal Brotherhood*	Sushma Webber
20 TUE	Study Course – Human Beings and Our Bodies*	Sherryn Mak
27 TUE	90 Days Project - Introduction and Registration	Sushma Webber
April		
3 TUE	DVD/Video Night: Bridging the Faith Divide - Part II	H.H. The Dalai Lama
10 TUE	Study Course – Life After Death*	Sushma Webber
17 TUE	Study Course – Reincarnation*	Katie Harris
24 TUE	90 Days Project	Participants Input
May		
1 TUE	DVD/Video Night: Bridging the Faith Divide - Part III	H.H. The Dalai Lama
8 TUE	White Lotus Day - Remembering H. P. Blavatsky	All
15 TUE	Study Course - Karma*	Sushma Webber
22 TUE	Study Course - The Power of Thought*	Clive Conland
29 TUE	90 Days Project	Participants Input

*Based on the THEOSOPHY AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY COURSE, Fourth Edition by Dr John Algeo.

TUESDAYS:

- (12 noon - 2.00pm): Lunchtime Discussion and Fellowship at the TS Hall. All are Welcome.
- (6.00 - 7.00pm): Mantra Yoga (Chanting) sessions with Richard Holmes.
- (7.00 - 9.00pm): Library is open before and after meetings.

WEDNESDAYS:

- (5.30-6.50pm): **Beginners**
 - (6.30- 7.30pm): **Introduction - II**
- Satyananda Yoga classes with Adhyatma.
E-mail: adhyatma108@gmail.com

FRIDAYS:

- (6.00 - 8.00pm): Library Evenings.
- (7.30 - 9.00pm): **Second Friday:**
Dances for Universal Peace.

SUNDAYS:

(10.30am): **Third Sunday:**
The Liberal Catholic Church Service.
Rev. Ross Conland (04 971 4071) or
Clive Conland (04 233 0406).
All are Welcome.