



theosophical centre

July
2004
Issue 5

Inside this Issue

- 1** A word from the Editor ...
- 2** What's Coming Up
Sheldrake Talk
Bardo Group
In Depth Group
New Science & Old
Celestial Music
Indigenous Religion
- 3** News and Notices
- 4** Diary for July and August

HPB Lodge of the
Theosophical Society, Inc
4 Warborough Avenue
Epsom
Auckland
Ph. 524 7994

All TS branches in New Zealand are linked to the main website at www.theosophy.org.nz

Theosophical Village

Things have been changing, at HPB Lodge, Auckland's Branch of the Theosophical Society. The emergence of 2 new groups to add to the existing ones is a bit like a village, with the comfortable and yet lively atmosphere of small groups clustered together in a larger space. So what are these groups about?

The new Bardo group is focused on major transitions, particularly that from physical life to the subtler realms beyond it. We know that everything is in a state of change, and yet major changes sometimes confront us with painful challenges. The Bardo group is sharing some of the ways, and the wisdom, to transform major change into a positive and liberating experience. See further details on pages 2 and 4.

The other new group is for In Depth study of the classic Theosophical literature, to allow keen or experienced students, like those who have come through the Study Course, to continue their discovery and development. See details on pages 2 and 4.

Support for Meetings

Dear members; we know your lives are enveloped in the pressure and acceleration that abound these days, but we would love it if you could support more of our meetings by being present and sharing your energy with the Lodge, in the lovely ambience of our hall and your fellow seekers. We are painfully aware that many have been frustrated by Newsletters coming out too late for some of the meetings. However, there are many people whom we do not seem to see at all. Why don't you come along to see what some of this month's meetings are like? And if there's something you'd like to see happening at HPB, we'd love to hear about it.

Newsletters

As some members have been wondering if they missed any Newsletters recently, let me dispel any doubts by saying that, owing to challenging circumstances (a

President: Murray Stentiford Phone (09) 529 1743 or Email opt-mas@slingshot.co.nz
Secretary: Yolanda Verkooyen Phone 275 2240
Office and Library Phone 524 7994

Formative Causation and MORPHIC RESONANCE

with

Charles Sitwell

An examination of the work of
Rupert Sheldrake in relation to
some Theosophical concepts.

Charles is the National Vice President of
the Theosophical Society in New
Zealand.

At the

theosophical centre

Thursday, 15 July 2004
4 Warborough Avenue
Epsom, Auckland

For more information, please phone
(09) 524 7994 or 529 1743.

All welcome. Donation requested

Drawn to Meditation?

If so, the **Awareness
Discovery Group** could be
just the place for you. A
different facet of meditation
is introduced and discussed
each time in a practical and
often lively way. Sundays at
10am in the HPB Library, in
alternate months. See Diary
at back for dates and topics.
All welcome. Murray



Bardo Group

Bardo means transition, basically, in Tibetan, and this new group is beginning with a study and discussion of books like the famous Tibetan Book of the Dead, and how to transform death into a creatively positive experience. The meetings are on Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm in the Reference Library room upstairs at Vasanta House (enter by back door please). Coordinator Val White (09) 524 5776.

New In Depth Studies Group

The classic Theosophical literature such as HP Blavatsky's Secret Doctrine contains such a wealth of information, that we can be forgiven for wondering where to start with it. This new group is for those who are prepared to put their climbing boots on and tackle concepts like Cosmic Energy, Consciousness and Space, and how they turn into all the things we know, according to our Theosophical Founders. So what if we hit a few terms like "Fohat"? Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the HPB Library. Coordinator Gavin Laurie (09) 529 5958.

Pure Sound from Pure Quartz

Barbara Hedger, visiting from Wellington, will lead us in a meditative and healing experience assisted by the shimmering sounds of her set of large quartz singing bowls. Thursday 22 July 04 at 7:30pm at the HPB hall. A donation, please, of \$10 to assist with her transport expenses. Bring something to lie on, eg a pillow and blanket.

Beam me Up, Scotty

Science fiction seems to turn into science fact faster than ever, these days, witness the teleportation of atoms in recent scientific experiments. This, plus the famous FWH Myers "correspondences" case (powerful evidence for life after death) will feature in the HPB Science Group on Friday 22 July (7:30pm) then will be taken further the following month – an idea recommended at the Group's March meeting. Coordinator Murray Stentiford (09) 529 1743.

Experiences with the Bon, a pre- Buddhist Religion

With lots of slides of Tibet and the ancient rich Bon religious tradition, its monasteries and art, plus the work for disadvantaged children, this lunchtime talk is not to be missed. Speaker Peter Patterson has a wide experience of religions in India and Tibet.

Be peace, don't just talk about it.

Thich Nhat Hanh

News and Notices

Caretaker Wanted

HPB Lodge needs a conscientious and reliable person to be a Caretaker. This requires opening and closing the Hall for each of the many meetings during the year, moving chairs, and other tasks. TS member preferred. Please contact Margaret Johns for more information (09) 623 7548.

Garden Beautified

Thanks to the Theosophical Order of Service people who have helped clean up part of the garden at bottom of the carpark. This all helps Alistair and Robert who work very hard for our Lodge.

Study Classes Resume

on Monday 19 July 04, 7:30pm, after a 2 week break for School Holidays. See Diary on last page for subjects.

Thanks for Donations

The new organ bought with donors' funds has been in place several months now and is working fine. Thanks to all

Library & Bookshop



noon

Mon – Fri.
11:30 am – 2:00

Sat. 10 am – 12



2004 Parliament of World Religions

This is being held at Barcelona, Spain, from the 4th to the 13th of July 2004. See web site www.cpwr.org/2004Parliament/ for the programme and who is there, plus striking pictures of Montserrat and other scenes.

Interspirit Global Network

Talk about our Second Object and comparative religion! Interfaith networking is leaping ahead these days, as you might see at <http://interspirit.net/groupdocs/ISnetworkdesign1.doc>.

It's technical, but the audacious scope of this project of the Council for the Parliament of World Religions should be plain to anyone. Some of the web sites there look pretty exciting in their inter-religious focus. The Interspirit network currently has 14,307 members, 87 groups, 194 subgroups and 3,138 organizations, so things are cooking there.

Tauhara School of Theosophy Success

The NZ School of Theosophy held at Tauhara, Taupo, at the end of May was an experience not to be forgotten, on several levels. Richard Brooks' huge knowledge plus lively and humorous delivery made each of the 8 religions covered a real eye-opener. Afternoon sessions engaged all present in the work of shining their skills to bring back to their home Branch. The friendship that developed between those from the different parts of New Zealand was a great bonus. Only 2 members of HPB Lodge were there, so we are considering having a "mini Tauhara" later in the year, as most of the speakers are either in or willing to come to Auckland.

Library Back to 5 Days

Thanks to Peter Baker for coming forward to work in

All forms of spiritual practice share a common essence and purpose. They help us distinguish reality from delusion; they help us experience the clear light of understanding and divine wisdom. A great Zen master once said that when enlightenment experiences happen, they are accidents. He then added, but spiritual practice makes us accident prone.

From [Awakening to the Sacred](#) by Lama Surya Das

For your diary

01- Jul-04	1:00pm	Thur	Lunchtime Meeting	Dr Venu Chintapatla	Introduction to Homoeopathic Medicine
04- Jul-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness D G	Murray Stentiford	Prayer, meditation and mindfulness
04- Jul-04	9:30am	Sun	Round Table	Group members	Ceremonial
05- Jul-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	---	No classes - school holidays
09- Jul-04	7:30pm	Fri	Science Group	Group Members	Teleportation of Atoms, the FWH Myers Correspondences, part 1
11- Jul-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness D G	Murray Stentiford	Visualisation, mandalas and sacred geometry
12- Jul-04	6:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	---	No classes - school holidays
15- Jul-04	7:30pm	Thur	Public	Charles Sitwell	Formative Causation – Morphic Resonance (Rupert Sheldrake)
18- Jul-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness D G	Murray Stentiford	How “Father- Mother” spins a web in our lives (Secret Doctrine quote)
19- Jul-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Joan Wilson, Gavin Laurie	The Chakras & the Serpent Fire, Pythagoras - Father of the West
22- Jul-04	7:30pm	Thur	All welcome	Barbara Hedger	A meditative, healing experience with the sounds of pure Quartz
25- Jul-04	10:00am	Sun	Awareness D G	Murray Stentiford	The spoken word – mantra and affirmations
26- Jul-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Ganesh Kumar, Val White	The Miracle of Birth, Jung and Theosophy

01- Aug-04	9:30am	Sun	Round Table	Group members	Ceremonial
02- Aug-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Ganesh Kumar, Hugh Dixon	Elementals & the Elemental Worlds, The Voice of the Silence, part 1
05- Aug-04	1:00pm	Thur	Lunchtime Meeting	Peter Patterson	Experiences with a pre- Buddhist religion: The Bon of Tibet
05- Aug-04	7:30pm	Thur	Video Evening	(Yes, it's Thursday)	<u>Timeline</u> - an excellent time travel story on DVD, with a science slant
09- Aug-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Joan Wilson, Hugh Dixon	The Power of Thought, The Voice of the Silence, part 2
13- Aug-04	7:30pm	Fri	Science Group	Group Members	Teleportation of Atoms, the Myers Correspondences, part 2
16- Aug-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Murray Stentiford, Hugh Dixon	Prayer, Rituals & Ceremonies, The Voice of the Silence, part 3
19- Aug-04	7:30pm	Thur	Public	Murray Stentiford	Emotional Wellbeing and its Role in the Spiritual Life
23- Aug-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Renee Sell, Val White	Invisible Helpers, Jung and Astrology

26- Aug-04	7:30pm	Thur	Members	Panel led by Hugh Dixon	Reminiscences of Prominent Theosophical Leaders
30- Aug-04	7:30pm	Mon	Study Classes	Richard Sell, Murray Stentiford	The Hidden Side of Things, The Secret Doctrine Unveiled