



City of Greater Newcastle Lodge Newsletter

2023 | Issue 3
July

Meetings:

1.00pm, 3rd Saturday of
the month except January

Venue:

Wallsend
Enterprise Centre
(Wallsend Railway
Goods Shed)
76 Cowper Road
Wallsend
NSW

PLEASE NOTE:

August meeting only:

AGM for Newcastle TS
members only at 12 noon,
to be followed by
the usual public meeting
at 1.00pm.

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Welcome to the July 2023 newsletter of the City of Greater Newcastle Lodge of the Theosophical Society (or 'TS'). Overleaf you can read more about our Society and Theosophy, or click through to our Facebook page and web page. Below are the topics and presenters for the next three months of this year.

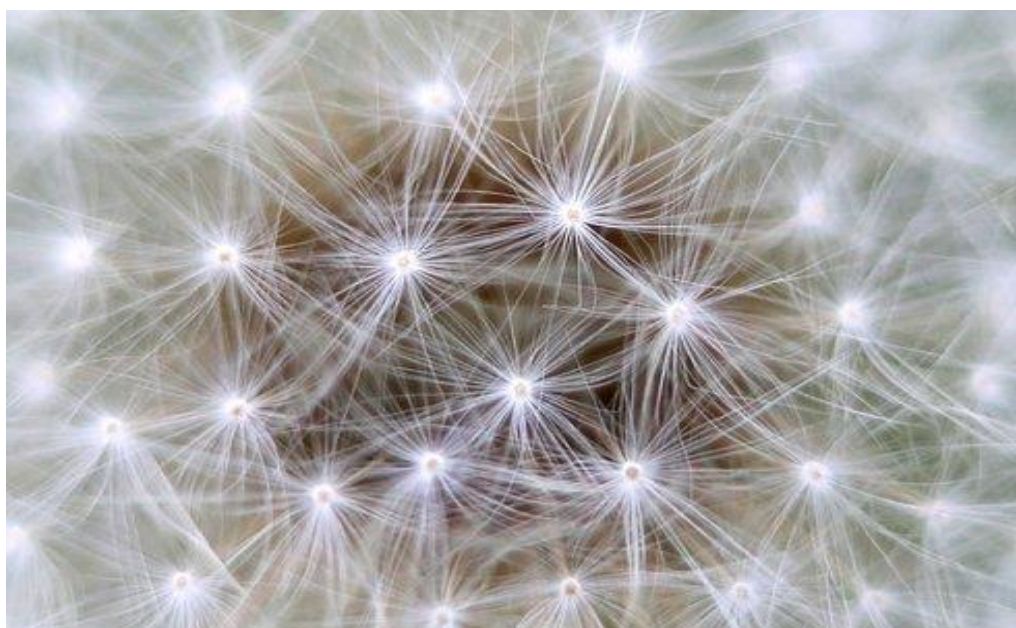


Photo: pixabay.com

PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST / SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2023

Sat 19 August: 'KARMA AND DHARMA: FROM LIMITATION TO TRANSFORMATION'

Presenter: Linda Oliveira, past National President and International Vice-President OF THE TS, past Editor of *Theosophy in Australia*
TALK WITH SLIDES AND DISCUSSION

The Sanskrit terms 'karma' and 'dharma' are both in such common use today that they are found in modern dictionaries. They embody thousands of years of Indian philosophy, suggesting that there are layers of subtlety to be probed. Do we know what they mean? Is there good and bad karma? Is dharma simply duty? We will explore together some traditional and alternative interpretations of karma, and how adding the dimension of dharma to karma can be a powerful catalyst for understanding and change, helping us move from limitation towards transformation.

Karma and dharma interact in our life choices moment by moment. We are conditioned by the sum total of past experiences, thoughts, and actions, and this is our karma. We say, then, that karma is the universal law of cause and effect. This means that every action has a reaction, every human act has consequences.

Though we are surely conditioned by our past, by our karma, we also have a responsibility to our particular time and situation, and this is our dharma, our duty, or inner obligation.

Distinguishing our conditioning from our responsibility to act beyond the boundaries of that conditioning is the task of a lifetime, or several lifetimes.

William Metzger

Karma Rhythmic Return to Harmony

(edited by V. Hanson, R. Stewart and S. Nicholson)

Newsletter Editor

Linda Oliveira

Sat 16 September: 'HOW TO BECOME A BODHISATTVA'

Presenter: Brian Parry, AM, long-time member of the TS and former National Lecturer for The Theosophical Society in Australia

TALK FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION

Shantideva (685-763 CE) is the author of *A Guide to the Way of Life of a Bodhisattva*. This book is highly recommended by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and contains essential teachings of Mahayana Buddhism. Shantideva was a student at the Nalanda University and became one of the most well-known teachers in Tibetan Buddhism. This presentation will highlight some of the central teachings in Shantideva's book.

Sat 21 October: 'THE HINDU RENAISSANCE AND THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN A REAWAKENED INDIA'

Presenter: Gerard Brennan, TS State Representative for NSW/ACT

TALK FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION

This presentation will explore the awakening of modern India in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, along with the influence of The Theosophical Society in cultivating the deepest respect for the wisdom of the Sanatana Dharma. During this talk we will examine how new currents of spirituality arose that emphasised the purifying of some traditional practices and the embracement of more universal ideas underpinned by the presence of brotherhood. We will strive to connect with the unique values of this time and see how they have influenced the TS in future decades.

Interesting Reads – Karma and Grace

[Karma and Grace Virginia Hanson.pdf](#)

Click on the link above to read a fascinating article on 'Karma and Grace' by Virginia Hanson from the United States. Virginia was a foremost student of Theosophy in her day. This article offers profound perspectives on these two seemingly conflicting subjects.

About the Theosophical Society

The Theosophical Society welcomes students or seekers from all walks of life, belonging to any religion or to none. It was formed to assist in showing to humanity that Theosophy exists, and 'to ascend towards it by studying and assimilating its eternal verities'. Freedom of thought and open enquiry are given special emphasis in the Society.

About Theosophy

Theosophy essentially refers to 'Divine Wisdom', Sacred Knowledge, which is a transcendent state of consciousness. In a secondary sense, Theosophy is an ancient yet distinct stream of enquiry, exploring and interpreting the truths of existence in terms suited to particular ages. At the core of Theosophy is the principle of indivisible Unity underlying the diversity of forms.



newcastle.theosophicalsociety.org.au

We welcome newcomers.