

**BSANZ President's Report  
for the Annual Report  
1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015**

The Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand (BSANZ) is going from strength to strength with important activities during the year. Its Leadership Intensives were held at Castaways near Auckland in October 2014 and Noosa in June 2015. These were highly successful events with participants from many parts of Australia and New Zealand. Five Trainers in Training gained leadership experience at these Intensives - steps in their progress towards Leadership Trainer accreditation. The board extends its appreciation and thanks to all those involved in the planning and delivery of these Intensives. Special mention goes to the Organising Committees and Chairs of the Leaders' Groups (Laurie Lovell-Simons in 2014 and Ruth Dunn in 2015). Plans are being made to hold the next Balint Leadership Intensive in New Zealand in 2016.

There were board changes during the year. The BSANZ was fortunate in having Louise de Lambert join the board in March 2015. She is a wonderful asset to the board, having had decades of experience in psychotherapy and years of Balint group leadership and supervision activities. The board was very pleased to have Sally Warmington take on the role of Treasurer. She succeeded Ruth Dunn who was the Treasurer for many years. The board expressed its thanks to Ruth for her enormous contributions.

The BSANZ board held a successful three-day face-to-face meeting in Melbourne in February 2015. At that meeting it set its strategic directions and priorities for the next year. The board again expressed its appreciation for the great work of the Balint in Medical Schools Strategy Group and to Alexa Gilbert-Obrart for leading that group.

The BSANZ's programs for Balint leadership and Leader Trainer accreditation continued during the year. There are currently 15 people enrolled in the Leadership Accreditation pathway. Twelve people have completed training in the pathway to become accredited Balint group leaders.

An interesting and important development during the year was the establishment of the BSANZ Reflective Student Essay Competition. The board is extremely grateful to the anonymous donor who made it possible to offer a prize of \$500 to the two students who will write the top two essays. Special thanks also goes to board members Hamish Wilson and Alexa Gilbert-Obrart who did the work on this.

Our members will have noticed changes to our website and the streamlining of payments of membership fees. This has been from the tireless efforts of Di Nash and that is very much appreciated. She has also been working with Hamish Wilson on the development of our online members' discussion forum. This is a welcome development.

The board was delighted to give special recognition to Penny Love and John Barton for their outstanding contributions to the BSANZ over many years. They were each given a Certificate of Outstanding Contribution at a ceremony at the BSANZ Intensive in 2014.

The board, with its highly capable members, provided excellent leadership during the year. The BSANZ, through the board's stewardship, is in a

strong position and the rest of the Balint world looks on with admiration at the progress of the BSANZ Leadership Accreditation Pathway.

I wish to extend a big thank you, on behalf of the BSANZ board, to all those who have contributed in various ways to the expansion of Balint group work in Australia and New Zealand.

**Frank Meumann** 5 October 2015