

BSANZ President's Report

The Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand (BSANZ) has flourished in the twelve months to July 2013. It has seen a steady growth in membership to its current 69. There is strong interest in the BSANZ Leadership Accreditation Pathway with sixteen people enrolled and undertaking Balint leadership training and supervision.

A draft Balint Leadership Trainer accreditation policy has been developed and consultations are underway. Ruth Dunn, Penny Love and Frank Meumann (Chair) are the members of the Accreditation Committee, and have been busy managing the accreditation activities of the BSANZ.

An important development for the BSANZ has been the establishment of the Training Committee, led by Mark Davis. The committee has been reviewing the BSANZ accreditation policies and procedures and facilitating communication between Balint leadership supervisors. This is a vital aspect of the work of the BSANZ.

The BSANZ was instrumental in organizing presentations and Balint group demonstrations to university staff by Peter Schoenberg, who is a leader in medical undergraduate Balint work in the United Kingdom. These Balint events were held in Sydney and Melbourne. An expression of appreciation goes to Alexa Gilbert-Obrart and Sally Warmington who did considerable work on this project. An important development from these workshops has been the Balint in Australian Medical Schools Think Tank. This is leading to an emerging interest in Balint work within Australian medical schools.

The BSANZ held a highly successful Balint leadership training Intensive at Noosa in October 2012. Special thanks goes to Penny Love, the Intensive Advisory Committee and Intensive Planning Committee for their fantastic work. The Noosa Intensive was so successful that plans are underway to hold the 2013 Intensive at the same venue. Planning has also started for the BSANZ Intensive in 2014 and it is anticipated that it will be held near Auckland, New Zealand.

There were a number of changes with regard to membership of the BSANZ board during the year. There was the departure of Sally Manuell from her role as President and from the board. The board expressed its deep appreciation for her work for the BSANZ. Ann-Marie Diggins stood down from her position as Secretary after many years of work in that role. She left the board later in the year. The board expressed its appreciation for her many years of service as Secretary and member of the board. Penny Love, who had been on the board for many years and was Vice-President, resigned from the board. The board thanked her for the enormous contribution she made to the activities of the BSANZ and development of Balint work in Australia and New Zealand. Thankfully, she continues her work on the Accreditation, Training and Intensive committees.

There were additions to the board and people took on new roles during the year. Frank Meumann became President and Chel Quinn joined the board. Chel's arrival was a wonderful development. She is an energetic and wise contributor to the board's work. Di Nash became Secretary and later in the year she became Executive Secretary. Chel Quinn became Secretary. Ruth Dunn remains Treasurer. They all are working very hard for the BSANZ.

The board is visionary, unified and provides excellent leadership for the BSANZ. I wish to express sincere appreciation to all the members of our board for their dedication and enormous contributions during the year.

It has been gratifying to see the steady development of new Balint groups across Australia and New Zealand and effective training and supervision of new Balint group leaders.

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.

Dr Frank Meumann
15 July 2013