

BSANZ Annual Report 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

The Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand (BSANZ) had an exciting and rewarding year. Its Leadership Intensive was held at Noosa in October 2013. It was a highly successful event, with participants from many parts of Australia and New Zealand. Plans are well advanced to hold the next Balint Leadership Intensive at a venue near Auckland in October 2014.

BSANZ members attended the International Balint Federation (IBF) Congress in Heidelberg in September 2013. It was tremendous seeing the BSANZ having a strong presence at that international meeting. Ruth Dunn and Frank Meumann did a poster presentation, which outlined the nature and challenges of having a Balint leadership accreditation pathway. Hamish Wilson presented a well-received paper at the congress. One of the great pleasures at the Congress was hearing the winner of the Ascona Prize, Claudia Harrison, read her essay. She was a medical student from New Zealand. The congress affirmed the strong support for Balint group work around the world.

There were board changes during the year. The BSANZ was fortunate in having Hamish Wilson join the board. He is a practising general practitioner and academic from Dunedin. Mark Davis resigned from the board and from his chairmanship of the BSANZ Training Committee. The board expressed its appreciation for the significant contributions Mark made to the board and Training Committee.

The BSANZ board held a successful weekend face-to-face meeting in Melbourne in March 2014. At that meeting it conducted a review of all its committees. The Intensive Advisory Committee was discontinued and replaced by an Intensive Organising Committee (IOC). It was envisioned that a new IOC would be formed for each new BSANZ Intensive. The board committed itself to developing terms of reference for the existing Accreditation Committee, Balint in Medical Schools Think Tank and a new Training Committee. It anticipates giving further consideration to the possible formation of an Activities and Networking Committee and Ethics and Research Advisory Committee. The board expressed its appreciation for the great work of the Balint in Medical Schools Think Tank members and to Alexa Gilbert-Obrart for leading that group.

The BSANZ's program for Balint leadership and Leader Trainer accreditation expanded during the year. The board was pleased to appoint Bill Betts to the Accreditation Committee. He brings a wealth of wisdom to the committee. Bill Betts replaced Penny Love, who made a major contribution to the formation and development of the BSANZ Balint leadership accreditation pathway. The board expressed its appreciation for all her tremendous work. There are currently 18 people enrolled in the pathway to Balint leadership accreditation. Five people have completed training in the pathway to become BSANZ accredited Balint group leaders. The board was delighted to have Louise de Lambert become the first to complete the leadership and Leader Trainer pathways.

The BSANZ board provided excellent leadership during the year. It has highly capable members, is visionary and unified. I wish to express sincere

appreciation of the work of our board members, who are energetic, enthusiastic, hard working and have great wisdom.

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
20 August 2014