

Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand

Annual General Meeting

11 November 2017

President's Report

I assumed the Presidency of the BZANZ in October 2016 and it is with great pleasure that I present the 2017 President's report. It has been a very eventful year for BSANZ. Firstly, I would like to update you on the Board. It is pleasing that Frank Meumann agreed to stay on the Board as Past President and Ruth Dunn agreed to continue as Vice-President. Hamish Wilson and Di Nash also remained on the Board. At the 2016 AGM, Prue Bonifant joined the board and accepted the nomination for Treasurer taking over from Kerrie Collings-Silvey who moved to the role of Secretary. The Board acknowledges Kerrie's admirable work in managing the Society's previous finances. The Board welcomes Prue, who has proved to be a great asset to the Board. The Board has remained stable ensuring continuity and providing the Board with stability. However, there was one change with the resignation of Louise de Lambert who stepped down following a sudden illness in February this year. The Board acknowledges the significant contribution Louise made to the work of the Board, especially Louise's interest and expertise in supervision of Leaders. Louise initiated and chaired the meeting of Accredited Leader Trainers over the past couple of years. This gave a venue for some of our most experienced Leader Trainers to contribute to the development of the Society. Louise's presence is greatly missed from the Board.

The Board devolves certain functions to committees. The committees are, the Accreditation Committee, and Ad hoc committees which are established each year to develop the Annual Workshops. In addition, BSANZ auspices the Balint in Medical Schools group that has an International membership. The Board would like to thank all those members who join these committees to ensure the success of the BSANZ.

This year the Annual BSANZ Balint Group Workshop was held in Hanmer Springs on the South Island of New Zealand in October 2016. It was a beautiful location that facilitated a memorable workshop for the 29 participants and 7 leaders. This year we included a case only group that received encouraging feedback from participants. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the organising committee capably chaired by Di Nash, the members of Organising Committee and Ruth Dunn for her excellent chairing of the Workshop.

The Accreditation Committee has undertaken substantial work upgrading the Accredited Leaders and Leader Trainer Pathway documents. New documents for agreement between Supervisor and Supervisee and the Supervisor and Board have been agreed. A Template for supervision reports is a new document that makes it clearer for people to negotiate their training. At this point, it is important to acknowledge and thank Bill Betts for his many years of work as a member of the Accreditation Committee. Bill recently resigned from this Committee.

An initiative this year was an Accredited Leaders Balint Group weekend held in Melbourne in June. The purpose was to offer our leaders an opportunity to participate in a Balint group. I am pleased to report that it was a great success and we will continue to offer this weekend workshop on an annual or biannual bases. Fifteen of our Accredited Leaders and Accredited Leader Trainers participated in the workshop. We owe the success of the workshop to the the organising committee ably chaired by Kerrie Collings-Silvey.

The Face-to-Face Board meetings are very important for the health and functioning of the Board. This year the Board met in Brisbane for a weekend in March where many aspects of the Society's governing responsibilities were discussed. Meeting together also gives the

Board time to discuss and develop strategies for the forward planning of the Society and debate ethical issues.

I would like to mention the BSANZ Medical Students Reflective Essay competition. The inaugural competition was in 2015. This was the second time we have offered this competition to medical students. The response, this year, was overwhelming with 84 entries from Universities across Australia and New Zealand. Another first this year will be to offer bursaries to the 2 finalists of the Essay writing competition to allow them to attend the Annual Workshop. The board would like to acknowledge the Hamish Wilson and Alexa Gilbert-Obrart for their inspiring work.

This is the first year BSANZ have had finances to employ an administrative assistance. There have been great benefits from the services of a very able administrative assistant, Anne Malecki. Anne provides a great deal of support regarding membership, producing the Newsletter, taking registrations for workshops, recording Leadership Trainees progress, and this year collating the Student Essays. With the assistance and creative ability of Anne Malecki we have produced 3 Newsletters over the past 12 months.

The BSANZ website has been redesigned making it easier to navigate and read, thank you to Di Nash for undertaking this important work. A BSANZ Facebook page has been commenced, both an open page and one for members only. This needs further work to be made available to all members.

These achievements are possible because each Board Member has contributed a great deal of their time and expertise to the Society. I would like to thank all the board members and committee members and others for their hard work and dedication to progress the work of the Society in bringing Balint work to the community.

Chel Quinn
10 November 2017