

Balint Society of Australia and New Zealand

Annual General Meeting

7 December 2019

President's Report

I am pleased to present this year's President's report. It has been a very busy and fulfilling year for the society.

I acknowledge that the main work of the Society continues to be the Balint Groups that are run by our members and encourage those with an interest to pursue Balint Society objectives.

In November 2018, the society presented a Balint Group Annual Workshop in Waiheke, a small island off Auckland. In November 2019, the society presented the Balint Group Intensive in Melbourne.

It is interesting that the different venues create a different atmosphere for participants. Being on an island was more containing as all had to stay on the island. Melbourne was in the centre of the city offering walks along the Yarra and fireworks to celebrate the Gala dinner. All venues have their challenges for the organising committee. The one consistency was the quality of the small group work. I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of Di Nash who chaired the Organising Committee for Waiheke and Ruth Dunn who chaired the Waiheke workshop. Hilary Ash did an excellent job in chairing the Organising Committee for Melbourne. It takes a group effort to put on workshops of this standard. I would like to thank the local committee for Waiheke, Amanda Garland, Claudia Gross, Jennifer Howarth, John Barton and Prue Bondifant and the local committee for Melbourne Di Nash, Robyn Miller, Michael Fitzgerald, Ruth Dunn and Joy Humphreys.

For the third time this year the Medical Student Reflective Essay Writing Competition was offer, with 75 entries from many Medical schools across NZ and Australia. Hamish Wilson and Alexa Gilbert-Obrart did a great job with the help of 12 National and International markers.

Bursaries are offered to two of the students with the winning essays to attend Balint Intensive each year. Alexa, who is the contributing benefactor, was invited to present the students with their Certificates at the Melbourne Saturday night Gala Dinner.

The Accreditation Committee now consists of Ruth Dunn as chair and Di Nash. Currently, there are fifteen people at various stages on the Leadership Accreditation Pathway with four who are near completion.

There are now 31 Accredited Balint Leaders and 18 Leader Trainers, with 2 Leader Trainers currently on the Pathway.

The Board met in Melbourne in March this year for the annual face-to-face meeting. The two days allowed time for difficult or complex issues to be fully discussed, for the development of

a twelve-month operational plan and discussion around future plans. At the F2F we reviewed what has worked, what our members want, the development of the Society and what is possible within our resources. It was decided that a congress would be a valuable new initiative. Therefore, a decision was taken to hold a Congress in 2020 to bring Balint to the broader community.

A steering committee has been established to plan the 2020 Balint Congress to be held in Brisbane on 15 to 18 October. Our Congress will welcome newcomers to the concept of Balint Groups and experienced group leaders. The program will include paper presentations, discussions and workshops to inform Balint Group Practice.

Another activity of the Society is the Balint in Medical Schools group chaired by Alexa Gilbert-Obrart with an International Membership in pursuing the promotion and establishment of Balint Group programs in medical schools.

Inclusion I thank each of the Board members, Ruth Dunn, Kerrie Colling-Silvey, Di Nash, Hilary Ash, Judy Griffith, Frank Meumann and Prue Bonifant for the many hours of work they offer to progress the Balint work in the community.

Frank Meumann will leave the Board at this AGM. I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution Frank has made to the Board and the Society over many years including his four years as President.

Chel Quinn
7 December 2019