

VALE AUDREY LANE

I write this short tribute to Audrey Lane's memory as a fellow founding member of NZIPP, The NZ Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, with a deep respect and sadness.

Audrey Lane was a central presence and mainstay in the life of the Auckland psychotherapy community for over forty years. As a clinician, supervisor, teacher and colleague her contribution was positive and significant.

Audrey came originally from a nursing background but made the decision to train in social work with a speciality in systems - based family therapy. She always maintained that this early broad -spectrum vantage- point enhanced her psychotherapy work with individuals, as well as with couples and families. Her abiding interest and passion, however, lay with psychoanalytic thinking and practice. In the early 1980s she began practising with a group of like-minded colleagues at the Lister Centre for Psychotherapy, then situated in the Lister Building, Victoria Street, in the city. Around this time, Audrey also joined the clinical group at the Auckland Family Counselling Service- later renamed the Auckland Family Counselling and Psychotherapy Centre– a centre well-known for specialising in psychoanalytically focused psychotherapy and training.

In 1989 a new director of the Centre, Peter Greener, came on board and a group of us, all staff members of AFCP and/or participants in the centre's journal club, made the decision to deepen our psychoanalytic understanding by undertaking a four-year formal training through the auspices of the Australian Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association (PPAA). Following this, we formed the Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, with Joyce McDougall as our Patron, and then in the year 2000, following its formal alignment as a Member State of the PPAA, the Institute became the NZ Institute of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy (NZIPP) – with Australia amended to Australasia! During these years, we began the process of offering a formal training through the Institute to other interested psychotherapists and registered health professionals, who could then apply upon completion for membership of the Institute.

Audrey was from the beginning a key member of the group, her acknowledged capacity reflected in her election to Chair of the Institute in the 1990s. In the years following up to her retirement from NZIPP in 2016, Audrey contributed to every area of Institute life, including the membership, curriculum and training committees, always giving of her time with a generous eye to the Institute's welfare and future. Audrey's was a quiet, unassuming, steady and sensitive presence and approach. She had that gift for the qualities of holding and containment so integral to the work of a psychotherapist, whether in clinical practice or in collegial relationships.

Audrey's main focus was of course her clinical practice and it would not be an exaggeration to say that she was loved and held in high esteem by the generations of patients and supervisees who came to see her.

I personally had a great fondness for Audrey. We shared a love of Kleinian theory and practice. She helped me enormously on the Training Committee in the years when I held

the role of Training Chair of the Institute. But on reflection, what I now realise I appreciated most about Audrey is that she *recognised* me, even from the very early days of my time as a young psychotherapist in the late 1980s. It was that quality of *recognition* accompanied by an inner warmth and good humour, needing no explanatory words or gestures but there as a stable presence, that I think we can all recognise as the essence of Audrey Lane the person and psychoanalytic psychotherapist.

Judi Blumenfeld Hoadley
Founding Member -NZIPP