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President's Report	2
Editorial	4
IBD Nurses report	5
COGEN President's report	10
Member Liaison Director's report	11
SPC Report	12
Fundamentals Facilitator's report	14
GENCA crossword	15
Education Committee Report	17
2017 Australian Gastroenterology Week	18
Inflammatory bowel disease — alteration to IBD nurse practice at Royal Adelaide Hospital	21
Bowel cancer awareness	24
Cancer: A personal perspective	27
Gastrostomy and Queensland's transition to the NDIS	30
Region by region	33
From the GENCA office	38
Education meeting days 2017	38
GENCA Management	40

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President's Report

Cathy Conway

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Hello everyone. This report is a transcript of my report to members at AGW 2017.

When I first stepped up to the GENCA President role, a strategic planning meeting was held in Melbourne, which was attended by the board of directors, our then new secretariat, Association Professionals, the *J.GENCA* journal editor, regional managers, and representatives from fundamentals and external committees. The facilitator of that meeting encouraged everyone to contribute and to think big — to really think outside the square and believe that everything was achievable.

That vision of the future of GENCA was the basis of our strategic plan, taking the organisation into the next year, further five years and beyond. For the purposes of this report I have revisited that document — it had all of our wildest dreams in it. I have tried to measure our performance as a board and as a peak performance body against those goals that were set at the beginning of 2015. The document highlighted five main priorities — membership, education, *J.GENCA*, good governance and communicating to the wider industry regarding gastroenterological (GE) nursing.

The goals for membership included growth and providing value to members. So far, over the last three years there has been a 30% annual growth in membership. As at the end of June 2017, we had 1,431 members — up from 998 in late 2014. Value to members is a little harder to measure, but I believe with the addition of a national conference, the recent addition of online webinars and eLearning modules, access to Fundamentals and assessments, local and state education meetings, the quarterly journal, online discussion forum and timely detailed responses to enquiries, I think we are kicking some goals here too. There is always room for improvement and growth, and the strategic plan is a living document that requires constant input.

Education is such a huge topic and really is the basis of our core business. I believe that the educational opportunities to gain continuing professional education (CPE) points provided by GENCA, are excellent. Driven by a group of dedicated volunteers, the number and quality of education and training days presented is second to none. With the addition of webinars (still in their infancy), online modules, a national conference and AGW, there is something for everyone. It is timely to acknowledge those regional managers and their committees, the Fundamentals facilitators and assessors, Scientific Program Committee and the office staff for contributing to the programming, organisation and delivery of challenging, interesting and varied education opportunities. Of course, there is also the COGEN exam for advanced practice gastroenterology

nurses to attain credentialing in their field of expertise.

Our journal continues to be an important communication tool with our members. With the guidance of our editor and editorial committee, the inclusion of more scientific and peer-reviewed articles remains a priority. The addition of office support to the journal committee will provide much-needed assistance with meeting deadlines and sourcing advertising income.

Good governance. Wow, what is that? Learning about governance and director responsibilities is a huge learning curve, and one GENCA supports. GENCA holds at least one training session each year for the board of directors. This is especially important for incoming board members. Major aspects of good governance are the financial viability of an organisation, the development of a budget and financial framework and, of course, auditing and open disclosure. GENCA is in a strong financial position and has met all the regulatory requirements as presented at the AGM.

Communicating information to the wider health industry regarding GE nursing is a complex area and one that I believe we are contributing to. There are GENCA representatives sitting on various committees Australia-wide. Some examples of this are the Infection Control Steering Committee, the AS4187 committee, CoNNMO committee, a representative at a parliamentary breakfast and representation of nurse endoscopists.

I feel that in the last couple of years, the focus of our community engagement has been addressing the global issue of multiresistant organisms and contributing to multidisciplinary working parties to come up with consensus documents to avoid potential catastrophic events in our workplaces and the health system in general. GENCA has been very active and at the forefront of these discussions. We will continue to engage with the appropriate bodies to ensure the safety of our patients and our members.

I hope my report provides a summary of GENCA activities over the past year and assures you that we plan to continue with further growth and development as we approach 2018 — GENCA's 40th anniversary year. There will be plenty of celebrations planned for this important milestone, which we hope you will join us for. Our national conference location and dates will be announced shortly — I can tell you that it will be in our national capital, Canberra, in May 2018.

In closing, I'd like to thank all those who have assisted GENCA in some way this year, and look forward to an exciting 2017–18.

Catherine Conway



Editorial

Elizabeth Wardle

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This month we focus on the bowel. From the stomach to the Bristol Stool Chart and all things in between, the GI tract is important to GENCA. In this edition you'll find an article from Julie Hughes, who works as an IBD nurse at Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH). Julie provides an analysis on changes to the IBD nurses' workload and practice at RAH, as well as implications for the future. There is also a personal account from Kym Whalley on surviving bowel cancer. Many readers will remember Kym's particularly moving talk at GENCA's national conference in May, earlier this year. Kym's story demonstrates the absolute importance of listening to our patients.

I've recently received notification that the revision of AS4187 is now available for comment on the Australian Standards website until 19 December, 2017. Comments can be placed on the website or directly to me, as your committee representative.

In August the Editorial Committee met in Queensland to plan for the 2018 journal editions. Next year is GENCA's 40th anniversary, and we will have a busy year of celebrations! There will be opportunities to become involved, write about your experience and read about the gastro journeys that have been taken by colleagues and peers. You'll meet the team behind the journal. There will also be features on GENCA luminaries of the past (some of whom are still very much part of GENCA's present), and retrospectives on the hottest topics of the past four decades.

To forward your ideas, articles, news snippets, photos and tips, contact both me and the Editorial Committee by email at: edm@genca.org.au.

The Editorial Committee would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and new year! Have a lovely break and spend time with your friends and family relaxing. *J.GENCA* is your journal, and I hope you find something interesting within.



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