Once again, it has been a busy year for COGEN. After the AGM last year we had a larger number of exam candidates sit than in previous years. We offered 2 satellite sites - Perth and Sydney. Unfortunately 2 of these candidates were unsuccessful. While there is a sensitivity when delivering bad news, it is not always appreciated especially when asked about marks received and when others are present when this news is delivered. This feedback was provided through GENCA open forum. While all attempts at professionalism and privacy are provided, it is extremely difficult to deliver this type of information when friends or colleagues study together but both don't achieve a positive result.

This year we have been revamping and renewing the question bank. The outdated questions that were no longer clinically relevant have been removed and references have been reviewed and updated. The scenario bank is also slowly building. The exam has changed focus to provide questions on relevant standards both national and endoscopy based rather than focusing on research questions alone.

We are also arranging for a full review of past exams to identify knowledge gaps, question strength and repetition of the use of the question bank by having an independent analysis completed following this year's exam. This is necessary to achieve best results and a robust examination process.

To assist with individual study, this year we have been able to organise with SGNA to purchase study manuals in conjunction with the textbook. These have been taken up by most of the candidates for this year so it will be interesting to get their feedback regarding helpfulness as well as exam success rate.

The Device Education Grant was again successfully negotiated and continued. This remains for the first 2 applicants in each state to be reimbursed exam fee and textbook if purchased. The updated credentialling handbook was provided to GENCA for access via the website. It was decided at our face to face meeting that we would now accept academic applications for credentialling. This will include the following criteria via 2 options- first option is portfolio as per recredentialing plus 3 peer reviews, verification of hours, transcript of academic achievement at cost of $350. Second option is the exam, 3 peer reviews, verification of hours, academic transcript at lower cost of $250. They must have received this qualification within previous 10 years and we will only accept the QU grad cert or Acute Care grad cert at UTS or other university.

We have also agreed to allow EEN's for the exam however it is the same exam at reduced rate. Olympus has agreed to sign as Emerald sponsor for another 3 year period and contract has been received. The amounts of each award have been changed and now are $2,500 for "Nurse of the year", 2nd place is $1000 and 3rd place is $500. There must be a minimum of 5 sitting and successfully passing.

Recredentialing handbooks have been updated to reflect additional categories or changes to existing categories. Only 13 out of 22 took up this option in 2015. A survey was sent to those people who did not recredential with only 4 responses returning. These results reflect 3 retiring nurses and another who is working in new field.

We have 2 board members finishing this year - Anna Beazley and Sandi Gardiner have been on the board since 2013 and I would like to say, on behalf of the board, a massive thank you for the work they have contributed to the board. It is always sad to see board members leave and they will both be truly missed. Despite advertising, we have not been successful in finding replacements at this time. This will now leave only 3 on the board at this time.

Lynn Rapley
President