



Thankyou!

It is a privilege to accept the Avril Binzer Memorial Award for 2016. I am honoured to now be included alongside the esteemed recipients of the Avril Binzer Award and will treasure being a beneficiary of this prestigious award. I often recall memories of Mrs Binzer when she was an examiner and I was very young and participating in exams. Then in later years seeing her as a teacher in ATOD national and state competitions. She always greeted me with a smile and gave much encouragement to me and my students.

I am also grateful to ATOD for their guidance and assistance to me personally and professionally over the years. I must thank the NSW Secretary, Margaret Kirkness, for her continued support to me when I first became Principal of Dorothy Cowie School of Dancing in Croydon, over 30 years ago.

As well as our wonderful President Karen Malek, QLD Secretary Tracey Jonsson and the Board of ATOD. Their encouragement was invaluable and I really appreciate their guidance over the years. I have fully supported the ATOD organisation with participation in many fundraisers and events, and of course entering thousands of students in many examinations.

I wouldn't be here today accepting this award without my mentor, my teacher, Miss Dorothy Cowie, who always believed in me. I feel she would be proud, and happy with the way I have loved and cared for the Dorothy Cowie School of Dancing.

This award I can also contribute to my wonderful teachers and staff at Dorothy Cowie. The support and assistance from my family, over the past 31 years, and in recent years my daughters, Monique and Rebecca who have helped grow the school to what it is today.

I feel ATOD has a great future for upcoming dancers and teachers. The Association nurtures the talents of students and teachers. I wish to continue my loyal commitment to ATOD and am excited to be part of this growing industry, and continue to pass on Avril Binzer's knowledge to young people and her wonderful passion of dance.

I wish all our competitors a wonderful weekend of dance. It is truly lovely to see you all and we look forward to watching you perform this weekend. What a wonderful opportunity ATOD, your teachers and parents, have given you to experience being a part of this national competition.

Thank you again, I am truly honoured.