

## CONGRATULATIONS SHONA PRESS!

Late last year, the Ausdance Educators Queensland (AEQ) committee, alongside Ausdance Queensland, announced Shona Press as the recipient of the 2020 Osmotherly Award - presented to dance educators whose work has clearly earned them a state, district or school reputation within Queensland. Shona is a teacher at Marymount College on the Gold Coast (an RTO delivery partner for ATOD qualifications) and the Trainer and Assessor and Dance teacher for ATOD's CUA30113 Certificate III in Dance.

Shona's foresight saw Marymount become one of the first schools on the Gold Coast to introduce this qualification, providing students with an affordable option of completing this VET qualification while remaining in full time study at school.

With the bulk of her proud 32 year career spent at Marymount, the school's dance programme reflects her commitment and energy to developing courses that respond to the needs of her students. This is no more evident than in the development of both core curriculum and extension dance programmes to cater for a range of student abilities and interests. Shona's passion and dedication to dance has made a significant impact on the lives of the many young people she has taught, as well as the educators that she has worked with.

"Dance can change lives," said Shona. "It can make us happier people - better people. It's a privilege as an educator to help others see that."

Throughout her teaching career, Shona has provided students with a range of extracurricular opportunities, student excursions, workshops and performances. She has spent countless hours as a choreographer, director, producer and costume designer for many dance troupes, as well as for productions such as musicals and dance showcases.

Shona is keen to support the dance community and has been a member of the Gold Coast Arts Centre Education Liaison Committee, was chosen by the Queensland Ballet to be a Teacher Ambassador, and is the president of Danc'eD in the Spotlight, a not-for-profit annual event featuring performances by over 800 Gold Coast students to celebrate the role of dance in education.

Also with a keen interest in curriculum and pedagogy, she was a district, then state panellist for the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) for over 15 years and has been involved in the development of numerous syllabuses in both a writing and advisory capacity. With the introduction of the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), she has used her wealth of experience to support the assessment processes in the new system.

In 2018, Shona was a finalist in the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) Outstanding

Contribution to Teaching Award and Brisbane Catholic Education's Excellence Award. She has been further acknowledged for her outstanding work as a leader in dance education in Queensland and as the very worthy recipient of the 2020 Osmotherly Award.