

backroom bytes



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Backroom AGM

On October 4th, Backroom Press held its Annual General Meeting with the usual flair (and cakes). Admirably hosted by Joyce and Eirlys at our Head Office at 23 Solway Loop, we enjoyed lively presentations from our outgoing Chairperson, Sudha and departing Treasurer, Alex, with helpful interjections from the floor.

Sudha had some flattering and entertaining things to say about the committee she has chaired so ably, pointing out that the AM (Member of the Order of Australia) earned this year by founding member Joyce must surely have been in some small measure attributable to her work in the Treasury at Backroom Press. Sudha's references to cups of tea and cake should not be taken to imply that all we do is sit around supping tea and filling our faces; these are just welcome aspects of our monthly meetings, leading to volunteer satisfaction and greater productivity. Alex, as Sudha pointed out, has not only assisted Joyce with our high finances, but used her professional skills to our advantage, and has taken on 'out of left field' (why left field?) projects such as making our giant Scrabble pieces. These, incidentally, are available for hire at a small fee, provided they are returned in good clean condition. Alex's report told us how well she and Joyce have been managing our finances and how, thanks to our volunteers, we have a healthy balance in the bank for printing our next title. Anna Moulton took over the chair for the spill and conducted the election of new committee members. We were sorry to lose Sudha and Alex from our committee, but gained Maria Mann — and Sharon Griffiths in absentia. Gillian was voted Chairperson, and Maria bravely volunteered to become our new Treasurer. Christine, the third member of our Executive Committee, is still with us and has taken on the same role again this year, something for which

we are most grateful. Continuity is a valuable thing in a small organization, with its own quirks and culture. The new full committee is as follows:

- Chairperson:** Gillian Kennedy
- Treasurer:** Maria Mann
- Secretary:** Christine Elsasser
- Members:** Joyce Hudson, Rachael Christensen, Sharon Griffiths and Pat Lowe.

We encourage other people (former committee members included!) to become 'active members', lending a hand where they can. We are grateful to Anna Moulton for assistance in various capacities, Ushan Boyd for looking after our website, Eirlys for taking on deliveries of our stock around town, Val for storing our books, Sarah for helping on our occasional stall, and other past and present active members for their efforts on our behalf. Active members are notified of our monthly meetings, which they are welcome to attend. To put your name on our email list, please contact our secretary Christine: "admin@backroompress.com.au Elsasser" <admin@backroompress.com.au>

A very special thanks goes to our past Chairperson Sudha for her never-failing enthusiasm, her ideas, her cups of tea and most especially for her work in initiating and driving the Corrugated Lines writers' festival over the past three years. We will miss her, but fortunately Sudha has already demonstrated her willingness to remain an 'active member', and we will continue to benefit from her presence.



Backroom Press committee and members: Christine Elsasser, Gillian Kennedy, Maria Mann, Joyce Hudson, Rachael Christensen and Pat Lowe (absent: Sharon Griffiths).

new title *Our Friends the Termites*

Our next title, 'Our Friends the Termites', about which we have been skiting for some time, is almost there. We really thought it would be ready to launch before Christmas, and we even received advance copies in good time. Although externally the copies look great, we had to reject the print run because of the poor quality of the reproductions of some of the photographs. Our agent decided to change printers, and we are now awaiting our shipment of the new print run, which, all being well, will be released early next year. We are especially grateful to Rachael for guiding the ms through the tortuous process of publication, and to Gillian for her able assistance.

2015!

In February 2015 the BP Management Committee will be holding its annual 'Planning Day', when we will discuss our near future, including the launch of 'Termites', a possible fourth Corrugated Lines and other topics of interest to readers and writers. And if anyone is prepared to help coordinate Corrugated Lines next year, don't hesitate to get in touch. We really need you!