

E-bulletin No3
August 2010

Dear Backroom Pressers,

The first and most important item in this bulletin is the Annual General Meeting.

Our AGM will be held on

MONDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 2010 AT 5PM, AT BACKROOM PRESS HQ, 23
SOLWAY LOOP, BROOME.

We urge you to attend and to bring along any friends who would like to join a fledgling publishing company in Broome. Backroom Press is already set up as a not-for-profit association and just waiting for a fresh, dynamic management team to take it on to new and greater things. If you have ever dreamed of being a publisher, now's your chance. We may not be Penguin Books, but we are as good a place as any to learn the do's and don'ts of publishing.

Meanwhile, what have we been up to?

Our manuscript for this year is developing fast. We now have a contract with the author. This will be Heather Charlton's first book, which she has conceived, written and illustrated. It will be a children's book, based in the Kimberley, featuring two cattle station dogs, Sid and Skipper. Heather has been working with Robyn to develop the illustrations, and Jacqui will help her to edit the text. We are pleased with progress and are still hoping for a release before Christmas, or perhaps early in 2011.

The Kimberley Anthology we mentioned in our last newsletter did not attract funding from the Department of Culture and the Arts in the last round. As Backroom could not commit to publishing it without funding, Sandy Toussaint approached Fremantle Press, and they have agreed to take it on. We wish Sandy good luck with the project.

Backroom has received two other tentative offers. One is from Kim Doohan, the author of our book 'Making Things Come Good', who is working on another manuscript and is keen for Backroom to take it on. We are interested, but it will be some time before the manuscript is ready for us to look at.

The other offer depends on funding, and is to do with producing a series of books for Aboriginal schools, starting from scratch. An author or authors will develop stories in collaboration with members of various communities in the region. If it comes off, this could be a very exciting project and keep us busy for some time. Because it will be funded, we would have the luxury of not worrying about meeting our costs.

Backroom's constitution requires us to contribute to the community educationally. Joyce has conducted introductory workshops in English grammar, and is now providing mentorship in report writing for two indigenous trainees with Environs Kimberley. Joyce and Pat have also agreed to do some editing for a project report on behalf of Backroom Press.

After the usual lull during the off-season, sales have picked up again during the dry months. 'Looking for Bobby' continues to be our runaway best seller, and this year we have had to reprint it for the second time. The author, Kerry Jordinson, has returned to Broome, and is kindly providing storage space for the books.

Meanwhile, Eirlys and Jacqui are helping Pat sell our other books around town. Joyce does most of the mail and some of the telephone orders. We have reduced the price of 'The Art of Fire', which was moving too slowly. It is now \$16.95, like most of our other titles, instead of \$24.95. That means a cost price of \$10.17, to our outlets and members. It makes a good, cheap little present, which can be sent as a large letter, so buy up for Christmas!

Jimmy and Pat Meet the Queen continues to sell steadily we expect to reprint it soon. Since first publication it has sold close to 10,000 copies.

Marketing is always our main challenge, so if any of our members are interested in assisting with ideas and, even better, practical help, please get in touch. We would especially appreciate anyone who is travelling to the major cities to consider taking a set of our books to show to bookshops and perhaps get orders. We can even offer you a 10% commission on orders taken.

Sudha has come to a few of our meetings and may be able to help us with marketing, especially outside Broome. We hope to employ her part-time.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM. There will be cake!

From the Backroom team: Jean, Carmel, Jacqui, Robyn, Joyce and Pat.