

e-bulletin no 6  
CHRISTMAS 2011

## SUCCESSFUL AGM

Our AGM on 11 November was the usual up-beat and well-attended affair – with tea and cake. After hearing reports from our outgoing Chairperson, Robyn Wells, and Treasurer, Joyce Hudson, we came to the solemn moment when the old management committee stood down and we asked for nominations. In the event, all members of the old committee were re-elected. Attempts by Joyce and Pat to retire gracefully in favour of two new nominees were stymied by the radical proposal that we increase our committee numbers from six to eight and change the constitution accordingly. The new office-bearers were also elected without a hitch. The 2012 team is:

Chairperson: Sudha Coutinho;  
Treasurer: Alex Smees; Secretary (as last year): Christine Elsasser. Ordinary committee members (renominate): Joyce Hudson, Robyn Wells, Pat Lowe; (new): Val Burgess and Flip Prior. A sincere welcome to our new members and office-bearers. Our membership has been gradually increasing over the past year.

## EVENTS

In November, Backroom Press hosted the first of what we hope will be a series of workshops — this one, on writing Media Releases, was presented by our very own Flip Prior. Several members of our Management Committee attended and two other BP members. We learnt plenty of useful tips.

We look forward to a second workshop soon, this one on the use of Social Media by Alex. Backroom is really getting itself up to date. One day you might be able to read our books on I-Pad (whatever that is). Be prepared for a further announcement in the New Year, of interest to budding authors clutching their first manuscripts.

## NEW TITLES

Recent months have been some of the busiest in Backroom Press's history, thanks to the enthusiasm of our new Chairperson and the expanded, revitalised team.

We launched our new children's title, *Sid and Skipper Go Mustering*, at the Courthouse Markets in October. Deb Vincent, who grew up on Sid's cattle station, kindly launched it for us, sitting on a hay bale and reading from the book to enthralled children. Deb arrived and departed astride her horse, who behaved extremely well and attracted a lot of interest.

Meanwhile, author Heather Charlton signed books at Collins Bookshop in Moonee Ponds. They only ordered 20 copies, all of which were soon sold.

*Sid and Skipper* has been selling well for us here too, and we have high hopes for its success. We have entered it for the 2011 Children's Book Council Book of the Year Awards.

*Bobby's Surprise* is close behind, but we couldn't quite manage a pre-Christmas launch, so we are looking forward to bringing it out in the new year. One advantage of the delay is that we will be able to enter *Bobby's Surprise* in the 2012 CBC Awards without competing against another of our own books.

*Looking for Bobby* continues to be our bestseller, and was recently taken up by the Better Beginnings literacy project run through the State Library, who bought 300 copies to distribute to remote communities.



Pat Lowe and Deb Vincent at the launch of *Sid and Skipper Go Mustering* by Heather Charlton



## PROMOTION AND SALES

Besides the highly successful launch of *Sid & Skipper*, we have held a second stall at Broome Courthouse Market, one at the Circle House Craft Sale and another at a School of the Air gathering at the Kimberley Camp School in Broome, so spreading the word as well as our merchandise. There will be one more market before Christmas.

Although we lost several outlets last year — stores that closed down — we have found a few new ones. If any of our members know of retailers who would like to sell our books, please let us know. Outlets beyond the Kimberley are especially welcome.

## happy YuLE Tide

Backroom Press Management Committee wishes all our members and friends a happy yuletide — and don't forget the 25% discount you get when you purchase your Christmas gifts from us!