

BACKROOM PRESS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS



Photos by Nicola Kalmar

Outgoing and incoming committee members

At this year's AGM, we celebrated our tenth anniversary in style, overlooking Roebuck Bay, at the Mangrove Hotel. First was a wonderfully entertaining presentation of Backroom Press historical highlights by Joyce Hudson and Pat Lowe. This was followed by tea, coffee and a slice or two of cake by our friend and baker extraordinaire Kylie Weatherall. Thanks to everyone who came along. Thanks especially to Nicola Kalmar from the Broome Advertiser for the story and the happy snaps.

Of course we also attended to the business of the day, including reports from the Chairperson and Treasurer and the election of a new Committee.

Gillian Kennedy and Christine Elsasser were returned as Chairperson and Secretary respectively. New member Suzanne Jess was elected to the position of Treasurer, while committee positions were filled by newcomer Deb Courtney and returning members Joyce Hudson, Pat Lowe, Rani Middleton and Maria Mann.

Thanks to outgoing committee members Deb Hannagan and Carolyn Pickett for their time, energy and expertise throughout the year.

From the archives: our first book launch 2006



www.backroompress.com.au

BACKROOM PRESS GOES TO SPNC 2016



SPN
Small Press Network

Long-serving Backroom Press committee members Christine Elsasser and Joyce Hudson attended the tenth annual Small Press Network Conference in Melbourne recently.

Independent
Publishing
Conference

SPN caters to small, independent publishers in Australia and New Zealand. This year's conference explored the value of the Australian book publishing industry and looked at diversity in publishing. For more, go to: www.smallpressnetwork.com.au.

We learned many trade secrets and publishing tips and discovered that Backroom Press is not only 'one of the smallest publishing houses' but can more accurately be called a 'micro-publishing house'.

Highlights of the conference included an exchange of ideas about marketing and writers festivals around the country. There were important networking opportunities and encouraging presentations about the standing and significance of the publishing industry in Australia. We found an exhibition of book covers inspiring, and noted the contact details for some book designers. We are only too aware that people do, in fact, judge (and buy) books by their covers.

It was encouraging, and surprising, to learn that the e-book market has not had a hugely detrimental effect on book publishing. Apparently, many people still like the feel of paper.

The media presents the publishing industry as being in trouble but we came away reassured that small publishers are in a strong position and can confidently continue publishing books that are not mainstream.

Attending the conference and learning about other people's publishing experiences made us realise that Backroom Press is doing OK!