

# backroom bytes



PO Box 2778  
Broome WA 6725  
inquiries@backroompress.com.au  
phone: 08 9192 2283  
www.backroompress.com.au  
abn: 77 462 828 878

## 2014 Corrugated Lines: a festival of words



Sudha Coutinho and Anna Moulton at the Corrugated Lines Prologue

*For the third year in a row Backroom Press Inc. took the lead role in the Festival and stirred people into action to create a wonderful weekend celebrating words. Corrugated Lines: a festival of words is now on the literary radar.*

Backroom Press Inc. once again decided to promote creative writing, encourage community participation and extend the festival beyond Broome by inviting people to take part in an on-line competition. During our annual BP Planning Day, Anna Moulton, an active member, came up with the suggestion we hold a quest to find Kimberley Haikus. We had over 200 entries and some wonderful haikus capturing the essence of the Kimberley. You can read all the entries on the Corrugated Lines Tumblr site. Who knows, this may be the kernel of an idea for a future publication for Backroom Press! We have yet to move into the genre of poetry!

Our promise to BP members that we would focus not only on publication but also on providing opportunities for Kimberley people to expand their skills in writing was honoured with a workshop we hosted about creative non-fiction. Gillian and Pat invited Kim Mahood to present the workshop, and we had wonderful feedback from participants.

And, of course, Backroom Press Inc. is renowned for having fun. Alex took up the challenge in a big way with her twist on

Speed Scrabble at the Broome Courthouse Saturday markets. It was a great opportunity to get out and introduce people to what Backroom Press Inc. is all about.

Although not BP events as such, we saw BP committee members pop up in other ways during the festival. Pat Lowe, one of the founders of BP, mentored Robert Schofield in writing his novel *Marble Bar*. During his session he doffed his hat to her for her guidance and support in the mentorship programme sponsored by the Fellowship of Australian Writers WA.

Joyce Hudson, another founder of BP, joined forces with her long-time friend and colleague, Eirlys Richards, to speak about *Stories from the Fitzroy Crossing Archives* with Alex Smee, who was wearing her ABC Open hat. Alex also showed her skills in getting people to tell their stories through the wonderful videos accompanying the 'In the Saddle On the Wall' exhibition.

Alex and Pat both got up during the Word of Mouth event and had us all in stitches. After last year's Word of Mouth and a taste of Peter Docker reciting an excerpt from his extended poem 'My Town', Sudha arranged a full recital at the Aarli Bar this year. This was filmed and can be viewed on either YouTube or the Writing WA site.

No wonder BP is such a treat to be part of and our meetings can be so much fun — we are full of hilarious and talented people!

Does this make you want to put your hand up at the AGM and become a committee or active member?



Alex and Gaylene racing against time at Speed Scrabble

### BIG WORDS FOR A SMALL PUBLISHING HOUSE

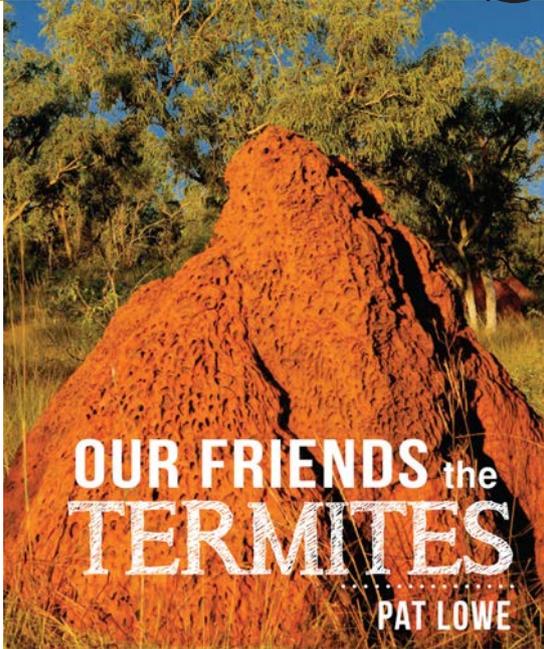
*How do you promote the exposure and joy of the written word? You make it big and fun!*

The Backroom Committee took the challenge literally at this year's Corrugated Lines Festival, and hosted the biggest game of Speed Scrabble ever to have been played in the Kimberley.

Visitors to the Saturday Courthouse market spent the morning word-smithing with massive 30 x 30cm Scrabble tiles — 100 of them, and they looked just like the real thing. Teams raced around the grass making as many words as they could while the clock ticked, horns blew and onlookers yelled out suggestions from their shady spots.

Like every event Backroom hosts, the success of the morning was only possible because of the support from our community. While the building of the jumbo Scrabble tiles was led by our treasurer, Alex Smee, the creation was a team effort. Backroom would like to yell a huge thank you to Nigel Clarke, Adam Boyd and Rod Hartvigsen, for their donations of time and materials to the project. And to all of you who got your running shoes on at the event and proved that words can be fun... especially when they're really big!

If anyone's interested in hosting a game for a community event, just get in contact with Backroom Press. We've cleaned all the pindan off the tiles and they're ready to go!



*Our Friends the Termites* by Pat Lowe was not ready to be launched at Corrugated Lines as we had hoped, but at the time of writing it is about to go to the printer and we now intend to launch it in November — in time for Christmas. Pat sets the scene with a caution:

‘This book was inspired by my fascination with termites, and the reader is warned that no advice about the destruction of these wonderful creatures will be found in these pages.’

## join us for fun in the backroom

It is that time of year again when we invite you all to come to Backroom Press headquarters to sip cups of tea, eat cakes, hear about what has been happening, talk about what you would like to happen and, importantly, consider taking a more active role in Backroom Press for the coming year — yes, it’s our AGM.

Please make a note of our date and time: 4 pm Saturday, October 4th at Backroom Press HQ, 23 Solway Loop (off De Marchi Road). It’s an event not to be missed. Please consider nominating for a position on the management committee. There is a spill of positions and at least one of our number will not be renominating. Anyone who would like to help without joining the committee can opt to become an Active Member, which gives you all the privileges of a committee member apart from voting, and none of the responsibilities apart from lending a hand where you feel you can.

**backroom  
agm  
4pm SAT 4**

**OCT 2014  
23 Solway Loop**

Backroom Press Committee members should be able to attend meetings once a month for about 1.5 hours and spend perhaps another 2 hours during the month following up on tasks they have agreed to undertake...about 3.5 hours a month, on average. Some months may not demand much from us, but during times of publication, things get busier — and more exciting!

Backroom Press active members take on activities that suit them, such as being on a list of contacts for our occasional events/market stalls, producing promotional materials or delivering books to outlets around town and attending committee meetings to participate in the discussions around the table. We do all this because we enjoy it, and hope other members will step up to share in the fun with (she says modestly) a great bunch of people.

## WRITE BY THE BAY — not this time

Another idea that bubbled up at our last planning day was a writing retreat. The committee loves to take on challenges and we were keen to see if a retreat was viable. Ideas were tossed around, numbers crunched and we came up with *Write by the Bay*. The retreat was to have been facilitated by local author and Associate Professor at Curtin University, Dr Jacqueline Wright, over a weekend at the Broome Bird Observatory, fully catered by The Good Cartel.

A lot of time was spent tweaking the idea into a real possibility. Unfortunately, our time frame was very close to Corrugated Lines and, although we had thought we would be riding the wave of the festival, we now think we may have got caught in the backwash. We did not get the minimum numbers to go ahead on the proposed dates. We are confident *Write by the Bay* will take off another time and we will keep you posted.

[www.backroompress.com.au](http://www.backroompress.com.au)

## KIMBERLEY



### YOUTH AWARD WINNER

next to the river  
a hot smoking log burns black  
in the cold dry night

Arusha Sunfly  
Bayulu Remote Community School

### ADULT WINNER

under a bright moon  
salmon flipping  
in the tin boat hull

Clancy McDowell  
Broome