

Backroom Press Inc is one of Australia's smallest publishing houses.
It is located in Broome, in the north of Western Australia.
Backroom Press publishes entertaining and educational books, taking
stories from the Kimberley to the world...

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e-news

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Dear Backroom Pressers,

How can it be that more than six months have passed since our previous e-bulletin? That is a rhetorical question, so don't all answer at once.

MANUSCRIPTS

Both manuscripts are moving along apace. *Sid and Skipper Go Mustering* is in its final stages and will be out in October.



Kerry Jordinson, after producing several sets of sketches, each set improving on the last, is working hard on her coloured illustrations for *Bobby's Surprise*, which we are hoping to get out for Christmas.

DEMISE OF A GREAT IDEA

In our previous e-bulletin, we talked about a new, ambitious plan for a Kimberley Arts Magazine, working title KART, and our application for funding to carry out a feasibility study. We failed to get funding from either the Department for the Arts or Royalties for Regions, but our own small-scale investigations and reflections in the meantime had led us to the conclusion that we would have been biting off more than we could chew. The cost of producing colour magazines is, it seems, prohibitive. Cost aside, we don't yet have the capacity, in our small, not-for-profit association, to staff such an undertaking. An idea for the future, perhaps?

EXPO 2011

Not knowing what to expect, Backroom branched out and hired a stall at Broome Expo in May, where we displayed our titles and our beautiful new banner to the public over two days. Sales were slower than we'd anticipated, but there was interest from educators and others, which we hope will result in greater use of our books in schools. We felt that the exposure was worthwhile.



Pat Lowe presents stories from *The Art of Fire* to an attentive audience at the 2011 Science Week.

BACKROOM PRESS & Naked Science

This year's Science Week, hosted for the fifth time by Environs Kimberley, had a 'naked science' theme — that is, low-tech. science and knowledge gained through observation and the like. Backroom Press was invited to present a session on the indigenous use of fire, as described in our small gem of a publication, *The Art of Fire* by Jimmy Pike. We invited two older men to demonstrate the 'fire drill' method of making fire from scratch. Whether owing to advancing age and lack of practice, or the wrong materials, the men were unable to raise a spark, even with the vigorous assistance of a much younger man. The challenge for the onlookers was to go away and try it for themselves.

Joyce Hudson and Eirlys Richards then presented information about fire that they had gathered from people in Fitzroy Crossing during the late 1960s and early 70s, and Pat talked about the genesis of our Backroom Press book, *The Art of Fire*. If the number of questions at the end is a measure of audience engagement, then we must have succeeded in piquing people's interest.

thanks

Backroom management committee would like to thank all those people who helped us with Expo and Science Week, and with our sales. A special mention must be made of Gillian Kennedy, for her valuable assistance on the committee over the past couple of months, before she went off to have a baby — we hope she will find time to join us again afterwards. Thanks are due also to Alex Mountford, who was on our committee for a brief time before she moved to Yiyili, who has kindly helped us with remote marketing since then, and to John Hill, who has taken our books on a number of marketing journeys through the Kimberley.

AGM

23 Solway Loop 5 pm
11 NOV 2011

We hope that you will encourage anyone interested in publishing locally to come along. As we said last year, Backroom Press is all set up as a Not-for-profit Association, ready to be taken in new directions by its dynamic team. We are run by a management committee of at least six people, and you could be one of them!