

LAUNCH OF THE BOAB TREE DRAWS A LARGE CROWD



A large crowd attended the launch of *The Boab Tree* (2nd edition) by much loved local author Pat Lowe. It was held at the Broome Public Library on November 21, 2019. Many had heard of the book or they had seen the first edition, published by Lothian Press 20 years ago.

In response to requests from readers and booksellers Backroom Press decided to publish the new edition.

The Shire of Broome Library staff took on the launch with their usual gusto, and Backroom Press is very grateful for their support. They created an impressive display of Pat's published works and Damian Kelly's photograph. A surprising and delicious array of boab-themed drinks and snacks were on offer, along with the usual fare.



Ecologist with Environs Kimberley's Nature Project, Dr Malcolm Lindsay interviewed Pat about the experiences that led her to write the book, before launching it amidst huge applause.

AGM 2019

The Backroom Press AGM on 11 November 2019 was well attended and well catered, as usual. Secretary Maria Mann resigned from the Management Committee and two new members, Sarah Tobias and Vicki Carroll stepped into the vacant positions, with Sarah taking on the role of Secretary. Reports were presented and Chairperson Gillian Kennedy commended the Annual Report to those present. This is now available on our website.



WRITE BY THE BAY



In September we hosted our long-anticipated writing retreat, Write by the Bay. We originally attempted to run this event in 2014, going as far as getting branded mugs printed. Alas, we didn't get the numbers, and so the mugs sat on the shelf in the BP storeroom waiting for their moment of glory.



This time, 15 keen participants signed up, treating themselves to a weekend of writing bliss at a gorgeous location in Old Broome, a short stroll from Roebuck Bay. Albany author, Sarah Drummond (*Salt Stories; The Sound*), was their guide over the two days. Sarah is an experienced writing teacher and she provided the guests with tools for crafting short stories from rich local histories and landscapes.

Thanks to Backroom committee member Trish Pepper for organising the venue and the delicious catering.

Given the positive feedback from the attendees, we hope to offer more of these workshops to the local Kimberley community in the future, when we are allowed to rub shoulders again. We are pleased to report that the mugs were well received.



BACKROOM IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

We at Backroom Press hope you are all managing well during this global historic time. If you have any COVID-19 stories, now is the time to tell them. You could send any good ones to us at Backroom Press for possible publication on our website. Broome people can also send them to Alison at the Broome Public Library, where they will go into the town's historical archives for the benefit of researchers or to be rediscovered in another hundred years.

As people with an interest in books, you are no doubt catching up on some reading in the extra time you are spending at home. Backroom Press is still functioning and taking mail orders. We are as efficient as ever in dispatching books by mail, but we can't vouch for a speedy delivery, owing to our erratic transport system. Like everyone else, we do our best.