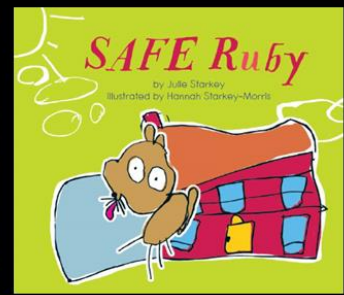


# ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



## Backroom Press Inc

Email: [inquiries@backroompress.com.au](mailto:inquiries@backroompress.com.au)

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

Tel: 08 9192 2283

PO Box 2778 Broome, 6725

ABN: 77 462 828 878



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# WELCOME

We are delighted to bring you the highlights of 2019-20 in this Annual Report. In this year of 'the new normal', dealing with COVID-19, Backroom Press has still managed to achieve great things. In addition to setting out our highlights for the year, this report sets out a summary of our sales and our financial statements since our previous AGM.

## Extract from our constitution

- A. The name of the Association is Backroom Press Incorporated
- B. The objects of the Association are:
  - a. To help educate the public about our region through the publication of books with subject matter or themes drawn from the Kimberley
  - b. To foster understanding between community groups
  - c. To promote the interests of diverse groups in the community
  - d. To raise funds to support inter-community educational projects
  - e. The property and income of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects or purposes of the Association and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of the Association, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes.
- C. Any **eight** members personally present (being members entitled to vote under these rules at a general meeting) will constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at a general meeting.
- D. Any **four** committee members constitute a quorum for the conduct of the business of a committee meeting.
- E. The Association's financial year will be the period of 12 months commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June of each year.

*Backroom Press Inc was founded in 2006 and became incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation in 2009. We publish books from or about the Kimberley, WA, and support community events and educational projects in Broome and beyond.*

## Membership

There is a once-only joining fee of \$10. To become a member visit our website:

<http://backroompress.com.au/index.php/get-involved/> (PayPal available), or sign up in person at the AGM (cash only).

All members are invited to volunteer and contribute their ideas about the priorities and activities of the organisation. These include running and taking part in public and educational events, publishing books, and finding ways of raising our profile in the community. Members are added to our email list, receive copies of our e-Bulletin, *Backroom Bytes*, and are encouraged to attend our AGM.

No. of members: 73

## Management Committee

The Backroom Press Management Committee of eight manages the affairs of the Association.

### 2019/20 Committee Members

Gillian Kennedy (Chairperson)  
Joyce Hudson (Deputy Chairperson)  
Christine Elsasser (Treasurer)  
Sarah Tobias (Secretary)  
Pat Lowe  
Deb Courtney  
Trish Pepper  
Vicki Carroll

## 2019–20 HIGHLIGHTS

### Book launch: *The Boab Tree*

In November 2019 we enjoyed a lively launch of the second edition of Pat Lowe's *The Boab Tree* at the Broome Public Library. Environs Kimberley ecologist, Malcolm Lindsay, launched the book and interviewed Pat about her love of this "colossus of the bush". Pat had the crowd (of one hundred or so punters) enthralled. It was a most entertaining evening. The Library staff, in typical form, were wonderful, generous hosts.



### Corrugated Lines: The Abridged Version



The ninth annual Corrugated Lines festival was supported by Backroom Press again this year. Backroom Press Secretary, Sarah Tobias, did a fabulous job as the festival coordinator, and Pat Lowe and Gillian Kennedy assisted from the sidelines. Due to COVID restrictions the festival was much smaller than we had originally planned – taking up only half the weekend – but it was

no less engaging for the community. Our events included the inaugural Backroom Press Writing Prize (see below) and the delightful *Story Time with Jonni and Pat*, held at the Broome Public Library, which saw Pat Lowe and 8-year-old Jonni Ockerby and her mum chatting about their love of books, writing and stories.



## The Backroom Press Writing Prize

One of the aims of Backroom Press is to support Kimberley writers by giving them a platform to have their work read by a broader audience. This year we held the first ever Backroom Press Writing Prize competition. We invited anyone who had spent time in the Kimberley to submit to us a short story of 2000 words or less. We received 12 entries and judges selected three winners. An additional two were highly commended. The prize money was taken from the donated royalties from Suzie Sickert's *Beyond the Lattice* and the winning entries were published on our website.



## Book launch: *Me and My Semicolon*

Almost two years since she passed away, Rani Middleton's blog-turned-book, *Me and My Semicolon*, was launched at St Mary's College on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. This publication was lovingly brought to reality by dedicated members of the Backroom Press team - in particular, Trish Pepper and Pat Lowe, who edited the manuscript, Christine Elsasser, who managed the design and printing process, and Joyce Hudson, who coordinated the sales and distribution. We worked closely alongside Rani's husband, Nathan Laird, and her parents, Juliet and Matthew Middleton. The launch was bittersweet, but also a reminder of the wonderful person that Rani was. Many of her family and friends attended – both in person and online, via Facebook Live. The staff and students at St Mary's were so generous in hosting, catering and providing entertainment for the event. Vanessa Mills did a wonderful job as MC and Deb Hannagan officially launched the book, giving a heartfelt speech.



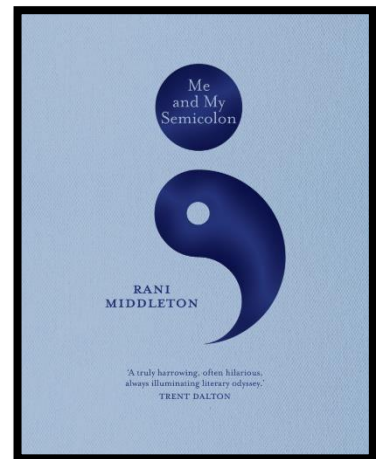
# PUBLISHING UPDATE

## Books published this year

- *Me and My Semicolon* by Rani Middleton

## Books sold this year

(1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020)



	TITLE	AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR	PUBL. DATE	COPIES SOLD 2018/19	COPIES SOLD THIS YEAR
1	<i>Me and My Semicolon (hardcover edition)</i>	Rani Middleton	2020	n/a	150
2	<i>The Boab Tree 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</i>	Pat Lowe	2019	n/a	471
3	<i>Mrs Millar's Frogs 2<sup>nd</sup> edition</i>	Annette Millar & Kerry Anne Jordinson	2019	690	457
4	<i>Beyond the Lattice: Broome's early years 2<sup>nd</sup> edition</i>	Susan Sickert	2017	150	93
5	<i>Storm Pearl</i>	Kerry Anne Jordinson	2017	235	124
6	<i>SAFE Ruby</i>	Julie Starkey & Hannah Starkey-Morris	2016	249	25
7	<i>Our Friends the Termites</i>	Pat Lowe	2015	78	49
8	<i>Jimmy and Pat Meet the Queen reprint</i>	Pat Lowe & Jimmy Pike	2013	52	16
9	<i>Bobby's Surprise</i>	Kerry Anne Jordinson	2012	267	170
10	<i>Sid and Skipper go Mustering</i>	Heather Charlton	2011	205	120
11	<i>The Art of Fire</i>	Jimmy Pike	2008	4	(out of print)
12	<i>Making Things Come Good</i>	Kim Doohan	2008	1	2
13	<i>Looking for Bobby</i>	Kerry Anne Jordinson	2007	643	487
14	<i>Jimmy and Pat go to China</i>	Pat Lowe & Jimmy Pike	2006	6	9
	<b>Total:</b>			<b>2,580</b>	<b>2,173</b>

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

To be added

See next page



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you once again for entrusting the position of Backroom Press Treasurer to me for the past year. I would like to acknowledge the huge contribution Joyce Hudson is providing doing all the data entry, processing sales and solving MYOB questions effortlessly. Since our bookkeeper Emma Hanson resigned in June 2018, Joyce's in-depth knowledge and some assistance from Alison Fong kept our financial records on track.

What a year it has been! When the effects of COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions brought our sales to a full stop for a little while (as most of sales take place through shops), we were getting a little anxious what the future would hold. Luckily with very low ongoing monthly costs (being fully run by volunteers, and no rent to pay on an office space helps), the dramatic drop in sales wasn't detrimental. Fortunately, restrictions in WA were lifted quite quickly, so sales started to pick up again by July 20.

**Balance Sheet:** Our overall financial position is secure, with cash on hand at 30 June 2020 being \$40,602 (2019: \$44,921). This includes \$19,937 in the CBA Term Deposit account. (See Balance Sheet for details.) As at 30 June 2020, our stock assets (multiple copies of 13 titles) are valued at \$57,200 (2019: \$49,879). We have no outstanding debts, and accounts receivable are \$503. Our total net assets and equity are \$97,803 (2019: \$98,158).

**Profit and Loss:** Our income for 2019-20 came from book sales, memberships, events and interest, a total of \$30,273 (2019: \$31,269). Costs of goods sold came to \$8,177 (2019: \$8,026). Expenses for the year including royalty payments, administration, storage of stock, marketing, events and production costs were \$19,031 (2019: \$16,088). The net profit to June 2020 was \$3,074 (2019: \$7,154).

**In summary** We have a healthy bank balance in our accounts, down a little from the previous year, and even through COVID a steady income from modest book sales. We continue to be very careful with our spending, have very few ongoing expenses, and no wages. One topic of our planning meeting will be how to diversify our income so we are less vulnerable to a significant drop in book sales.

Thank you to the team and our membership for another good year.

Christine Elsasser Nov 2020

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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