

Hello, Backroomers. It has been a long time since our last edition of Bytes, but your team at Backroom Press has not been idle. Here is our news for this year so far.

## BP WRITING COMPS ARE BACK

Despite Corrugated Lines having an indefinite hiatus over the past couple of years, this year the Backroom Press committee is bringing back to the writing community some of our popular competitions.

The first was the Kimberley Acrostic Poem competition, held in conjunction with the Broome Fringe Festival in June. We were pleased to announce two winners of this competition at the Spoken Word event. Sudha Coutinho won the adult category with her poem, Pindan Trackways, and Olive Aamodt won the children's prize with her poem, Black Kites. Both poems can be found at [www.backroompress.com.au](http://www.backroompress.com.au).

We will be bringing you a long-form writing competition in the second half of 2023, so stay tuned for that.



Deb Hannagan and Pat Lowe announcing the Kimberley Acrostic Poem competition winners.



Luke Scanlon receiving the children's prize on behalf of Olive Aamodt for BLACK KITES

## SPOKEN WORD



Spoken Word convenor Deb Hannagan

Backroom Press participated in the 2023 Broome Fringe Festival with a Spoken Word event at Goolarri's Gimme Club on June 10th. Inspired by the Corrugated Lines writers' festival Word of Mouth event, the evening provided a platform for local writers to share their poetry, stories, rap, and comedy.

The event included scheduled performances as well as an open mic section. Backroom Press members, including Deb Hannagan, Pat Lowe, Sue Carroll, and volunteers from Kimberley Arts Network and Goolarri Media Enterprises, contributed to its success. The event received a great turnout of over 80 people, sparking enthusiasm for more community writing activities in Broome. As a result, regular spoken word events and writers' group meetings will now take place monthly.

## NO CORRUGATED LINES IN 2023

After a busy and highly successful tenth Festival of Words in 2021, the team that has been making it happen over so long was unable to do it again. Corrugated Lines needs a coordinator. The future of the Festival is open – if another team is willing to take it on, there will be ample advice on how to go about it.

## A BIG MOVE

We are sad to report that our founder and Vice-President, Joyce Hudson, has left town, as has our very active member Eirlys Richards. They have moved to different premises in Mosman Park. We miss them terribly.

Joyce has agreed to stay on the Committee and keep doing some of the on-line work she has been doing for us from the start, for which the rest of us are exceedingly grateful. This move means that Backroom's office in Solway Loop went on the market, and was sold.



## A FAREWELL PARTY

Before we let Joyce and Eirlys go to their new homes in the big smoke, we had one last job for them: to share the story and photos of their early days in the Kimberley. The farewell event was well attended by our members and friends in Broome.



L to R: Gwen Knox, Jan Lewis, Joyce Hudson, Laurel Sutcliffe, Carmel Leahy, Eirlys Richards, Pat Lowe, Chris Hill, Gillian Kennedy, Sarah Tobias

## ANOTHER FAREWELL

A dedicated committee member since 2019, Sarah Tobias has stepped down from the committee this year. When she was first elected Sarah jumped in the deep end to become our new Secretary and remained so until the end of 2022.



In her time with us Sarah has made lots of improvements to the Backroom admin systems and membership processes. She was an enthusiastic volunteer for Corrugated Lines, coordinating the special 'abridged' (and COVID-friendly) version in 2020.

She was an invaluable member of the coordinating team for the mammoth tenth festival in 2021, where she shone as the social media queen.

If that wasn't enough, Sarah also rallied the team in Derby for a special event celebrating Pat Lowe's *The Boab Tree* with Mark Norval.

