

Present: 23
Apologies: Maurice, Rose, Ken, Belinda
New: Sally MacBride, Marian and Allan Missingham

AGENDA:

Welcome to a goodly size meeting group, as well as cheery hellos to our new members of Sally, Marian and Allan. **Sally** described herself as always been writing, but attempting to now bring some cohesion to her journey as a writer, and put some sense to all those bits of paper she has collected over the years, and to challenge herself. She is not focussed on any one genre, but creative writing is her current interest. **Marian** has notes too of writing, but these are quotes from the children she has come across in her years as a teacher, and she too is interested in now doing something with lots of ideas. Her focus is in writing for children. **Allan** identified himself as predominantly a reader, and a reader of historical fiction, but shared with the group a variety of skills from boat building, to pencil sketching as his passions and talents.

■ To reassure our new budding writers, our current membership and immediate past membership could identify readily with the joy of reading, the fascination for the power of words and the importance of having something to tell. Chair Peter used the introductions and certain hesitancy of the new members to segue into a reiteration of the purpose of CWL as an essentially encouraging entity to the craft of writing. We don't teach writing, but what we aim to do is to collectively enthuse and give ideas to our members, and allow them to learn from one another's learnings along the way. Hence the respectful friendship of group members is a given, and we aim to be mindful that everyone is deserving of politeness and welcome.

■ Member Judi, who stands in for Newsletter writer Janet on occasion, has been attending a recent MBRC workshop on Copyright Rules, and has sent in the notes she has received from said workshop. Given they are 78 pages in length; I will forward the email with the attachment to membership. Open or delete at your interest level.

■ Chair Peter lead the discussion on our current project of the anthology – 'Reflections of a Writer's Palette'. Member Russell, as spokesperson for his group reminded all that the size was to be 6x9 inches, and the group was currently working on the design illustration for front cover. Inclusions were to be filed alphabetically, under contributor, with the inclusion of genre stated in the index listing. This should neatly cover reader interests, as well as

locating authors. Pseudonyms are allowed, so there is an opportunity to have fun with that one folks.

Dates for **submission** were discussed with agreement for **NOVEMBER 30, 2019** to be the final acceptance date. This will allow for a final CWL meeting pre the Christmas break, and assist the editing group to get underway.

Currently, we have agreed on font Times New Roman/OR Georgian, size12,

Line spacing of 1.5

Narrow margins

Indented paragraphs

Submission will be via the WEBSITE, <https://caboolturewriterslink.com>

It was agreed that **each submission should be accompanied by a best email address** to be used for communication between CWL and author/s.

Russell will issue soon an overview/clarification of the process for making a submission.

Reminder of the **anthology groups**

- Group 1 Russell, Jeff, Bakthi (layout)
- Group 2 Richard, Rose, Janet (editing)
- Group 3 Peter, Ken, Martin (production)

■ Chair Peter has recently joined the Fellowship of Australian Writers, along with member Russell, who also manages their website. FAWQ is the name of the website, and as a group they are also focussed on encouraging beginning writers. They have an historical imprint in writing in Queensland, and have been behind a number of current writing organisations.

■ Discussion raised today looked at the reading audience and how this impacts on your writing. It was agreed that essentially writing to please yourself has to be the winning outcome. After all if you don't like it, then no one else is going to. There were of course other aspects like writing what you know about, and having something you really want to share with a reader as important.

■ Member Judy Boyd presented a very informed talk on her learnings in the field of **memoir** writing. A memoir has to be a transformative aspect of your life, and only a part of your life, unlike a biography/autobiography which looks at the entire life, in a chronological way. In this writing, Judy advised clearly knowing who you're writing for and why. Memoirs are for a much smaller reading audience and most definitely follow a clear structure of beginning, middle and end, and make use of a 'hook' to capture the reader's attention. Judy recommended 'The Secret Life of Hendrik Groen- aged 83 1/4years old' as a worthy, entertaining memoir read.

Judy talked about what had been transformative in her life, which while it related to her period of work life it was so much more than that time in how it changed how she looked at life. She identified that understanding your theme, the 'what does this special event show us, reflect to us or teach us' as the moment the writer must truly come to grips with. The tone of the memoir needs to be real, not only in the good things it relates, but also in stating what it was like when 'the wheels fell off'.

Authorities regarding memoirs cited were Jerry Jenkins and Geoff Goins.

Other recommendations were to 'plunge into the story' and mapping the folk who will feature in your memoir as a way of helping to not only remember those involved but the aspects of how you were impacted as well.

Many thanks for sharing the journey of your writing with us Judy. Judy, who delights us all as a self-described contrarian, models self-critiquing with both humour and grace, and never fails to have us all reflecting on where we are at in our own personal takes on what we learn about ourselves when we write.

HOMEWORK:

From last month, the tasks of Yesterday's Dream, Just Add Water or I never said that were an extravaganza of not only writing genre, but also presentation. It was a transformative part of today's meeting. It was very pleasing to see all contributors ensuring they met the criteria of 300 words, and a timely framework for their offerings. This certainly allowed all to participate and enjoy.

NEXT MONTH: Topics of choice are

OUT OF CONTEXT

WRITERS BLOCK

THE NEW MEMBER/S

Word to include: **cacophony**

In the spirit of today's meeting, the quote today is from Isabel Allende:

WRITE WHAT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN

Therein lives the power of words, and also the responsibility of everyone who has some skill with the written word. Follow your hearts with your words.

See you next month, JANET