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| Present | 23 |
| Apologies | Jeff, Marion, Judi |
| New | Lily Thornton, Synthia Lorang |

AGENDA:

Today's meeting for a Melbourne Cup Day and a heading towards the end of the year day, was a room filled with keen writers ready to put their best foot or is it pen forward. Chairs needed to be found, coffees needed to be filled, and more water sent for, along with checking that all could hear the latest news on all things CWL.

Welcome to our new members, along with our stayers in the writing stakes. Today we met Lily, who hails originally from Peru, and is keen to involve herself in short story writing, and presenting to us a view of the world from a child's perspective. This she states, will reflect her observations of growing up in a dramatic country, where life extremes are the norm.

Synthia, who has had a varied career background, is keen to explore and further develop her skills as a beta reader. I believe Chair Peter has already made use of feedback from Synthia with regards to his writing, so she comes to us highly praised. May both our new members find CWL meets their needs.

Review of the CWL Anthology:

Member Russell advises that we have 13 submissions on the website to date, and we are all reminded that the deadline is the 31 November, 2019. Currently publishing is trending towards Amazon as opposed to Ingram Spark, with Amazon leading in cost effectiveness and easier usability.

The editing group will be meeting next week to develop common understandings of the selection criteria prior to reading submissions. For those involved in this, Peter, Ken, Russell, Janet, Rose and Richard, this date is set at Tuesday, 12th November at 2pm at Caboolture Library.

Those still considering submissions are reminded of the criteria of 1500 – 3000 words, or up to 30 lines for poetry; double spacing; 12 pt Georgia or Times New Roman; open genre.

Along with a reminder that submissions will be excluded if they:

- are totally inappropriate in subject matter.
- Involve explicit sex.
- Present extreme Violence.
- involve Child Exploitation.
- present Discrimination, racial, religious and/or sexual in nature.
- are incomprehensible, due to construction issues, language etc.
- Over/under the word limit, line limit.

Reminder:

(The anthology is for general reading, and should reflect positively on the membership of CWL)

Work submitted should be original, unpublished and unique to the anthology.

Break up Party (*Otherwise known as the end of year 'knees up' for those members who still are that athletic, or can remember the days when they were*)

It has been suggested by some members that a fun activity for the 'meeting' might be undertaken. So a Round Robin of the literary variety will be trialled. Chair Peter is tasked with coming up with an opening line, then we will proceed around our group with each member adding a line or two to develop a story. We plan to tape the story as it goes and then have an entertaining listen to the finished product. *Should have some of CWL wits on their toes methinks.*

MEMBERSHIP are reminded that this break up meeting is Bring a Plate (yes with some finger food on it) for sharing. We will have tea and coffee on offer, but if you'd like to bring some water, or soft drink, please be mindful of taking home the packaging. Our library look after our group so well, we need to look after them back. (*just sayin'*)

December will also be the time for the vacating of the CWL executive, of Chairperson, treasurer and secretary. So have a think about those you would like to see in these positions, or think about putting your hand up to have a go.

So next time we meet, it will be closing business, then putting forward the 2020 executive, then the Round Robin, and nibbles.

FOR CONSIDERATION:

Chair Peter has suggested membership might like to think about how else CWL might meet the needs of the members, what else folk would like to see on offer. Suggestions to date have covered the realm of developing a competition for members, converting homework contributions into a melded story or stories, developing possibly a serial of sorts, along with being mindful that it is important to challenge our writing selves so that we continue to learn and be the best we can be with our writing.

We need to be aware that whatever is chosen needs to be cost effective as we are of limited funds. If you would like workshops, then those who attend will need to pay, for example.

Janet suggested developing possible writing activities for the year, with perhaps a notion to developing our own editing skills. For example, a selected same piece of writing of 300 words in length could be given to each of the members, with the task being to 'improve the piece' with no other further directions given. This would allow each writer to reflect on their own starting points, and interests, as well as learning about what is possible, by returning to the next meeting with the completed task for presentation and sharing.

Peter suggested 'Frequently Asked Questions' being an interesting part of each meeting.

All of these need further fleshing out in 2020, and are at this stage more designed to get you thinking.

Homework from October was heard, and as always, membership undertook to blend both topics, use just one topic, and generally be their wonderful creative selves. Particular mention must be made at this point of Member Sam who not usually prolific in the homework stakes, managed to redeem herself by covering a number of missed homework occasions in just this one effort. *A fine effort Sam.*

HOMEWORK for FEBRUARY, 2020

■ Ego Season

■ The Savage Shadow

include the word 'bellicose' in your offering (remember 300 words)

Praise must also be offered to the success of member Rosalie Enstrom for her most prolific literary pursuits. Currently Rosalie has been accepted in to the Sydney Hammond Memorial Short Story Writing Competition, and will appear in their anthology. She has also made a contribution to the Writers' Grapevine for next month, and last and most significantly, has had her book, 'Flight to Freedom' accepted by Amazon in their E-BOOKS section. WELL DONE, Rose.

LASTLY:

Finally, so that I finish on a humorous note, Member Jeff submitted via e-mail one of his sorties of the internet variety, for general consumption.

Is it "complete", "finished" or "completely finished"?

No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words - "Complete" or "Finished".

In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes.

The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand? Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.'

Here is his astute answer:

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE. When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED. And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

He won a trip around the world and a case of 25 year old Scotch!

Now on that note, I hope at least this time I have left you laughing, or at the very least chuckling, and have impressed upon you the importance of truly understanding the power of the words at your disposal.

Cheers Janet