



## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2020

<https://caboolturewriterslink.com/>

Present: 17  
Apologies: Malcolm, Martin, Belinda  
New: Tom Stodulka, Dennis Dickens

### AGENDA:

Welcome to our new members, we hope that they enjoy their time with our group, and feel encouraged to participate in the often lengthy discussions around the craft of writing that occur. Firstly, **Tom** comes to us with a most impressive background in the law and the navy, as well as being recognized as 'mediator of the Year, 2019', and the proud author of a newly published book of poems, entitled 'Life is a Dance'. **Dennis** introduced himself as 'on a mission to write, which became encouraged by the simple act of purchasing a pen for his daughter as she pursues a career in the law. Dennis is of Irish descent so he may indeed show us a love of the blarney and with many a story to tell as he undertakes his writing journey.

■ One of today's conversations related to the production of the current Anthology. Russell identified the areas of concern that he had received from those who had taken a draft copy to preview. Mostly comments reflected upon a need for uniformity in presentation of stories, from margin size, font, spacing used and indentation variety. He is valiantly attempting to bring his justification talents and programs to the fore to attend to this.

This led on to a discussion of what we would do differently with our next CWL production. As with all things, hindsight is a marvellous set of lenses and as Janet and others who had been closely involved with the production said, a much more definitive approach needs to be taken, with very clear criteria being used for the submission of work for inclusion to the end product. Janet identified the chief issue from an editing perspective was the lack of rigour in some of the offerings, and the need to understand what your very best piece of writing needs to look like and be like, while asking the question 'does this meet the required font, spacing, indent, and other set requirements for submission'.

However like everything all of us are a work in progress, so hopefully we will all work hard at getting much better at doing what we do, and realise that there are always non-negotiable criteria when it comes to submitting work for consideration.

■ As a result, next month CWL intends to have some key members of the group presenting for learning and discussion, the area of publishing, and useful and helpful computer programs that are available for the self-publisher. A bit like 'publishing for dummies' if I may be so bold.

■ **Orders for the finalized version of the Anthology can be now placed** with direct contact to Russell [russell@russellperry.com.au](mailto:russell@russellperry.com.au) or you can prepay your requested number of books using CWL'S Suncorp Account, BSB 484799, and account number 027832743. The price of the anthology is \$10. If members are planning to order for Christmas gifting, **this order will need to be with Russell by our November meeting.**

■ Today's Chair's Topic continued on from the characterisation discussion of the previous meeting, to include the use of dialogue as a writing tool for the author to use. This provoked thoughtful considerations that need to be given to avoiding overuse of dialogue, developing a way of segueing to dialogue without the he said, she said approach, along with having character's using dialogue that was respectful to their background, and the narrative context. Members are directed to the CWL web site should they like to read the Chair's comments on the above topics and his much more in-depth presentation.

■ Today's homework readings were well presented, with a decidedly more favoured 'I'm ready to try again' winning in the choice of topic. Today, I think all members learned more about a zen master's art of tea making from one of our more recent recruits, who has obviously taken great delight in performing his writing task from our last meeting.

■ **NEXT MONTH'S HOMEWORK:**

300 words or 10 lines approx.. of poetry on one of the following influencers.

1. 'Stuff me Frank, what the hell are you doing?'
2. 'Oh Zoie, it is awesome! It so matches your lavender hair and lipstick.'
3. 'Ok Virgil, explain this. You appear in all these photographs of groups, always on the far right. These photographs date from 1905 to the present. Who exactly are you?'

*Closing our newsletter today, and in reflection of our dialogue discussions, may I quote a piece of humour I found on the web,*

- A lumberjack went into a magic forest to cut a tree. Upon arrival he started to swing his axe at a tree, when it shouted 'Wait! I am a talking tree.'*
- The lumberjack stopped and said, 'you will di a logue.'*

Hope this newsletter finds you all well, or coping and most definitely writing. CHEERS JANET