

Present: 13

Apologies: Maurice, Belinda, Denis, Robert, Mike

AGENDA:

■ **Anthology:** Chairperson Peter, and member Russell advised that a purchase order has been made for 80 books, which will be available by the 13th November, if not before. Peter will email members who have already prebooked their requirements and will arrange to meet with folk in the vicinity of the Caboolture Hub so everyone can collect and post if they need to beat the Christmas rush for all things to be mailed.

Members who have not yet placed an order can also purchase a book or three from Amazon or E-books where the anthology is also on offer.

■ Member John Nolen arrived at today's meeting with a fresh from the printer copy of his new book, 'Cows on Grass'. Printed locally, John has some copies available for sale at \$25. Well done John on putting his toe in the water, so to speak.

■ Prior to our member presentation today, a **warm up discussion** ensued regarding the merits of publishing with a publisher, and self-publishing. Mostly the focus was on the marketing aspect, with concern being expressed as to 'how to get one's writing into the hands of the reading public.' Various ideas were given from a table in a shopping centre, to holding a literary event, or establishing an electronic bookstore. It was evident from those present today that great merit lay in the establishing an electronic bookstore, with member Russell (our computer guru) being most keen to follow through with this idea. No doubt more to follow down the track.

■ **Chair Peter** was most keen to remind members that CWL is a group in its own right. Rumours are afoot that some folk see us as a subsidiary of FAWQ, and nothing could be further from the truth. Peter felt it was most important that members understand that CWL existed before FAWQ and not the other way around. FAWQ are keen to support us in any way they can, but we drive our own group. So there it is folks, no more rumours eh!!!

■ As CWL is well positioned to assist our budding writers with good advice from the member group re publishing, today's presentation was given by Wayne Brown and Russell Perry. The presentation covered the journey to **self-publishing** along with the things learnt on that interesting journey.

Wayne's journey began with the problem that all members could identify with, and that is no publisher was particularly interested in what he had written. His topic of Vietnam was regarded as passé, and he decided that he would just have to publish his work himself. His first efforts amounted to a pallet of 2000 books arriving on his doorstep and taking up valuable space in his garage. Committed to writing his story, more books were completed and he discovered that printers come and go, and set about exploring new options. Along the way, he also discovered that ISBN numbers are cheaper in the multiple than buying one only, and learned there are costs and then some. (the detail is in the fine print)

Timely advice from Wayne lies in the need to be prepared. It is important to think about font size, display, the use of colour, the use of photos if relevant (black and white are cheaper than colour for example), think about the postage size of your pages (dimensions are more important than weight when mailing) consider your bio information, the dedication you might wish to make and the acknowledgement of those who may have helped in completing the book, or in keeping you going. Given everything is now done online, it is also most important to have up to date software on your computer.

Currently, Wayne advises the cost factor is about \$10 per book on an order of approximately 250, less ordered and the price goes up, more and the price goes down. This then lead to a conversation with assistance from members Martin and Russell with the trend now being to **POD**, i.e. print on demand. Now instead of ordering lots of books, you order as you need and pay per book plus a delivery amount. This is apparently favoured by Amazon.

Many thanks to Wayne and Russell, as well as Martin for their thoughtful contribution to today's meeting.

■ Homework

Russell led the way today with 'Time Lapse', a story which allowed him to visit his favourite genre of science fiction and time travel. Rose then followed with lavender as her theme, and a personable characterisation of two sisters. Audrey entered the realm with a ghost story that epitomized revenge as a dish best served cold, while Bakhti went on a 'killing spree' in her story. Fortunately Carolyn and Louise, both had us considering our war history both past and present, while Richard took us to western Queensland and the vagaries of unplanned pit stops.

Homework for next time becomes a working from a picture, which were handed out at today's meeting. Many thanks for Peter's enthusiasm for all things novel.

Enjoy your writing folk, stay in touch as you can, see you at the next and last meeting for the year. Cheers Janet

