

Present: 18
Apologies: Maurice
New: Belinda has returned to the fold, along with Sam. Welcome back ladies.

AGENDA:

Today was a guest speaker day, with the Chairperson of FAWQ Jim Higgins joining us to talk about not only FAWQ but also the soon to be happening Moreton Bay Literary Event, commencing on the 18th June and running for 2 weeks.

Jim explained to CWL the purpose of the Fellowship of Australian Writers Qld, which has been essentially to support the writers in the community along with the creative pursuits of artists in other fields. Outlining the historical perspective of the Fellowship, he identified that though having been around since 1921, he sees the current FAWQ journey focussed on the enhancement of getting back to the basics of supporting writers. The focus of FAWQ today is the emerging writer.

Jim then discussed the Readers and Writers Festival (18th June to 4th July), which will offer readers and writers of the Moreton Bay community an exciting and entertaining way of learning and connecting and sharing their craft or their joy of the written word. Events will be staged across the Libraries of the Moreton Bay region, finishing with a final hurrah at the Petrie site of the Sunshine Coast University.

Presentations will cover a variety of topics and genres designed to excite the imagination of both emerging writers and their audience alike, while drawing on the creative talents of the local community of performing arts participants to bring the words to life.

We were advised that some events are free, while others costed, so you will need to check out the website for the full calendar of events and ensure that you register for those that you would like to attend. All events will have a limit on attendance due to space available. Web address is as follows:

<https://moretonbayreaderswritersfestival.com/#home>

CWL members are also advised of the opening event to the fortnight's experience, which will be a welcome to country at 6pm at the Caboolture Library. I am advised that this will be a truly memorable event and involve much theatre and storytelling. Make sure you register folks.

On the topic of supporting CWL, Jim was clear in his desire for FAWQ to be helpful and embracing of the ideals of the CWL membership, and discussed the usefulness of insurance, help with grants applications and identifications, and further developing the Scope magazine as a way to publicise the words of our writers. FAWQ is keen to further promote the networking opportunities for our writers across the community, so interesting times for emerging writers are afoot.

■ Chair Peter recapped at the close of the presentation that some of our CWL members are already individual members of FAWQ as well, so we are well supported and part of the developing literary community.

Peter also advise further to CWL's next anthology project, that there would be an increase in the amount of words writers would be able to contribute, thus encouraging some fairly 'meaty' stories, along with continuing to encourage a range of genres from our writers, from poetry through to prose contributions. He advised that there will only by one contribution per member to allow for the increase in word length to occur.

■ Member Mike advised of his recent adventures of self-publishing with Amazon.au which he is most happy with. Printed in Sydney, and at his home in a matter of days, and looking a quality product he was encouraging of others to consider this as a viable alternative. Mike's book, Redemption or Revenge...murders of London, is the first of a series that he is keen to develop. He will be bringing some for CWL members to purchase should they be interested at the next CWL meeting. \$15 per copy.

■ Homework for last month was enjoyed, with 2 members choosing to continue their stories started as last month's homework piece. We were pleased they reminded us of the story so far so that we could continue to enjoy their yarns. Interestingly was the number of members who ventured their pen into the writing of poetry, and the surprise that they expressed as to how difficult and unsure that they were they had achieved something literary. Well done for your brave adventures, and your commitment to put your words out there even

though unsure. It was most enjoyable to have variety of not only story development, but also of the type of genre presented. Well done to all who participated.

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT MONTH:

CHOOSE any 1 of the following:

■ Hundreds of eyes peered at me through the darkness in the alley. How many cats were there? Why were they all here together?

■ "Welcome to the future!" said Harmony the teacher as she removed the sheet with a flourish, revealing what had been hidden beneath.

■ I wish.....

FINAL WORDS:

Our bank statement is still in the black, hallelujah, with \$353.09 currently on the books. Thank you to Russell for his handling of room payments etc. Peter advises me he has located more Python Speaks anthologies in the library shop, so I believe he might be adding these to the collection going to Petrie for a chance to find a reader market at the closing weekend for the literary fortnight coming up.

Here's a **challenge for everyone** who is coming to our next meeting.. WEAR your name tag. It has come to my attention that it is not only me who struggles with folks' names, but also other members are as well. Let's help one another out by identifying ourselves clearly (remember aging eyesight) and **WEAR OUR NAME TAGS.....**

Cheers Janet