

Present: 17
Apologies: Audrey, Richard
New: Sally Eberhardt

AGENDA:

■ Today's meeting had us feeling a little like gypsies, as we ventured forth to a new space on Floor 1 of the Hub in Caboolture. The room goes officially under the designation of a teaching space, so that of course meant a number of comments that probably best suited folks' fond memories of being in class, with ensuing behaviour. Even Chair Peter could not miss the opportunity of calling his class to order, and inviting members to address the group from the front of the room, and chastising the members who sat in the back row and who were learning what fun that could be.

Our new space is much more affordable than the previous location, and keeps CWL located in the precinct of the library, which as member Russell stated, gives us a 'certain spiritual home for words, as it were'. *Nice one Russell*

■ Business started with a welcome to new member Sally, who comes to us with a vibrant personality and a background in writing both for work and for fun. She is the published author of a tome called "Networking for introverts", writes on numerous blogs, loves an eclectic mix of genres, and currently particularly loves reading aloud and what that brings to the communication of the printed word.

■ Chair Peter reminded us all he still has hard copies of the most recent anthology produced by CWL, just advise him of your desire to purchase. Might be a good Easter gift, and it comes with no calories whatsoever.

■ Our current bank statement is \$295, plus fees from today's membership to be included.

■ On the task of grant hunting, Peter has also sallied forth to find CWL some funding to assist with written projects and other such creative ideas as the membership identifies. It would appear from his first sortie that bricks and mortar or a product you can see and touch is what grant money is targeting. He still is on the hunt and will keep us posted of his findings. Member Russell advises that FAWQ will offer support however they can, but this too will take some time to flesh out, so work in progress people.

■ Chair Peter raised the issue of computer literacy with the membership, hoping to identify if there was anyone who missed newsletters, or emails from himself as a form of communication. Members appear to be all comfortable with electronic communication and with the cost of stamps being quite onerous for a non for profit club, the admin. group are pleased with that reaction. Please don't hesitate however if you are aware you are not receiving emails, particularly the newsletter and let Janet or Russell, or Peter know so that the matter can be resolved.

Sometimes CWL email address books need a quick check, and sometimes recipients need to check that the newsletter hasn't ended up in their junk or spam mail depending on the programme on their computer.

■ **For members' consideration**----- Currently we are thinking about **CWL's next written project**. We have to date completed 4 anthologies and 1 magazine, so it is time to brainstorm where to next.

Chair Peter proposed an idea that has been used elsewhere which looks at developing a group novel (for want of a better word). This would involve a starting idea, theme, genre and then fall to members to continue the prose. It might start with a given title, a given opening sentence and then be farmed out to membership for continuing. Obviously the actual process will need clarity and order; however the idea is that it will draw on the writing skills of the existing membership and involve them in the selecting and culling, as the novel evolves.

Ensuing discussion today looked briefly at multiple endings (giving the reader a choice too), writing to a pre-set theme or genre (which might be an interesting challenge for some of our writers) or developing core interest groups of members who reduce the size of the task to a novel by 4 people, and having multiple groups and multiple end-products. (Just ideas at this stage.)

■ We have also our radio project motoring along at present, under the guidance of Dennis who has made links with the local Radio station, managed to have Peter interviewed by Rosemary Worthington to talk about CWL. Dennis advises that the radio seemed really interested in hearing writing from CWL and were particularly interested in hearing some of the stories of our senior members of the community. Now there is a project in the making that could connect community, show valuing of our seniors and the life they have lived, and what they still have to offer by way of bringing to life our history as a community.

FOR NEXT MEETING members are asked to think about the above 2 points, and to decide in what they would like to become involved, or how they would like to be involved. Bring some ideas to the meeting for our next project. This can all be in draft format and we can flesh it out at the meeting next month.

■ **February homework** was aired, starting with member Wayne managing to write a complete homework piece using Australian idioms. Words like coot, pluck, a shag on a rock etc etc managed to join bird words, like being a real galah, and he was a right cockatoo in his writing. Thank goodness there were limited members in the audience with English as a second language. Mike restored hilarity to careful listening to the lost lotto ticket, while Maurice had us learning to get along while feeling worried about secret police. We were totally unprepared for the canine anticlimax that was part of his conclusion.

After that, we were all transported to Cairns, a beer garden and a group with a plan, and a trip to Bondi with tragic circumstances while learning the value of looking after one another.

Homework closed with a presentation written by 13 year old Peter's granddaughter whose descriptive prowess with words had arachnophobes squirming in the group.

■ APRIL'S HOMEWORK.

Chair Peter feeling duly chastised by some of the membership for his title choices, has now tendered a selection of random words for budding writers to choose from. Members are to use as many words from the list below in one piece of writing, and **NO do not do** the 'our teacher had a spelling bee, and in it the words blah,blah,blah..... followed.' That has been done before and is definitely so passé.

WORD LIST: cajole, whisper, command, skinny, clammy, earth, flute, ghost, bribe, entrap, hypnotise, squeal, elegant, diamond, gondola, enigma, offend, assist, ensnare, lavish, tall, planet, penchant, eradicate.

■ Member John, asks CWL members to check out his last 2 publications on a web site called 'blurb', one is Cows on Grass.

Congratulations also go to member Wayne for his publication of Memories of Vietnam.

Well another newsletter is completed, without this time of the distraction of the tennis as some of you may remember was calling me from the other room. I resisted however, strong soul that I am. I encourage all who attend meetings to think hard about our next project, so that we can add another string to our writing group's efforts, and really grow our skills in the process. CHEERS JANET