

Present: 18
Apologies: Dennis
New: Cecilia Wilson
Guest Speaker: Tam Meijer

AGENDA:

How restorative to be able to meet again after the previous Covid lockdown that interrupted our earlier meet. It was pleasing to see the delight in shared conversations, and to hear about some of the writing adventures of our membership. Today's meeting welcomed a guest speaker, Tam Meijer who took us all on a journey of self-observation in order to tune in to those creative parts of ourselves that often times can be problematic in finding the 'on' key as it were. So for those of us who struggle with writer's block, or the creativity block there was much to think about.

Before hearing what Tam had to say, we heard from chair Peter about the resolving of the meeting room at the Hub, and his 'luck' at turning up last Friday to the library to swap rooms with another group that was not as large as ours, and the trade meant that both groups were well looked after in the seating arrangements. Hopefully for next month's meet we will be as lucky. Thank you to Peter for being able to find us a home.

Apparently after next month we will be fine for the rest of the year, however much of that will be left. We continue to pay \$5 per member each time we meet to cover costs of the room hire. Lockdown has meant that some funds have been reimbursed to the group as the rooms were not able to be used.

■ What members have been achieving.....

Rose has finalized her biography about her sister. This has been a challenging write for both of them and Rose was clear to point out that the words are mostly those of her sister who is recognized as the author on the cover. The book offers a challenging read about deprivation and abuse that is very much a contemporary topic in our society. Rose wished to publically thank member Russell for his excellent assistance with the publishing, title management, and general ideas re marketing. Always good to have another set of eyes and thoughts to review one's work. Rose's efforts were only initially intended for family, but the topic was too important and too powerful to restrict to a limited audience. We wish Rose success in her brave endeavours.

Michael is progressing with his detective series of books. Currently he has established his website www.michaelclaxtonauthor.com and presented us with his bookmark outlining a very flash photo of himself, and giving his contact details for

those who enjoy the genre of crime fiction supported by the knowledge of the London Met. from his previous work life. Both Rose and Michael are share-writing another book that is proving an interesting learning tool for both of them, but also sounds a great read to look forward to.

Today we were joined by Ceci, who in retirement has decided to venture forth into the realm of creative fiction, originally from Ireland, and now living on an island (Bribie) as one wit suggested, Ceci comes to our group from a working life as a researcher and would now like to explore her writing talents in a more liberal context. We hope Ceci finds encouragement and stimulation for her writing in our group.
Welcome.

Guest speaker....Tam Meijer

Tam is the author of a number of well received books, published through Crimson Cloak. She enjoys the genre of thriller with a touch of paranormal as her writing form, and spent invaluable time with us today discussing strategies that she uses to keep her focus, and provided 'real life as a writer' experiences to share with us. Tam discussed the blocks that get in the way of writing, stating that we are more than our story, more than our learnings, history, genetics etc. and wanted us to consider and observe what hinders our thought processes.

Starting with a question of 'what identifies you' had membership in a reflective mood, and journeying down the path to putting the voices in our heads aside so we could hear the voices from our hearts. Learning to empty your mind and starting to fill the blank canvas of the writing process was an enjoyable experience in the creative process.

We learned about the mnemonic GPGOS which Tam uses to create a short blurb about her story for the back cover of the book, to a strategy to staying on track when she is up to her 6th draft of the final copy of the book.

G = genre / P= protagonist (central figure) / G= goal (what has to happen) /
O=obstacles (drives the story) / S=special (what is special about the book, what makes it different to anything else)

The above assists in keeping control of changes you might make mid-course of writing, and helping in writing the outline of the story for the back cover. As she said when you have written 80,000 words, saying what it's all about in just 5 sentences can be a challenge.

Information about Tam and her writing can be found on Facebook, Instagram and a variety of other social media outlets as well as <https://australianauthors.net.au> or just google search Tam for her profile, access her writing or read her very positive reviews on sites like Goodreads.

Many thanks go to Tam for sharing so generously of her time and her thoughts on the craft of writing with our membership.

HOMEWORK:

Surprisingly we had some members volunteer their writing for today's meeting, and as usual they provided much pleasure for the attendees. Well done folk, for staying with your words and your ideas. *Remember if you don't use it you'll lose it, which applies not only to muscles, but to everything else that you value in your life as well.*

NEXT MONTH the topic is

to write 300 words on your favourite subject.

Now no one can be disappointed with that option, as it's your genre, your topic and your creativity. (no pressure there). Looking forward to being able to see everyone next month October 5th at the library, 9.30 a.m. start. Cheers Janet