

Present: 23

Apologies: 0

New: Pierre van Blommestein

Welcome to everyone for our first-even though it's April and nearly Easter- meeting for 2022. Both Peter and I were feeling most unaccustomed to meeting and it took a little while to assume the reins as it were. It was most obvious by the very animated chatter prior to the actual start of the meeting that all present were delighted to be together again and had so much to relate to one another. Once meeting became underway the joviality continued, with much repartee and puns shared, along with some creative writing presented in the homework section of our time together. A huge thank you must go to everyone for the contribution of their bonhomie for what was an enjoyable time together.

■ Firstly, we must introduce our new member to CWL. This is Pierre, who hails from South Africa initially but now calls Bribie Island home. Pierre, who describes himself as 'still-working' delights currently in drawing his ideas for writing from his family research. He writes therefore in historical fiction as his genre of choice. Welcome Pierre.

■ Chair Peter briefly outlined CWL of the last 3 months of non-meeting, with a reminder to check the FAWQ website for current writing competitions, for those interested. He also identified one of our international members, Arthur Foo as seeking some writer feedback on one of his current writing pieces. This was picked up by member Rosalie for attention. Thankyou Rose and good luck to Arthur in his writing efforts.

Peter clarified that we now appear back on track with the Hub room as organised for this year after having had it purloined by Council for flood meetings for the region. A reminder to all with regards to room hire, which is \$5 per member/per meeting or \$50 for the year. Please see member Russell who manages funds etc. Current balance of funds is \$179.79.

Peter also introduced a new word to present to members, given to him by member Audrey who has been tidying up. This word is 'thaumaturge' which brings magical connotations with it, not the least of which is working it into some of your writing. It might be interesting to see, if at the next meeting some bright spark might actually do that. (just saying....)

■ Member Bakthi presented one of her more recent publications. 'Insects in Evolution' is the title, and appears to be a quite considerable tome of work. She advises she is well in the middle of producing other such lengthy pieces as part of her writing output. Well done Bakthi.

■ Member Martin presented us with a viewing of his more recent republication of a favourite of his, called 'Beggars and other Comedians' which along with several other of his written works, has been picked up for reissue by a new publisher who recognises Martin's writing talent. Martin continues to adventure the publishing world, and his learnings continue to keep us in touch with the expectations of the print media. It was interesting to hear him talk about the history of the price of books which he states used to be sold for around \$25 per book and now it is more \$10 per book. This is possibly because of efficiencies in the use of digital technology, and the highly competitive nature of the world. *(I note this does not describe what is happening to my grocery bill each week unfortunately.)*

■ Discussion ensued at this point of the need to use internet media, and of the delicacy of domain names as a particular issue. *See Russell for further clarification of this matter.* Social media is gaining in momentum for the medium of choice to engage with the potential reading audience. The need is to embrace this world as part of your marketing prowess, if getting your words out there is important to you. Decisions will need to be made as to whether or not to blog or podcast, and whether you will use Twitter, or TikTok, or Instagram, or Snapchat etc etc *(at this point I have reached my lack of knowledge in this area and suggest you talk to Russell to pick his astute learnings of the digital world.)*

Member Mike and new member Pierre believed group presentations such as meet the author also had much merit in engaging with readers along with moving some of their published books. Russell too had some clever marketing strategies to consider for this domain as well, such as collecting the email addresses of those present and sharing some of your writing with them at a more direct level.

■ Member Lorraine, also head honcho of the Writers' Grapevine, reminded us all of the July edition of her magazine which she is currently calling, The Writers' Edition. Members are encouraged to send her a brief bio of themselves for considered inclusion for one of her pages currently being assembled. Chair Peter has kindly offered to onsend if you would like him to check what you have written first.

*Can I encourage you all to have a current bio, saved and ready to go should the need arise. At most a paragraph about you the writer can be invaluable to have at hand, and readers do like to read a little about the person they have just read.*

**HOMEWORK....** *(today's much enjoyed entertainment, other than Chair Peter's biblical references.)*

Bakthi presented 'Shane Warne' as the topic of her writing, which included the moving line referring to 'the pain of unbearable departure'.

Louise entertained us with a heist that involved the characters of Sam, Jack and Harry.

Carolyn decided to entertain us with some of the aspects of her first 2 years of teaching in Roma. Her remembrances had us all in fits of laughter, as well as recognizing how time has moved so much now that digital engagement is here for those communities in the outback.

Audrey managed an interesting take on Murder She Wrote, which in her words became Murder She Hissed. Yes Audrey, I think that there is a book in the making with this one.

Rose took us also down memory lane with Gone Are the Days, in particular to first cars and what was regarded as must haves and what were optional extras. Ah, how good to be reminded of cars which had radios and cassette players in them as desirable, and what we all did in the day when the tape went awry. Yes good to be reminded that the young of any age love their 'new' technology.

Mike allowed us into a more tender piece of writing, with his written piece The Last Goodbye.

Pierre presented a cameo of 2 Dutch boys in Napoleon's army in dire straits. It was a descriptive account of the trials of warfare, along with the setting of dreadful weather, which allowed us to clearly picture the hardship of war and its deprivations.

Dennis used his cleverness with humour to engage with his writing. In a piece called Dreamer he visited the world of dreams and reality and being careful about eating cheese before bedtime.

Sam took time to an alternative dimension, with the grandfather clock that needed repair, but during repair began to offer up endless possibilities for the owner. Now there is some unlimited writing for you Sam.

Richard gave us a contemporary reflection of the current affairs of our world, with an explanation of why the Ukraine is at loggerheads with Russia. He also reflected on the determination of the people to fight for freedom and the very limited understanding of the bullies that using force is never going to work.

Sue managed a poem that was entitled Fish playing Chicken, which gave angling from a fish's perspective. Always keen to rise to a challenge, Sue continues to entertain.

Peter who responded to the question, why don't more people live in W.A was inspired by a rather strange internet group that send out some bizarre questions for folk to answer.

Peter used humour to relate his answer to the number of flies that Australia has as part of its environment along with a serious dose of tongue in cheek. Most amusing.

#### **NEXT MONTH:**

#### **300 words/or 10 lines of poetry about one of the following:**

1. A man sidles up to a woman in a bar. Little does he know she's an undercover cop following him.

2. A woman who didn't know she was adopted meets her twin sister at an official function.
3. She's already ruled him out...she made up her mind she would only marry a gentleman with a title, and she would never date a biker again.
4. **OR**

**Free choice...follow your own path.**

*That's your lot for this month, off to have a glass of red and a feet up, with of course a good book at the ready. Keep writing folk, we readers love your words and the worlds that you take us to. Cheers Janet*