

NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2023

Members Present: 18.

Apologies: Janet, Caroline and Louise, Dennis and Jim.

Chair Peter welcomed all members, especially the three new members:

Rita Maclean from Bribie Island, who is a Science Fiction writer and who has published nine books and Lisa and Corey Grimshaw from Noosa. Lisa's interest lies in Scottish Historical fiction and innovation. Helena Pietsch attended after a long absence.

Agenda:

Peter advised he had received an email from FAWQ requesting that he inform members of the opportunity to enter.

The inaugural **Dymocks Beyond Words Creative Writing Competition**

A unique opportunity for all Australian wordsmiths to be recognized.

Competition closes 31 May 2023.

Entries 500-1,500 words to be submitted to website dymocks.info/beyondwords.

The Peter Cowan 600-word Short Story Competition. Entries will be accepted up to and including 14th April 2023. There will be two extra categories: As well as Open, Novice (writers who have never won or been placed in a writing competition before) and Youth (12–17 years) there is also a Seniors Category for those 60 years and over and a category for Students who attend a Secondary Education Support Centre.

Theme: Open. Entries to be submitted to PeterCowanWritersCentre@outlook.com

Ref PC600SS.

Katy More, of Feature Community Magazine who published the article which featured CWL in the last issue of 2022, contacted Peter and advised that she and her husband were thinking about opening a bookstore for Independent local authors. They could also provide affordable design and print for authors seeking to self-publish.

For those who would like to contact Katy More, her details are as under:

Katy More: 0406 952 655: katy@localtimes.com.au.

Discussion was robust regarding the marketing and publishing of books. The FAWQ Book Festival was not well supported, and some members wondered whether a bookstore for independent writers would be successful. Helena informed the group that authors could approach the libraries and display their books for sale, however this too had been tried without success. She now only published her writing as eBooks.

Russell felt eBooks, representing about 30% of the market, were the way to go and new authors were more likely to sell an eBook.

Project 2023

Discussion ensued regarding the next project. Peter asked members to give this much thought during the coming month, as he envisaged entries would need to be completed by about September for publication prior to Christmas.

There were several possibilities.

These were a 5,000-word story per each member;

A maximum of 5,000 words per member to be used as they wished, two short stories, mixed with poetry, etc. It would be an author's choice,

Or do we follow the same format as previously used?

We needed to give thought to publishing a few of Judith Boyd's stories to honour the contribution which she made to CWL while she was an active member. Peter thought that she may have to be asked first and if she could not decide, then maybe her daughter could be contacted.

Lexcia Dalton informed the meeting that she would give a Short Story presentation on the 11 April 2023 at the Strathpine Library, at 6.30pm and hoped that, if possible, members would attend.

She also mentioned that there were still vacancies for the Rainforest Writer's Retreat at the end of June for those who may be interested.

Beta Readers: Corey Grimshaw mentioned he enjoyed Beta reading. Peter cautioned him, as before he knew it, he would be inundated with manuscripts.

Homework:

The Space Between, Cracked Pepper and What did you learn from the crow? The presentations were excellent. For me, however, there was one standout. Maurice's poem, which incidentally covered everything under the sun, but NO "cracked pepper". Brilliant. Wayne's diversion with a poem about the Anzacs too was well received.

For May's homework, Peter distributed copies of pictures. He explained that the idea is to take a character or two or a scene and write a maximum 300-word story or a poem about the character which you have chosen. Have fun with this one.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 May 2023.

Cheers,

Rose

Wishing all members, a very Happy Easter.

