

Apologies: Janet, Rosalie, Merrill, Michael, Wayne, Jim  
Welcome back to Carolyn and Louise.

Well I am writing this newsletter in proxy mode, as obviously if you read the above, I wasn't able to attend. So many thanks to Chair Peter, for stepping up and being everything important to meeting running- director of traffic as it were AND scribe. He certainly will do well in any performance review. From some of the conversations I have had regarding today's meeting it certainly sounds like a dynamic affair, with an overall positive exchange of thoughts. There seems to have been some who loved today and one not so much, but that sounds fair and reasonable, as you can't please everyone all of the time, and nor should we always try to please, but to challenge thoughts and ideas, while supporting all to work on their writing.

Today's meeting commenced with a discussion on the current topical issue of AI, or artificial intelligence, which has a number of folk in a flap. Like a lot of creations, it would seem to be able to be used for good or ill, and will need some regulation to keep things fair and just, but it does seem to offer a quick way to, at the very least, cover some research in an efficient manner. The Australian Society of authors sounded an alert over the risks generative AI technology poses to authors and illustrators, in a submission to an Australian government inquiry. This inquiry closes next week and is considering what can be done to mitigate risks and support 'safe and responsible AI practices'. The considered worry is that folk might just be able to dial up, as it were, a piece of prose, art, or poetry on demand, and present it as their own created effort, without having truly done the hard yards of their own imagination etc. This is something certainly to think about.

Member Lexia presented today on the subject of Short story writing. Her presentation was very comprehensive; complete with handouts and an overhead presentation. Many thanks go to Lexia for the effort put into her delivery and the care taken to have notes for those who were interested in following up what she had to say. I am sure if you would like to have a copy of same, you could ask Lexia for an emailed copy.

A general discussion ensued with members' thoughts on writing, what some had previously been taught at school, the focus on grammar in the day, and the emphasis on the importance of structure and abiding by the set rules. Of course, as we all know rules evolve overtime, and personal creativity will always win out for some, while others just honour the rigid understanding of how a genre must be.

Personally, I think it is a good thing that we have a wide variety of possibilities, including the publishing of the final item, so choose your own path.

Homework again entertained the membership, with the favourite topic being- she kept absolutely still as the footsteps got louder, and she felt for the lock in the dark. Now there is a riveting opener if ever there was one, and certainly not a read just before going to bed.

**Next month's** homework is:

1. I should have never let her into the apartment...
2. Don't you dare come any closer....
3. Summer Rain

So only a short newsletter this month, I am looking forward to being with you all at our next CWL meeting, and don't forget folk, get those anthology contributions in to Peter for our next production. Cheers Janet