

Present: 13
Apologies: Martin, Jim, Sue, Michael
New/returning: Shirley Beaunid, Debbie McCurry

AGENDA:

Welcome to both Shirley and Debbie. Shirley comes to us as a result of a recommendation from the Community Literacy Group, and is test driving her interest in publishing some of her writing, and hopefully the gathering of ideas for how she might continue her writing journey. Debbie returns to CWL from a considerable time ago. Debbie has just arrived at retirement status, and though having been a writer for some time, she now is continuing her craft and also seeking the socialisation with others of the same interests.

We hope that both our new friends find our meetings entertaining and supportive.

This is probably a good time to remind all that the purpose of CWL is to foster the craft of writing, and to be a supportive and social group that encourages and motivates writers to develop their skills. Discussion is high on the agenda, along with listening to the efforts of our members, as well as testing their skills through various homework exercises which are brought along to each meeting for sharing.

Chair Peter led our meeting off with an apology of the digital variety... having deleted phone numbers by mistake from the messages sent to him, which then segued into a discussion of the latest on Chat GPT, which is currently being marketed as a useful tool for accessing vast amounts of information in an efficient manner, as well as saving those that use the tools of information sharing to earn a living.

It was observed that quality of information presentation may well in fact be missing, along with creating a suspicious audience of consumers of information. Because of incredulity, doubt and distrust as the new norm of engagement the power of the word will be greatly reduced.

It was suggested that the term 'fake news' will indeed be common place.

The above then morphed into a discussion on how the use of language has evolved over time and the notion now that indeed less is more, and the term 'word dumping' was brought into the conversation. Word dumping occurs when too many words are used in an effort to create effect, whether this is in characterization, scene development or setting atmosphere. This is when readers lose engagement with the narrative, drift off or just

become plain cranky with a lack of plot development. This is the 'just get on with it' syndrome.

Conversation then evolved to the important role of the writer to maintain our language, to not be side-lined to efficiencies, and to develop in readers an appetite for reading, or understanding events from a different perspective, to delight in and further understand the human condition, and to assist in connectedness to our world.

All of the above discussion was managed without a glass of red or nibblies, and was enjoyed by all. There is nothing like a good conversation to make you feel alive.

ANTHOLOGY:

Writers of CWL are encouraged to send in the contributions to the next anthology. Poetry or prose, upper limits are set to 20 lines of poetry, or 5000 words of prose, and anything in-between. Size 12 font, 1.5 line spacing, in Times New Roman as is usual.

Email your contributions to Peter Carseldine: barnabykyte@gmail.com

Please note that even your homework efforts will be considered for various sections in the anthology. These are currently referred to as 'snippets before you snooze', for those writers who are daunted by the length of pieces, so 300 word pieces will also be considered.

HOMEWORK:

Today's homework was enjoyable, not the least because our writers love putting just the right emphasis into their spoken efforts. This continues to be the writer's challenge, which is how do you put that emphasis in when it is just a page of writing read by a reader. This might be something to ponder on.

Next month's homework will be:

" I don't like it, whatever it is, I won't like it....." What things do you really hate, might be just one thing, or there might be lots..... this should produce some passionate writing indeed.

Till next time folks, as always, happy writing. Cheers Janet