

Present: 12

Apologies: Martin, Wayne, Sue, Belinda, Jim

It was a small, but interactive group that came together today, with conversation that made us laugh, with time to discuss who had seen or heard of various members and what they had been up to, as well as our usual literary subject matter.

It is unfortunate that I start today's newsletter with advice that one of our long term members is in the fight of his life with a health battle. Wayne Brown, who has often kept us laughing with his asides, or his jokes, has taken a sabbatical from CWL to attend to his health. We won't let him retire from us, so newsletters will still be a-coming Wayne, and perhaps the odd piece of homework (via email) might engage us further. Wayne in his time has been a prolific photographer, has written books on his Vietnam days and the people he's met, and has, with his wife, Lucine, organised many a tour back to Vietnam to introduce others to a country he has well loved. We take this opportunity to wish Wayne and Lucine strong hearts and positive outcomes in tough times.

AGENDA:

Chair Peter posed for member consideration the possibility of guest speakers for future CWL meetings, however most that he had thought of come at a price, and given we have \$68 in the bank account as of today, this had nowhere to go.

We considered also the usefulness of using beta readers for manuscript reviewing which then morphed into a hearty discussion of what current writer members do to edit, or review their work. There is a need to be ever mindful of when you might use such a skill as there is a decided difference in the needs of emerging writers, as opposed to established writers.

Discussion today looked at hooking the reader as opposed to setting the scene. This went along with a debate on such things as placement, using time frames, giving background as essential, and how you might flag for the reader that various methods of doing the above were taking place. Readers of course, don't like wondering who a character is or feeling like they've just got old and can't remember them. Keeping track of time frames, as well as verb tenses, and the value of first person as opposed to third person also factored into consideration.

It was agreed that what was really useful feedback on anything written, fell into being made aware of other possibilities in a storyline, or gaps in character knowledge, or in fact what a reader would really like to know more about. After all, another alternative from someone else's thinking becomes a deposit in the bank of creativity.

HOMEWORK:

Today's reads focussed on the things I hate. This covered such items as spiders, items of food as well as television advertisements. There were 2 folk who challenged the negative, and ventured to the positive, as in what I value in life so far, as well as a humorous reflection of the peculiarity of life in general. Chair Peter closed with his topic of red hair, which taught some of us a lot about nicknames that involved being 'a ranga' or a 'blood nut'!!

NEXT MONTH'S HOMEWORK:

1. Mrs Mooney was a butcher's daughter
2. Eight years before he had seen his friend off at the North Wall and wished him Godspeed
3. The bell rang furiously and, when Miss Parker went to the tube, a furious voice called out in a piercing North of Ireland accent: 'Send Farrington here!'

for the Poets

1. Let us go then, you and I
2. When the jacaranda begin to bloom
3. Shadforth took up his pen and wrote

So once again, we reach the end of another newsletter, and look forward to our next meeting which falls on Melbourne Cup day, and no I still don't have a clue what to bet on, but that small detail has not stopped me yet. I look forward as always to the general bon vivant of good company on this day, so happy writing or thinking or both. CHEERS Janet.