

Attendance: 13

Apologies: Belinda, Deb, Richard, Dennis

AGENDA:

Welcome to our final meeting and newsletter for 2023. How the time has flown, and we still have an anthology to complete... Many thanks to those members who have submitted entries for consideration, all in Peter's file and safely stored. Next year we will be deciding on the title for our tome, so something for all to think about while we celebrate the Season's offerings.

Chair Peter and scribe Janet have been re-elected for the 2024 year of CWL Events, meetings etc. Appreciation was shown by applause and a heartfelt thankyou from the membership.

Our year has seen the passing of Wayne Brown, stalwart member and provider of humour, wonderful photos of SE Asia travels, and a reminder of the stories of war and the respect for all those who served. He will be sadly missed by us, and now forms part of the excellent dialogue that starts with 'remember when...'

Christmas is always a time not only to be jolly, but for us to remember the events, the people and the journey, and to be grateful for the gift of the written word that allows us to connect with one another.

■ Chair Peter advises that as of next year, our monthly meetings will be taking place in the Caboolture library rooms as was used in the past. Many thanks to those who have allowed this to occur, not only the least of which is the economy of the moment but we will be closer to all those wonderful reads, which each of us aspire to produce.

■ Discussion ensued around our bank balance, which currently sits at \$133, well done to Russell for ensuring we hit triple figures.

■ Membership discussed FAWQ and its current status. We are advised that the 2024 structure of FAWQ is under discussion with their membership, and CWL continues to maintain its affiliation with the fellowship of writers. CWL have appreciated being able to draw on the insurance coverage of the incorporated entity particularly while we have been having to pay rent for accommodation in the hub for our meetings.

■ Discussion was raised by Chair Peter as to the direction for CWL for 2024, which produced lively debate, and clarification of the ideals of CWL. The importance of CWL maintaining its role of encouragement and support for local writers at all stages of their craft continues to be its single task. Provision of a place for budding writers to meet regularly, to talk all things writing, and to brainstorm solutions is the most valued part of the CWL experience.

Members were reminded that they are responsible for steering their own part of the writing journey, but CWL is here to provide a supportive and safe environment among like-minded peers.

Suggestions for 2024 covered such areas as:

fund raising, using the local shopping centres
developing a 'struggling author's charity group'
creating a Go Fund Me page
developing a Writers' Retreat
deciding on a specific project for pursuit of CWL membership
continuing to identify relevant speakers to attend CWL meetings
we could consider covering a range of areas, from council
membership, to other writers' groups, or even select book club
memberships, as well as writers of note.

Name tags was also suggested

new members to introduce themselves giving a small bio and covering their writing genres of interest, which of course means the converse should happen with the existing membership also covering the same information for each new member.

■ Latest info from members:

Member Martin wished to say that one of his important learnings that he wished to share was that 'writing could not be learnt, that it was an innate gift, and that every writer needs to work out for themselves how they wish to proceed', and secondly that reading and talking about writing should merely be the opening of doors, and not be restricted to a particular way of writing only.

Member Loraine advised that in conjunction with a fellow writer, is developing a Zoom way of connecting and interacting with other writers. She envisions conversations about writing projects, publishing, writing learnings, etc. to be some of the conversation talking points.

■ Last month's homework was shared by Sue, Merrill and Bakhti.

Contributions covered beauty in the eye of the beholder with the lavender blooms being either a purple feast for the eyes or a darn mess that created work; a gentle poem, as well as a link from road works and the observation that these hurdles reflect on the human condition. As always there was much food for thought from our membership's creativity.

■ NEXT TIMES **HOMEWORK:**

- » If only we knew
- » The Bright Light
- » Sapphire Shores

So we reach the end of the year and the Newsletter... remember our next meeting will be on FEBRUARY 6th as the first Tuesday of the month, in the CABOOLTURE LIBRARY.

I take this opportunity to wish you a fond 'enjoy the season' and 'be kind to yourselves and to all you come into contact with'. This year more so than any other I have been most grateful for those kindnesses shown to me personally, and say without your ongoing friendship I don't think I could have survived the loss of my life partner . So with hugs, till 2024, MERRY Christmas and HAPPY New Year. Janet