

Present: 13

Apologies: Merril

AGENDA:

Welcome back to Carolyn and Louise, as well as Martin who popped in to say a quick hello and remind us all that today we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the existence of the Caboolture Writers' Link. Apart from no one knowing the celebratory gem we should be, I think the lot of us should be diamonds really. We recognized that this was quite an achievement in anyone's terms. Well done to Martin as being one of the starters of the group who still attends, others remain on the mail out, or have passed on to other adventures entirely. So a big hurrah all round for today's milestone.

■ Our guest speaker for today was unfortunately unavailable. Dave Jones of the Redcliffe Writers Group was intending to inform us of his group's link to the Sydney Writer's Festival – live and local. This event will be occurring in May so no doubt Dave and his folk will be frantically busy with organising their part of this major activity.

■ Chair Peter, who always likes to raise random topics of interest, today asked the question of the group... How do you know if what you're writing is suspenseful enough? It was decided that the reader test was a definite ultimate requirement for this one, but prior to that stage of story development there were some key indicators that one could consider. Such aspects as predictability, credibility, pacing, use of red herrings, and the actual length that you devote to developing the story are all important. As with all things there is no doubt a recipe that could be applied but writer flair is that something unquantifiable that will sell the mystery. Certainly, being heavy handed was to be avoided at all costs.

■ Chair Peter also raised two websites that he's found very useful for reading the classics, one being Project Gutenberg and the other Faded Pages. These are also very economical as well.

■ A big congratulations to member Bakhti who has just completed her new tome. . The book entitled "Universal Time and Time Built Into Everything," it is about time and it explains about time in every sense. There are no secrets to time. The book is about time beyond space and the universe and how time evolved. For those of you who are interested to check it out, it will be on Amazon, Kindle in about four months' time.

HOMEWORK:

Most present participated in today's activity, across a variety of offerings. Carolyn and Louise both caught up on what they had missed from our last meeting. Bakhti and Richard and Janet attempted the dialogue only genre. Richard's car repair dialogue was something we all knew very well. Sue managed a poem on abstract thoughts which as always impressed, while Russell worried Janet that he was going to be writing a sad ending and managed to not do that quite eloquently. Peter had us all wondering that his story of woolybutts might be a sheep event, but became an unanswered mystery, that requires a second chapter to continue.

NEXT TIME...the homework for MAY:

■ What ever happened to.....

or

■ Free choice option, be creative, write what you like.....

I've recently read a biography of sorts about the interviewer Michael Parkinson which engaged the reader with some of the key remembrances of his time on television. One of them involved interviewing W.H. Auden (British-American poet) who remarked that the only reason for writing was to entertain the reader or at the very least allow the reader to endure their life. Why I mention this is I find the thoughts reflect on the power of the word to connect us all to one another and to the shared experiences we all have that we don't always talk about. Often we can feel isolated with the dramas of life, or miss the flights of fancy available to us. So well done you writers out there, keep doing what you do, you are all so important to all of us. Cheers Janet