

Present: 16
Apologies: Belinda, Dennis
New: 1

AGENDA:

Welcome to a new year with Caboolture Writers' Link. We hope that this year for our membership we see new creativities, new inspirations, and adventurous writings from everyone, along with much satisfaction in the joy of writing as well as continued encouragement for everyone by everyone.

Chair Peter launched our new year with indications that he has in the Christmas season been beavering away at all things CWL and attempting to ensure that we are all looked after in our creative efforts.

≥Firstly, we were advised that the next anthology progresses, with a much needed checking of who had submitted what, and verification from those present. Some folk needed to clarify the number of submissions, spelling of titles, and reassurance that work was ready to go.

We still need to work on a title however, I am sure this will not take much cogitating as it were. I feel that Peter has some ideas very clearly to present to us.

≥Secondly, and most importantly for today's meeting, was the discussion of the very necessary locating of a workable/affordable venue for our monthly meetings.

Unfortunately, we will have to relocate due to the safety requirements of the library. Our numbers of attendees more often than not do not meet the restrictions on safe numbers for the library space available. Capacity is 16, but we often reach 20 plus on more enthusiastic occasions. Yes, the Hub is available but as we have limited financial resources, and we do not charge a membership fee that would even remotely cover the costs involved with a once a month hire of the hub site. So today we spent a considerable amount of time discussing the options.

Many thanks to a variety of members for their good ideas, and in particular Peter and Russell for volunteering to go and meet with some supportive local community people. We hope by next month's meeting to be more settled.

It is unfortunate that the above situation has arisen as we have previously felt most welcome by the library, and felt very looked after in their care. The rules however are the rules, and they exist for good reason. If anyone feels that a doable site might be available, ie easy to get to, parking availability, and some seating, power etc do **contact Peter** with your ideas. Given that most of the members are of retirement age, accessibility is possibly

of key concern. We can promise to not be unruly, even though we're prone to flights of fancy, and we are socially well trained even some might say, friendly. Have a think folk, we really need assistance in this matter. We would also like to think that at a community level we bring joy, social engagement, mental stimulation and some creative cultural pursuits to our part of the Moreton Bay Region.

≥**DISCUSSION** today focussed on the purpose of punctuation in the writing craft, in particular the misreading that can occur if punctuation isn't used at all, or at best, wrongly. One of our members stated he thought that punctuation was in fact the key to understanding the message or intent of the written word, while others raised to much merriment the mistakes that can frequently be made when punctuation is not valued. It was discussed that small words like 'and' and 'the' when used can change poetry into prose which then morphed of course into a conversation about the pluses and minuses of the use of AI and what it can offer those who have limited writing skills or confidence in writing.

≥Member Russell raised the topic of his most recent success with the FAWQ Christmas writing competition. Russell won the competition, while Chair Peter came second. Well done fellers. The competition was judged by peers which added much kudos to the achievement.

≥Member Sue Henninger presented her written poetry anthology of '**Life's Colourful Confetti**' with a copy for membership at the meeting. Sue has been a prolific writer of poetry and has been a terrific contributor to each of our meetings with her entertaining verse, as well as her enthusiasm for all things writing. Well done Sue

HOMEWORK:

Yes, folks some of our membership beavered away at their writing over the Christmas break. As always it was a joyous way to spend part of our meeting, and provoked many reflections on how the listening audience connected to the words.

NEXT MONTH'S TOPICS:

- Who ate the apples?
- What is
- The Ancient City
- Lost in the mind
- Old Age
- A Midnight knock at the door
- Secretly unhinged

Enjoy your writing time prior to the next meeting, in March. Until advised it will be at the library per usual, but be prepared for updates via emails etc etc. Cheers Janet