

Attendance: 18
Apologies: Martin, Belinda
New: Ken, Jennifer and a return of Larry (welcome all)

AGENDA:

Today was our first 'proper' meeting since February, given the poor weather we had been experiencing, courtesy of Cyclone *Alfie*. It was also our first 'proper' meeting at Bolton Clark's Jacaranda Café. Certainly, it was nice to start with a cuppa and a chat, and for those of us where such things matter, a learning curve of if you want a nearby parking place, you need to get there earlier rather than later, due to the popularity of the venue. All were made very welcome, and felt very looked after indeed.

Chair Peter made us all aware that he has received the contact details of the Lifestyle Manager for Bolton Clark's Community which should prove most helpful when we have a clearer idea of how we might welcome those who live on site, and might be interested, into the world of writing. A number of suggestions have been made as to what this might look like, not the least of which was a newsletter of items written by members for homework to share with the community. We hope that this might allow them to get to know of us, about us, and also entertain those who like reading, either poetry or prose.

Peter also mentioned that Member Russell presented at the most recent FAWQ gathering on the weekend. Russell discussed marketing, and the opportunities for getting your written work out there as it were. He has prepared a Pdf of his information, and Peter will circulate to members shortly. Many thanks to Russell for his promotion of his learnings in this field and for sharing. Russell led the discussion today which involved information on the new SHORT READS being promoted by Amazon for its eBooks. This offers a more contained form of writing for the budding writer, with a maximum length of 25000 words or less as the required size, and a minimum spend of 99cents, but usually around 4.99 for purchases of the reads. Certainly, it was agreed that it would be easier for the budding writer to make the length, than the number of words required to write a book for example.

Discussion also covered the notion of audio books which arose due to today's group interest and efforts in this area, and the increasing popularity with the non-reading public. A useful contact for this is Jackie Ferrer of Brisbane Audio Books who Russell recommends from his work in this area. It was also suggested that YouTube also could be a useful platform to access for this activity as well. Folk were reminded though that there are necessary considerations for this presentation medium, from a pleasing to the ear voice, careful pacing of the presentation, accurate pronunciation etc etc. As AI becomes more slick this will be an area worth venturing into. However as one of our members today mentioned, it

would be great if we could all sound like Morgan Freeman, but unfortunately, we don't. Now isn't that the truth of the matter.

Homework Reads

As always, it was with much enjoyment as we shared our writings with one another at the meeting. Fractured Fairy Tales, or Nursery Rhymes seems to have struck a popular chord with some of our members as we listened to the various takes on nursery rhymes from our childhood. Mary's little lamb was popular, as was Old King Cole and others. Perhaps our residents in the community will be able to add to this field of quirkiness. Peter's rhyming skills are definitely showing a wonderful A+ for inventiveness.

NEXT MONTH'S HOMEWORK:

1. The Echo Chamber
2. Borrowed Time
3. The last empty page
4. Ripples on still water
5. A weight of feathers

..

REMINDER: Next meeting is MAY 13 at Jacaranda Café

Financial update states that we currently have \$74 in the bank courtesy of some recent sales of previous anthologies. Better than being in the red folks.

Happy writing and being creative with your time. Try a new genre with homework, tease us all with an interesting take on one of the topics suggested, let your mind wander and your words join it to celebrate the writer in you. Till next month, CHEERS JANET