

Present: 16

Apologies: Lexia, Maartin, Denis

New: Susan Jenner

AGENDA:

Welcome to this month's newsletter, may it whet your appetite for more or encourage you to come along to our next meeting at the Jacaranda Café, Caboolture (**Tuesday, 2nd September, 9.30 start**), or at the very least have you putting, as Chair Peter has stated, 'pen to paper, or fingers to the computer,' and write, write, write.

Firstly, we must take this opportunity to welcome our new member for this month, so Hi to Susan, who receives at this point the very first award of its nature.... the Legible, non-confusing email address award. Yes, folks it has finally happened, without direction Susan has given me in her penmanship, the clearest email address ever. Thank you, Susan. Susan also is in the throws of writing her soon to be published suspense/thriller- no pressure Susan, which she states she is finally happy to put out there. Susan has previous books to her credit, but they never made it past her writer's critical eye. Susan likes to write for adolescents, and we look forward to hearing more about her writer's journey.

Chair Peter spoke about a recent talk that he and member Russell attended at the library at Victoria Point. Speaker was **Adam Courtney**, son of Bryce Courtney, who it would appear had some very interesting observations about his father, and growing up with his father, and his creative take on his life. His biography 'My father Bryce' casts a quite different picture of the image of Bryce Courtney that readers might have from reading his works. Ensuing from this was an interesting discussion around the 'variety of truths' that can be on offer when discussing a life, to the issue of marketing, and fictionalising facts to help enhance a read. Certainly no one would dispute the ability of Bryce Courtney to tell a good yarn.

Member Russell discussed two items which will be appearing in the next edition of the FAWQ-Scope magazine. These are related to firstly, the notion of **short reads** that Amazon is offering to budding writers. This initiative of Amazon encourages words up to 25,000 maximum for publishing as a SHORT READ E-read. If you have already published with Amazon, and are in the required word length, they will automatically include your work into this new offering. This will certainly open up the world of readers to writers who are not yet into writing 50,000 words as a novel or E-book. It can also be quite lucrative.

Secondly, as a **discussion point** in Scope, the issue of to use or not use AI and the problem of being asked to take a side in the conversation. As was discussed at CWL today, it was felt that this was a bit like deciding whether the gate should have been shut, as opposed to have

ever being opened after the cattle have indeed bolted out the yard the day before. The consensus was that AI was here and could be used to advantage, (needs to identified) or not used at all (toil away for hours at research) or for ill (hackers will love it), taking a position on AI will in fact not change what is thriving in application possibilities and efficiencies. Better having a discussion of what needs to be in practice are secure protocols for usage that aid rather than drive what is new technology. How do we live with AI is a better discussion point.

I'm sure everyone will have their thoughts or concerns re the above, bring them along to meetings for further discussion and understanding, so we can all get a handle on the possibilities.

Member Janet spoke about why she had done a **test drive on the email** front the previous month. Folk were very understanding of the dilemma of learning of outcomes when you have deleted either the wrong information, or deleted the wrong way and losing information. Either way, Janet has learned a lot from the experience, and now stops before deleting and just thinks about what she's doing. Not to be outdone, Member Richard identified when hearing a bang from where his study was, and then discovering a literally blown-up computer was in his ownership. He too is work, or the computer is, in progress as information is being tracked down to parts of his hard drive. This then morphed into a discussion of **backing up of data**, external hard drives, the Cloud, Drop Box etc etc. This could be best described as words from the burnt so to speak.

Chair Peter brought his usual most informative learnings that he has discovered in his adventures on the computer. Today was no different to previous times, as he waxed lyrically and enthusiastically about the longest name in Australia to identify a hill (of all things). So what is this most marvellous word you might ask, well it is:

a place in South Australia with 26 Letters: Mamungkukumpurangkuntjunya Hill. The name means "where the devil urinates" in the regional Pitjantjatjara language.

For my own amusement I have left the red underlining that Word has given it as it tries frantically to fix what I have obviously got wrong. Poor AI, I have confused it. Never mind, happens to the best of us.

HOMEWORK:

As per usual there were a plenitude of offerings to today's pleasure point for our writers' group. The top topic chosen today was Fantasmagorical, which can also apparently be spelled with a Ph as an F starter too. See folks always something to learn. We had 12 offerings, not the least of which was Member Ilka who presented some affirmations that she particularly likes, one of which struck home to all of us of a certain age, which was 'to appreciate companionship you need to have experienced loneliness'. This received a resounding Mmmm as we all agreed.

NEXT MONTH'S CHOICE:

The Last Library
Forgotten Photograph
Ashes in the Wind
My favourite Memory
A new neighbour

This month's meeting was a ripper, in the sense that all were brave and had their say on some issue, or spoke about their learned experiences in the writing field without worrying unduly about feeling exposed in some way. I loved that feeling of being safe to be honest, to know that 'yep, we've all been there' or the encouragement that comes from being with a group of folk who just love words and their power, and the beauty and the possibilities of words used well. It is a bonus for those of our group who can manage it, the arriving early to the meeting and sharing a bite for breakfast with a cuppa and with company, that is the icing on my cake that is CWL. So, see you all next time if you can make it, CHEERS JANET.