

Present: 16
Apologies: Ken, Graham, Brenda

AGENDA:

Welcome to our 20th year anniversary of Caboolture Writers Link

As you can see from the above this year is a significant milestone for the ongoing success of our intrepid writers and the maintained interest shown by members of our community. Apparently, we are a rare species of literary enthusiasts with much oohing and aahing from the wider writing community, which has seen groups start, stay awhile, then become defunct only to recommence in another area with good intentions but small attendance. I think we have been blessed by a stalwart crowd. A band of stay with it warriors who have put their hands up for various jobs at different times of the year, and who have been happy to embrace change even when grumbling, so that they may stay relevant as well as share their joy in words. CONGRATULATIONS, may we all continue to prosper in our writing.

■Chair Peter, our leading 'stay with it' personality, has resumed leadership this year, even after a rather nasty recent experience of the medical kind which had him thinking it might be all over red rover for him at one brief stage. So glad to see he has put up the good fight to be at our helm today. Also, member Denis, who has been unable to attend for some time due to work commitments, has reappeared amongst our ranks. Denis has advised me that he has put our meetings into the year calendar so that there are no more interruptions to his attendance. Returning this year were also our cast of regulars who had lots of stories to tell of the yuletide season, some of good cheer and some of the challenging variety.

WELCOME BACK you lot, WELCOME BACK.

■Member Denis spoke briefly today of his writing journey, and from just a new chum, he has now produced 3 books using the assistance of Katy More and her firm. Katy who has met us previously to discuss using AI as a tool, will also be attending next month to talk further on technology enhancements to the writer's craft. Denis also thanked member Russell for his support in his endeavours with his writing production. Denis I think is amazed at what he has achieved, as well he should be, and he along with other produced writers in our group inspire us to take that bold new step into 'putting the book together' as an important part of our craft development. Well done Denis.

It was fabulous to know that we are very lucky to have folk like Katy available to us in this local area who are so professional in their work approach to publication. Denis, and

member Sue were very glowing in their praise of her support, interest and creative ideas for consideration, along with affordability, depending on what the needs of the author were. Membership is looking forward to talking further with Katy next month.

■Member Lorraine also advised that this year she will be bringing to public attention in her production *The Write Grapevine*, some other writing assistants that are available and come highly recommended for budding authors to consider. We look forward to this as well. It is so helpful to have folk who are personally endorsed as good support than having to find them on your own. It can be difficult to sort the hay from the chaff on lots of occasions.

HOMEWORK:

The words flowed, our emotions ebbed and surged, to and fro with sadness at what was described. We sighed with possibilities of something scary, and we wondered at a mystery – how would it end. From loss of loved things, to the universe of imagination and even the supernatural. All things were covered, and we were transported by the power of words and our personal experiences to that wondrous place, the love of writing.

NEXT MONTH:

∞**Idle thoughts.** Write a story of the idle thoughts you have while, for instance, waiting for the kettle to boil or waiting for the spin dry cycle to finish.

∞An old-fashioned telephone exchange operator overhears something **startling** or a hair dresser is told **a story** while cutting hair.

∞A **character** checks into the only hotel in an old town to find there is no shower, and only a bathtub, so is forced to **confront** his/her **real fear** of being sucked down by the bathtub drain vortex.

∞An op shop receives a donation, and among the items is an **old music box**. They wind it up and when they **open the lid** !!!....

So, there is your lot for this month. I am sure you have left today's meeting full of ideas and inspirations, and just generally some Bon Amie that should tide you over till the first Tuesday of March at the Jacaranda Café, Caboolture. 9.30 am start. Cheers Janet.