

Present: 12

Apologies: Russell, Martin, Belinda

AGENDA:

Welcome to today's meeting, and given it was indeed so close to the celebrations of Easter, and the start of the school holidays, our meeting cohort probably reflected that as well. As per usual much chatter about the state of parking, a number of folk having to be creative with this one, along with the enjoyment of the coffee on offer from the Jacaranda Café and their most marvellous service to us. It is genuinely so lovely to be together with a number of people who wonder that we can meet on a day that sees the moon from the dark side, courtesy of our space travellers, while at the same time we can have petrol prices and supply going into the never never land of fantasia, so effected by the actions of the U.S.A President. One might think that we have all been transported to the world of Alice in Wonderland, and are under the influence of the Mad Hatter.

AGENDA:

■ Our guest speaker for today was to be Patti Beecham, who was unable to attend at the last minute, so we look forward to meeting with her when her business calendar allows.

■ Chair Peter spoke briefly of a new term that he has come across in his time spent in front of the computer, and that is 'meta fiction' which apparently is the name given to a writing style that allows for a protagonist of a story to speak directly to the author of the story. For example, this style of writing allows the character to wonder if the writer will allow a certain event to take place, or to comment on how 'he/she never saw that coming and what was the writer thinking,'

Janet added to this, by stating she had come across this technique used in stories where the protagonist is an animal, and the reader gets to hear directly from the animal about how they are feeling about a particular turn of events and what they hope will happen next. It is useful as a tool of communication for the author to describe how difficult something might be to resolve or the literary dilemmas he or she may be facing. So more than just a voice, a direct link for the reader with the author about a fictional event.

Often times seen a lot in movies where-by the main character speaks directly to the camera, giving inside information as it were.

■ Discussion today also focussed on CWL's next project for promoting the writing of membership. Janet identified that over Easter she had been questioned by a reader of the CWL product who keenly wanted to know what was next.

So thoughts about our stories of Caboolture were discussed as a real possibility, which was in no way meant to exclude some of our members who have recently arrived to call Caboolture home, or the opportunity to write fiction set in the area of Caboolture. All of the possibilities are on the table plus many others that membership might like to ponder on between now and the next meeting. It was suggested it could even thematically be linked to a device where when one looks in a mirror and is for a moment transported to a different time and place called Caboolture. This could be as much about researching skills, or as a way to set a most marvellous story in the context of a particular Caboolture at a particular time.

Member Richard suggested also, the notion of an E-magazine, whereby quarterly we publish the more clever or wondrous stories or poems from CWL homework which would give a further dimension to the field of homework. This, it is envisaged could have a place on the CWL website, and at Janet's suggestion just needs a witty name to be catchy as a go to title.

■Already a suggestion '**School memories**' as our first write for the E-magazine, 350-400 words has been created for next month. EVERYONE HAVE A crack AT THIS ONE.....

along with

- The man with the lime green tie
- The dog that followed me home
- It happened at the laundromat

HOMEWORK from March, was then presented, with Louise, Carolyn and Sue showing us their experiences for primary school education. Firstly the impact of a religiously driven education for Carolyn and Louise, which was strong on education but not so strong on a charitable care approach by the religious order. While Sue's education showed the impact that a kind teacher or not could have on whether you behaved, or loved learning. Behaviour being also a prime motivator in the scheme of teaching for some. Dennis took a safer route with exploring the message possibilities of tea leaves, while Richard enjoyed letters from the past suddenly arriving to disrupt a planned day. Bakhti explored the control of those that stop all lines of communication, and how dark the world can become when control is not only coercive in the threatening sense, but becomes physical as well.

John entertained us all with what in fact can be a hearty breakfast. Where sausages, bacon and eggs might really be interpreted as something best not eaten. Peter took us to the MinMin lights where 'darkness swallowed headlights and a pale greenish glow was tracking the travellers'. Yes folks for most of these stories our listeners wanted to know what happened next.

They all sound like the beginnings of a good read, eh?

So we have reached the end of this month's newsletter. I hope it finds you well, and motivated to continue your writing journey. Keep experimenting with genre, learning about yourself, and if nothing else save a lot of money by writing it down and giving yourself some personal therapy. Until next month it's Cheers from me. Janet