

Present: 12

Apologies: Belinda, Martin, Lexia, Carolyn and Louise, Sam.

Guest Speaker: Patty Beecham

Welcome to for some the merry merry month of May, and our next Newsletter or note as can sometimes happen if my words fail me, or we have a much smaller meeting than we're actually used to.

It is unfortunate that we have some poorly due to ill health, as well as the passing of a relative for our dear Lexia, and members with other appointments.

I take this opportunity to say to Lexia that you are in our collective thoughts at this sad time, dear friend.

This month we were lucky to have a warm presentation by Patty Beecham, current President of the Beerwah Writer's Group, and former close member of the Caboolture Community and its developing business world.

Patty Beecham, has been involved with the Beerwah group for approximately the last 12 years and regaled us today of her journey with writing, which has been a lifetime of learning and striving and taking chances. Patty said she started writing when she was 8 years of age and has not ever really stopped. Listening to her talk about herself you do arrive at a sense of vibrancy and joy that Patty has for life, and a sense of there would be a good story in that as she regaled us with some of the many roles she has undertaken.

She said she has always written with a purpose in mind, and made choices accordingly re life's choices as well. She stated if you never seized the moment, you would never know where the door might lead.

Patty has written 2 memoirs, and currently is working on a third. I expect you could say instead of one large memoir, she's paced herself and is writing a trilogy but it may well have numerous sequels as she's not ready to put up her pen yet. It amused all present to hear that members of Patty's family put in requests like, 'you're not putting me in that I hope!' which I am sure has been always some of

our writers' experiences as well, when a family member discovers their inner writer and chooses to release same.

Patty brought with her, and gave to some present, a sample of the books she has been involved with. She talked at length about the changes she's noticed in publishing, finding book stores – a diminishing breed, and staying involved with technology to stay relevant and able to find the readers that every writer wants at some stage to entertain with their words.

This of course then provoked much discussion about AI and the ease of research compared to how tedious it used to be, to the e space available to websites, and self-publishing, self-designing etc. It's those doors that open and you never know what will pop up so to speak that really sums Patty's approach to life and to her writing adventures. Instead of identifying what's negative she has a very positive view of the possibilities. *Lemons and lemonade folks.*

It was most innervating to have Patty with us today, and on the behalf of all present I take this opportunity to thank her for her time and her insights. Come visit us again Patty.

HOMWORK

Today we returned to considering our planned E-magazine as our new project, and Janet responded at today's meeting with Travelling to Caboolture SS by bus in the 60s. The e-mag is thematically to appeal to our local community hence the Caboolture focus.

As far as other homework writers were concerned the title, 'the man in the lime green tie' was a mega star. Many thanks to all for their contributions, and to Deb for yet again reading aloud Chair Peter's mysterious man in the lime green tie as his story for today. A lovely story it was with the brave Walter as his furry friend included. We were suitably suspended, no animals were injured and Janet did not need to mop up tears.

NEXT MONTH

Free range using the theme of 'Caboolture then or now' to frame your offering. These will continue the discussion of the e-magazine for CWL.

*Well, that's your lot for this month. I hope that our members are healthier for next month and that we see a goodly complement of attendees to continue our robust discussions and thoughts about the e-magazine project. Survive what will be winter at some stage, and stay away from anyone who is coughing.
Best wishes all,.....Cheers Janet*