

Present: 14

Apologies: Deb, Belinda

AGENDA:

Well hello to all CWL members and interested folk in the writing community of Caboolture. How beautiful that we start our meeting on the first day of Spring for 2026 with most of our regular group of members present. It is very pleasing for me to be back in action after missing our last get together after a bit of a misstep at mine. Suffice it to say I was surprised to discover that inside my head lives a 21-year-old brain with the enthusiasm of a 21-year-old movement capacity, unfortunately not in coordination with the not 21-year-old body.

Peter led today's discussion with a review of a recent workshop conducted by FAWQ where he learned much about functions of the brain, and in particular dealing with what was referred to by the speaker, Dr Jo Skinner -medical practitioner and writer, of 'page fright'.

Peter, who describes himself as one of life's procrastinators was pleased to be workshopped into getting his writing back on track and getting started with a 5-minute write everything you can about moment. I believe that got the writer's juices firing, even if it was hard work. Of course, this then led to a discussion for today's meeting of the motivation for writers to write, and what sorts of things got them started. This then morphed into a discussion of memoirs, and what constitutes a memory and how particular they are for each individual even when they are a common event. We talked about genres of choice, the evolving nature of language and its assumed commonalities, and the notion of the intransience of time and what is future becomes present, and what is in the past can disappear completely.

The ultimate question became 'why are we writing' along with the importance of writing as the keeper of learnings, ideas, history, events, the important stuff of life, in fact memories. As once an incident loses currency, and there is no one who can recall something it is gone forever. Well, unless it's written down. This was heady stuff indeed, and all without a wine in hand to assist with the philosophising.

HOMEWORK:

Most of our group today contributed to the homework set from last month, and showed a particular fondness for the topic of 'Memories' which was not only interesting to listen to but also inspired the audience to respond with delighted reactions to what was read. It was particularly entertaining to hear Richard's contribution to trying out a complete piece using only dialogue to tell the story. Richard managed to whet everyone's imagination as to what the protagonists were speaking about as the possibilities were indeed up to the imagination of the listener. Well done Richard.

OCTOBER HOMEWORK:

1. Rewrite a nursery rhyme
2. Memories of my grand parents
3. There is a first time for everything
4. We've got to know...
5. Whopping great spider !!

Well that's your lot for this month, as today it was more about talking and sharing than making lots of notes to create reading material. As per usual may your spring spur on your writing enthusiasms, or motivations. Go dig out that paperwork in that drawer, sort out those half-started ideas or lines; do a 5-minute exercise of pen in hand and just keep writing.

I'm saying this to myself with a stern voice. Let's get cracking.

Cheers Janet