



***Carindale Writers' Group Meeting
25th September 2008***

Welcome to:

Membership: Hilary, Desley, Sandy, Anthony, Michael F, Liam, Margarita, Io, Shirley, Dawn, Michael Mc., Wendy, Jeff, Brian, Chip, Beverley, Ed, Dorothy, Melinda, Leslee Ann, Judy, Kim, Karen, Heather, Marilyn, Debby, Garold, Beverley H. Gary, Mieke, Judith,

Present: Liam, Margarita, Io, Dawn, Jeff, Brian, Chip, Beverley H, Dorothy, Marilyn, Garold, Gary, Beverley A.

Treasurer's Report: Last meeting: \$1615.96 plus cash in hand

Member news/ challenges/ discussions/correspondence:

- **Brisbane Writers Festival:** Two members came with reports on BWF – and it seems it was all good. The sessions attended by both members were interesting, as well as being free to the public. Beverley H. was full of praise for the session she attended, which was an historical overview of the canon of Brisbane writers since the beginning of the last century (and maybe slightly before this). Marilyn backed up Beverley's comments on this session, having good words to say about other free to the public sessions she also dropped in to hear. Marilyn also booked ahead for, and attended the showing of the documentary: "Son of a Lion", which she told us was followed by a discussion with the director, who, Marilyn said, shared with the audience the security difficulties encountered whilst filming and how they got around them – for instance, having to camouflage the camera in a plastic bag to avoid detection. The film itself sounds like something we should all see, if only to understand the difference between living in a country like Australia, where peace is treasured, and countries where weapons are given to babies as a welcoming gift.
- Some time ago we authorised Brian to purchase a book he recommended and this was brought to the meeting. This resource book appears well organised into writing hints (well, it was put together by a teacher), and could become one of those books with a waiting list of people wanting to

take it home. Chip was first in line, so we might have to ask him for a review at the next meeting.

- Desley sent a reminder to say she is waiting for those ‘first draft’ stories for the web-page. Send them to me to send on to Desley.

Feature Reader: Dorothy filled in for Kim at short notice and we were treated to three more captivating chapters from the “Byrd’s Nest”. As usual, we all enjoyed the reading, and there wasn’t much in the way of advice for Dorothy.

Morning Tea

Exercise Readings/:

Gary began the readings with his short story titled “Fingered”. This was Gary’s first reading for the group, so no doubt he wanted to get through the story in the shortest possible time. Well done, Gary! It was an excellent premise for a story about a fulsome character named ‘Artie’ who, as a criminal, was about one sandwich short of a picnic. Although in its present format it was more of an anecdote than a story, there is a lot of potential for Gary to work this into a longer piece with a little bit of fiddling with the facts. As someone said, ‘never let the facts get in the way of a good story’.

Marilyn and Jeff read their website profile.

Dawn used a chapter from her mother’s story to re-jig for the prompt “*The day was perfect, except...*” and Ed read for the same prompt, using a travel piece he wrote some time ago entitled “Bella Napoli”. What made Ed’s story interesting was his trip to Italy occurred at the same time that Mt Vesuvius decided to erupt.

Some writers get all the good luck, don’t they?

Next Meeting Exercise/ Workshop: Write an opening paragraph, making it fit a specific genre, and we will try to guess your intention. The paragraph can be as long or as short as you want.

Feature Reader Next Meeting: Ed.

Happy Writing Everyone! See you on the 9th October.