



**Carindale Writers' Group Meeting
June 26th 2008**

Welcome to: Kim Hamilton and Karen Reyment.

Apologies: Hilary, Sandy, Anthony, Michael F, Liam, Shirley

Present: Brian, Chip, Beverley, Ed, Dorothy, Melinda, Leslee Ann, Jeff, Dawn, Liam, Wendy, Judy, Margarita, Io, Marilyn

Treasurer's Report: Banking previous meeting: \$1531.96 plus float money.

Member news/ challenges/ discussions/correspondence:

- Confirmation was received from BlueHost.com for Hosting Renewal subscription for our website. Order code: 1872987415. Chip was reimbursed for this.
- I have sent on our Newsletter, member profiles and all the short stories sent to me for Desley to post on our website. Please keep sending your stories.
- We received confirmation for our own ABN number. Thanks to Chip for arranging this.
- Chip put forward the suggestion all members send a paragraph of their own choosing to add to the newsletter each fortnight. It was agreed this was an excellent idea and after a short discussion we settled on the heading of "Musings". All *Musings* should be sent to me by the Tuesday following the meeting.
- Wendy read an extract from an email written by Louise Cusack to encourage all the entrants in the Redlitzer Writing Competition.
- The group wished the three Carindale Writer's Group entrants Wendy Squire, Michael McMorro and Beverley Asmus the best of luck.
- Emails were sent responding to membership enquiries.
- All other correspondence forwarded to members by email as it arrived.

Feature Reader: Melinda was the feature reader this morning and read an extract from her incomplete fantasy novel, which has yet to be given a title. The strength of Melinda's writing lies in her amazing ability to create landscape settings. As one of the members commented during the critique, 'the description of this fantasy world was

sensual to the extent it was possible to feel the coolness of the forest'. A particularly well written scene occurred at the beginning of the second chapter. In this scene Melinda vividly describes the morphing of a bear to a human Druid Master. The challenge facing Melinda, according to the general consensus of the critique, is to apply this same skill to creating identities for all the characters, and to do this as soon as possible following their introduction into the story.

It is indeed a beautiful story, with a lot of potential, and we all congratulated Melinda on her work thus far.

Morning Tea:

Election:

Following morning tea, the annual election took place. As there were no other nominations, and all current office holders signalled their willingness to continue in their roles, the positions of coordinator, librarian and treasurer will continue being held by Beverley Asmus, Dorothy Vicary and Jeff Matheson. An expression of thanks for their continued support was given to Dorothy and Jeff by Beverley. I expressed thanks on behalf of the group to Beverley, Dorothy and Jeff.

Exercise Readings/ Workshop topic:

Our exercise was to write a short story to show the element of 'narrative suspense'. Dorothy, Jeff, Kim, Margarita, Michael, Chip and Beverley shared their writing for this. To mention some of these: Our new member, Kim, read a cleverly constructed piece of writing with a very surprising ending. Margarita's story was based on a real life incident and left all of us open mouthed imagining the dangers she faced rushing her husband to hospital in the middle of an earthquake- yes you heard right- an earthquake! Dorothy's story was excellent for showing the psychology of a young child faced with an incredible event.

As with all our meetings, if you don't want to write for the exercise, feel free to bring something else to read; although we'll hear the exercises first. Marilyn did just this. Her short story was written for a children's story writing competition and the rules were that the writers had to include the following four elements: An animal; a person; a white object and something cold. Marilyn achieved this in a very entertaining fashion. I hope she entered her story in the competition and we wish her luck if she has.

Because we had a little extra time, Chip also read one of his 'kookaburra' stories. Love those bird tales, Chip.

- *Don't forget to send your short stories to me if you'd like them posted on the webpage. And remember, it's very important to keep the exercises to around 500 words (2 pages maximum) so that we can hear everyone's work and so they all hang together as exercises for the website. If you have written a longer story, we would still like to hear it, but we may have to hold it over until a later meeting.*

Feature Reader next meeting: Can you believe it! Our new member, Karen is hitting the ground running and has taken the spot to be our feature reader for the next meeting. Good on you, Karen! We promise to be kind, so don't fret about it.

Next Meeting Exercise/ Workshop:

This one promises to be extremely interesting. The challenge is to establish your character through their actions in an emergency situation.

*So far we've written: Openings' 'Settings' 'Sex Scenes' and 'Betrayal' Humour, Conflict and Death Scenes and Narrative Suspense. Leaving Dialogue, Endings, Point of View, Bathos juxtaposed with Pathos, Transitions, Flashbacks, Research, Character Development and Denouement.

Milestones and Breaking News:

- After losing all interest in writing for the past few months, Pat Dillon has been given a much needed boost, being informed one of her stories has been included in an anthology called **Grow Under the Southern Cross**, which went to print last Thursday. Congratulations, Pat! We've kept your seat warm for when you can come back to us.
- As you all know by now – no doubt you heard the squeal of delight on Saturday night – Beverley Asmus was awarded a specially created 'runner up' prize for the novel, *A Matter of Trust* at the **Redlitzer Writing Awards** held at the Victoria Point Library. The prize is a ninety minute editorial consultation and an introduction to an agent at Cameron Cresswell Agencies.
- **Crime Spree fiction** has accepted Chip's "Trigger Point" piece. If you recall it was the first person psychologist dialogue he read at a recent meeting. Congratulations Chip!
- Wendy and her daughter Sarah had a write up in last week's edition of the *Bayside Bulletin*. With an accompanying photograph, it heralded the *Echoes of Eden CD* launch on the 6th July.

Next meeting will be on the 10th July.

Happy Writing!