



## *Carindale Writers' Group Meeting*

*MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2009*

### **Start 9:30**

**Welcome to:** Anne, Annette, Kerry and Bill who all joined today. We trust you will feel at home with us and we look forward to getting to know you better.

**Present:** Jeff, Chip, Mike, Wendy, Dorothy, Dawn, Leslee Anne, Marilyn, Judith, Sandy, Ed, Beverley, Debby, Hilary

**Apologies:** Io, Courtenay, Rhonda, Eileen, Heather

### **Morning Tea**

### **News/ challenges/ discussions/correspondence:**

- Beverley expressed appreciation to all members who helped out whilst she was unable to attend the meetings. She especially thanked Jeff and Leslee Anne for chairing the prior 2 meetings in her absence and Leslee Anne for taking on the role of responding to new and intending member enquiries.
- A letter was read from Courtenay, apologising for her absence and telling us she has been accepted to UQ. Congratulations on this achievement, Courtenay. Wendy read a poem Courtenay had provided (to much acclaim).
- The notion of 'Incorporation' was discussed again. Although Beverley has always insisted she is one of a peer group, she expressed her concern, based on research following a recent challenging situation, that in the event the group had a disgruntled member with a grievance, that person could sue the member deemed to be in charge (and this is based on whoever does the most work for the group.) The majority thought Beverley's fears were unfounded but agreed to a compromise to look at creating a 'disclaimer' for members to sign. Anne volunteered to have the disclaimer looked at from the point of view of writing a legally binding document. Beverley provided Anne with our "code of conduct" printout as a guideline.
- Dawn provided us with the costs of buying recording devices from Dick Smith. It seemed the best solution was to leave it to individual members to research sales for the best prices.

- Brian asked permission to discuss the recent BCC funded “One Book, Many Brisbanes” competition. He voiced his opinion that the competition was not based on a level playing field for all writers as the BCC had advertised 10 places in the Anthology for emerging writers, but that, in effect, only 5 places existed as the other 5 stories were already contracted to published authors. He brought along the first draft of a protest letter to be sent to BCC and asked for suggestions and opinions from all the members. The discussion was for and against -- with some members not being clear if 2009 was the first year the Competition was conducted along similar lines. The discussion ended with Brian agreeing to contact the organisers for more information and to bring the matter up again at our next meeting.
- Beverley spoke about the QWC/ Hachette Australia Manuscript Program (see attachment for details) and Scribblers Literary Competition 2009. (See: [www.scribblerswa.org](http://www.scribblerswa.org) for details.)
- Beverley also suggested, as we presently have a healthy bank balance and a strong membership base, we could reduce the donation taken each meeting to cover the cost of morning tea. It was agreed we would trial a \$1 per person contribution from next meeting. Beverley also said she has enough in her funds to cover the cost of stamps etc for the time being.
- Other discussions were from last meeting: Leslee Anne spoke about the purchase of new books and her new system for borrowing, which should make it easier for us to monitor. We spoke briefly about Bundaberg Writers Festival conference, being held on May 16.
- We also discussed our multicultural/immigration project ‘The Great Aussie Jigsaw’ for the benefit of the new writers – cut off date July 1<sup>st</sup>, maximum 6000 words. (See attachment for more details.) Those members with completed manuscripts were asked to have them on hand with three extra copies should time be available for reading at the next meeting.
- Members were reminded to bring their own mugs to the next meeting to cut down on time spent washing and cleaning up afterwards.

**Feature Readers:** Leslee Anne read a charming short story for teenage readers.

The story had a narrative best described as a ‘coming of age’ story – with the main character, a teenage girl, eventually recognising the value of family over wanting to be ‘cool’ amongst her friends. With three generations in the story, it is to Leslee Anne’s great credit she was able to keep in character for all the different ages. In the ‘around the table’ critique one or two members suggested that Leslee Anne’s dialogue for one particular character might not ring true some of the time, but others thought it worked well. The other comments made were that the story might have started too slowly and needed a stronger hook for the opening paragraph to create reader interest. One member commented that all stories need to have the conflict clearly defined to be interesting. Another agreed, but said it is more important to signal this in a short story as this genre requires tight writing. One other comment made by most of us concerned the layout on the page. If thoughts are in italics it overcomes the constant reference to it being interior monologue. (She/He/ I thought...)

Leslee Anne thanked everyone for their feedback.

Jeff read another chapter from his “Fuselier of the Line” novel in progress.

This chapter had Charles fighting in Spain for Napoleon. As always Jeff’s reading was well received. (Nice there weren’t any broken heads and bleeding bodies this time, Jeff.)

**New writers’ readings:** New member, Kerry, read the opening pages of a short story she is working on. The story revolves around Early Australia Settlement in the 1800s. Dawn urged Kerry to keep writing this story as it will fit with our Anthology. Well done, Kerry, nothing like jumping in at the deep end. (Oops, that’s a cliché) Now the ice is broken. (Oops another cliché!).

**Immigration stories:** Sandy read some more of her “Nadia Pommodori” story she is busy writing for the anthology. Already a strong sense of character is emerging from Sandy’s pages. Don’t you just adore Nadia’s description? What a beauty! And what a strong sense of danger lurking around the corner... This could be a winning story, Sandy. (Just lose some of the kitchen scene for the sake of pace.)

**Feature Reader for next meeting** Ed, Anne

**Exercise to work on if you have time:** Write a very short radio play in full dialogue (may be monologue) with a word limit of 500 words. The theme is “Deceit”.

**Next Meeting: May 28<sup>th</sup>** Keep working on the immigration stories and bring them along to share; even if it’s just the opening.

Brian and Chip, I know we haven’t heard your stories yet!

Happy writing,  
Beverley

(ATTACHMENTS FOLLOW)

We welcome contributions from members for our newsletter.

This is courtesy of Chip and is an interesting article about ebook publishing on the internet. Maybe we should trail it for our anthology?

By [BRAD STONE](#)

Published: May 17, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO — Turning itself into a kind of electronic vanity publisher, Scribd, an Internet start-up here, will introduce on Monday a way for anyone to upload a document to the Web and charge for it.

The [Scribd](#) Web site is the most popular of several document-sharing sites that take a [YouTube](#)-like approach to text, letting people upload sample chapters of books, research reports, homework, recipes and the like. Users can read documents on the site, embed them in other sites and share links over social networks and e-mail.

In the new Scribd store, authors or publishers will be able to set their own price for their work and keep 80 percent of the revenue. They can also decide whether to encode their documents with security software that will prevent their texts from being downloaded or freely copied.

Authors can choose to publish their documents in unprotected PDFs, which would make them readable on the [Amazon Kindle](#) and most other mobile devices. Scribd also says it is readying an application for the [iPhone](#) from [Apple](#) and will introduce it next month.

Scribd hopes its more open and flexible system will give it a leg up on Amazon, which has become the largest player in the burgeoning market for e-books. Amazon sets the retail price for books in its Kindle store and keeps the majority of the revenue on some titles, which has publishers worried that Amazon is amassing too much control over the nascent market. Amazon also allows those books to be read only on its Kindle devices and in Kindle software on the iPhone.

“One reason publishers are excited to work with us is that they worry that publishing channels are contracting as Amazon and [Google](#) are gaining control over the e-book space,” said Jared Friedman, chief technology officer and a founder of Scribd.

But Scribd also has some hurdles to overcome itself. Though large publishing firms like [Random House](#) have experimented with the site, they also express frustration that copies of some works have been uploaded to Scribd without permission.

Trying to address the piracy problem, Scribd is building a database of copyrighted works and using it to filter its system. If a publisher participates in the Scribd store, its books will be added to that database, the company said.

So far, no major publishing houses have signed on to the store, though the company says it is talking to them. The independent publishers Lonely Planet, O'Reilly Media and Berrett-Koehler will add their entire catalogs.

The Scribd store will also give unpublished authors, or authors who are in a hurry, a well-trafficked Web forum on which to post their books, charge for them and see immediate results.

Kemble Scott, who has released a novel through a conventional publisher, said he would post his topical new political comedy, "The Sower," to Scribd and charge \$2 for it, partly because standard publishing is so slow. "If this is a book that is going to be interesting to people, now is the time that it fits into the national mood," he said.

[Next Article in Technology \(7 of 15\)](#) » A version of this article appeared in print on May 18, 2009, on page B6 of the New York edition.

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## The Great Aussie Jigsaw

*Some were already here in The Dreamtime, some came on convict ships and some came as pastoralists and miners. Some were sponsored, seeking 'wealth for toil'. Some came for the climate; happy to share their wisdom, their skills and their cultures. Some came fleeing oppression, seeking a safe haven under our clear blue skies.*

*All share a purpose in common, making Australia a work in progress, a giant jigsaw puzzle with pieces waiting to be filled and layers of stories waiting to be heard.*

Members of the Carindale Writers' Group are invited to submit original fiction, non-fiction and poetry written to the theme of the Great Aussie Jigsaw for inclusion in an Anthology to be created as an E-Book for distribution to members only initially, but which may become part of a printed book for general distribution and as resource material for upper secondary and tertiary students. All material must have an Australian setting and should be no more than 6000 words.

- If you have previously submitted your work under the banner of the Immigration Project or the SOSE Project, we need to have your permission to use your stories in this Anthology.
- All final edits, including any previously sent, must be received by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.
- Permission to use must accompany all submissions in order to be considered for inclusion.
- It is considered that most, if not all, submissions will be included in the E-Book, but not all material may be suitable for the future lead-on proposals.

Submissions should be sent with The Great Aussie Jigsaw in the subject line to : [carindalewritersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:carindalewritersgroup@gmail.com)

## **DAWN'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANTHOLOGY SUBMISSIONS.**

I am happy to talk with anyone who has a question about format for your submission, but the following general rules may help. Please either email me or call my mobile 0419723381 (for the next couple of weeks) and then 38221214 after that.

- **IT DOES NOT MATTER** what type face you use
- **IT DOES NOT MATTER** what size font you use
- **IT DOES NOT MATTER** what margins you set
- **IT DOES NOT MATTER** what head and subhead styles you use

But please:

- **DO** be consistent with the use of capitals
- **DO** use single parenthesis ( ' ') for dialogue
- **DO** add an \*\*\* or similar to show where **you require** blank lines between paragraphs

And:

- **PLEASE DON'T** add tabs to indent text. I will automatically do it
- **PLEASE DON'T** add extra paragraph breaks
- **PLEASE DON'T** add extra line breaks
- **PLEASE DON'T** add page breaks
- **PLEASE DON'T** leave **unnecessary** blank lines between paragraphs
- **PLEASE DON'T** add more than one blank space between words (ie. after full-stops)
- **PLEASE DON'T** add headers or footers (no title names, author name or page numbers in a header or footer setting. I will add these in the same format throughout the book)
- **PLEASE DON'T** use American spelling.