



Carindale Writers' Group Meeting

8th April 2010

Start 9:30

Present: Jeff, Richard, Leslee Anne, Dorothy, Marjory, Judy, Brian, Wendy, Michael, Shirley, Dawn, Rebekah, Don, Chip, Gary, Lydia and a big welcome back to Bev

Apologies: Marilyn, Karen, Sandy S, Debby, Naomi, Heather

Absent: Io, Don, Len, Sandy E, Hilary, Liam, Kerry, Rolando, Annette, Melinda, Desley

Chaired by: Beverley Asmus

1. After a warm welcome back to our fearless leader Bev, we moved onto the business of the day.

- It was noted that Nick was doing a book signing in the city.
- It was agreed that in future guest speakers would be asked to speak for 20 minutes, followed by a 10 min Q&A session and that their brief should be to speak about their method of writing and publishing as opposed to the book etc they have written. In this way the group felt it would get more out of the discussion.
- Rebekah was asked to be our next guest speaker at the meeting on the 22nd April to conduct a 30 min workshop about methods for getting useful feedback. It was agreed that Rebekah would speak after morning tea at our next meeting so all could be present.
- Jeff has agreed to provide a short Treasurer's Report at one of the upcoming meetings to let us all know how we stand financially.

2. With the admin out of the way we moved onto the good part – our feature reader. This week Dorothy read Chapter 26 (Best Laid Plans go Astray) of her novel.

The chapter received very positive feedback including acclaim for Dorothy's use of humour to bring out the drama, use of dialogue to advance the story and her ability to build tension around the mother figure which puts a real edge on the story.

The group also felt the chapter would benefit from additional detail in such areas as the reference to the dead baby and the conversation between the two girls. Ensuring the story and storytelling remains in the style of that of a child was seen as vital and Bev mentioned the continual reference to seasons and suggested Dorothy reread the entire book to ensure this did not make a brilliant story sound in any way pretentious.

We all agreed, including Dorothy, that she should take her time and make the ending as enjoyable, detailed and well written as the rest of the book. We all look forward to the coming chapters.

3. Following Dorothy's reading we enjoyed another of Dorothy's treats – morning tea!

4. Next on the agenda was the presentation of the 'homework short stories'

- a. Michael read "The Dirty Ransom" which we all agreed should be the beginning of his next book, even though his frighteningly thorough research of the criminal mind did pose some questions.
- b. Dawn read a short piece aimed at putting the reader in a place. It is a tutorial/sample story that she hopes will help a friend of hers improve her memoirs which, by the way, are being typed up by Dawn.
- c. Judy stunned us all with her poetic abilities in a beautiful piece about Australia entitled "Home". We all agreed it had competition winning potential.
- d. Rebekah presented a chapter from her book, aimed at young adults, about an alternative reality and the emergence of wisdom and creativity. Rebekah explained the wonderful plot and exhibited her engaging writing style.
- e. Lydia read a piece called "The Light"
- f. Chip read us two pieces that followed the 7 sentences guideline (Natural Intoxication and Adrienne). Both very different topics but equally as good. Again potential for competition recognition.
- g. Bev was back in full swing and presented what could have been the longest seven sentences in the history of writing. A mind like that is wasted outside of reality TV – look out producers.
- h. Marjory read a moving and deep retrospective entitled Matty. Thank you.
- i. Gary prepared a short story entitled Persistence of Vision that was competently read by Bev. A lovely story that we are glad we heard despite Gary's reluctance.

Thanks to everyone for the myriad tales and creative insights. What a group!

5. The last treat of the day was a reading from Brian. He entertained us with a chapter from his novel Martin Moran

The piece was well written and read and everyone agreed it flowed well with the parts of the book presented to date. Brian was not satisfied with the chapter but was encouraged to take it in

context before passing judgement and perhaps consider additional plot items to compensate for perhaps considering less descriptive terminology related to the existing events in the chapter.

6. Final business

We locked Jeff in as the next guest reader (no escape Jeff) and set the next short story topic.

7. Writing topic for next meeting

The next topic/challenge is: Write something humorous, ironic or satirical or refer to a rebuke or well known rebuttal.

REMEMBER: Max 500 words and if you can keep to the topic you get extras at morning tea!

Have fun and see you all on the 22nd April.

Chip's Computer Tips

Renaming files

Has this ever happened to you? In your haste to save, say, a Word document, you give it the wrong name or introduce a typo in the filename. Happens to me more often than I care to admit.

Obviously you can open up Windows Explorer, find your file, and rename it the old-fashioned way. But there are two quicker, easier options, both of which let you stay inside the program you're already using:

1. Click *File, Save As*, and save the document again using the correct name. You'll now have a second copy of the document, but that's no big deal--you can always delete the first one with the mistake later.
2. Close the document. Then click *File, Open*, navigate to the incorrectly named file, right-click it, and choose *Rename*. Type in your new name, press **Enter**, and you're done. You can then open the file using its corrected name.

Take a look at FileHippo.com. It has dozen of useful free applications in neat categories to choose from.. Under Browsers and and Plug-ins, you will find the latest Firefox or Explorer, Opera, too. It also offers just the updates, too, if you want to check your browser version.

You might also want to keep an anti-malware in some folder. They all small size and fast to download. Two you should have are HijackThis and RootkitRevealers. One CWG member recently






had a virus that kept appearing—it got past his AV program and try as he may to clear it, a fake message went out with every email he sent. He downloaded and ran HijackThis. Cleaned it right up.

Word processors, AV players, CD burning tools, messaging, photos and images applications are a few of the other categories. Some, of course, are free cut-down versions of pay-for programs, but are still useful. One application a lot of users don't think of is drivers. Drivers are little programs your operating system needs to run an application. If you have a new operating system, you need to update the drivers of all the old applications you are. For example, Adobe Reader 7 may not work on Windows 7, so you put in Adobe Reader 9, which will. When you do this you have updated the driver. To make sure you see all the graphics on an Internet site, get the latest DirectX version from Microsoft at the FileHippo website.

If you have some program or file you can't open, you are likely to find a small program that will open it for you.


Below are a few frames I lifted from the site. Give them a go!
Chip

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- [Thunderbird 3.0.4](#)
- [Trillian Astra 4.1.0.24](#)
- [Windows Live Messenger 2009 \(14.0.8089\)](#)
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File Transfer

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