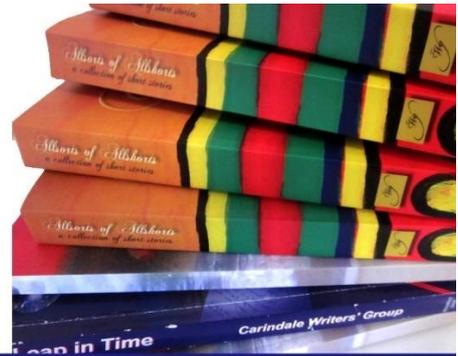


**Carindale Writers' Group**

[www.carindalewritersgroup.org](http://www.carindalewritersgroup.org)



*... providing encouragement through sharing and discussion*

[carindalewritersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:carindalewritersgroup@gmail.com)

## Carindale Writers Group meeting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 Carindale Library 9.30am – noon

**Present:** Bev Parminter, Claire Austin, Debby Raymond, Diane Clarke, Hazel Barker, John Jukes, Mary Calligeros.

**Apologies:** Dave Shellshear, Inda Zabri, Leigh Robinson, Tony Tabrett, Tracey Dunn.

### Featured writer Mary Calligeros

*Chapter 1 of Mary's memoir describes the family's original homeland in Greece, and the reasons for their emigration to Australia.*

The warmth of this very detailed piece came through with its love and respect for the past. So many people were mentioned that to include a family tree would be helpful. Translate foreign words just the first time. A lot of repetition could be avoided by the use of pronouns, despite which this was a well-written piece, even poetic at times. However, the conflict or excitement required to engage a reader's attention didn't happen. The chapter contains a lot of 'back story' that should be broken up and fed to the reader in small bites.

Lovely descriptive passages really painted the island, so visual it could be the basis for a movie. Would the author consider writing it in the third person? Best readability for sentence length is between 20 and 30 words. More than that and you lose your reader. Be aware of the over-use of commas.

More dialogue is needed to further invite the reader into the Greek family life. Identify the country the Greek émigrés are travelling to. Connect the end of the chapter a bit better; be clearer about whether it's a dream or not.

This is a story of the toil of survival, yet it's also a charming peace of tranquility and tradition. It can't be spoken as well as it is written, because of its placement and profusion of commas. The first paragraph was engaging but the amount of background delays the reader's introduction to the main character who needs to appear on the first page. Some kind of action also needs to occur to engage the reader. A strong connection is displayed with the writer's family, traditions and past but the repeated juxtaposition of Greek and English words disrupts the flow of story telling.

This beautifully written story, captivating from start to finish, describes the island's historical setting, natural beauty, dwellings and place names, as well as its cultural significance, accentuated by ancient Greek religious customs. Another key component of the story was the evolution of the Kytherian Association of Queensland. It shows how a successful transition has been made for those coming from a remote island in Greece to the Australian mainland, enabling Kytherians to grow in real life: spiritually, culturally, economically and materially.



### Featured writer Hazel Barker

*This episode is from Book IV of Hazel's memoir, and deals with a tragic time in the couple's early married life.*

Every story has a conflict or a villain. Here, it is Hazel's illness as dealt with by her doctors. The coma episode is related as a 'tell' which should be a 'show'. Coming in and out of consciousness was not emotionally explained, nor was her mum's sudden departure. Alternating chapters from each subject's point of view worked wonderfully together for expressing each one's grief. The paragraph detailing the funeral juxtaposed with the emerging spring was most evocative. The imagery of aligning nature to show Hazel's return to strength was excellent. Clarify 'in her eighth month' (an old-fashioned phrase), to add 'of her pregnancy'. Many repeated phrases could be removed.

It was good to present the husband's viewpoint. It's rare to get an insight into how a man feels when confronted with the loss of his baby and the potential loss of his young wife. The pathos was entirely justified though some sentences, one after the other each expressing the same emotion, could be deleted. It was an engaging story.

When the writer was in a coma she would not know, from her perspective, that she was 'tossing and turning with a vacuous mind'. Only other people would see her do this. It was good at the end to refer back to the beginning but something is required to sum up the time that passed more than just the residual cough. A very moving piece.

The writer should be congratulated for her courage in writing such a personal, challenging story. However, the interpretation of the same event from the perspective of both participants takes away from the urgency of the first telling.

"That which does not kill us makes us stronger" (Nietzsche): in the second chapter the theme of loss is expanded to include healing.

The opening paragraph is very dramatic, designed to quickly and easily capture attention, and with a sense of urgency in relating the story. Life is like a chess board with white and black squares, the white squares symbolising the good and happy side of life, and the black squares the dark side. Hence, why not start with a white square such as “our happiest of dreams began with our marriage in 1970”...etc. Then follows the black square (current opening paragraph) with its big bang picture of unexpected discoveries. Chapter 1 should conclude with a white square such as the writer’s remarkable recovery and determination to optimistically take hold of life.

The concluding paragraphs of chapter 2 are well structured, ending on a positive note. Overall, a very dramatic story told in a unique style with great flair and with most remarkable recollection.

### Today’s exercise *Burning*

Bev wrote *Burning in the Desert*

Hazel contributed *Fire*

John related his piece.

Next meeting Carindale Library

**Thursday 6th December**

9.30am – 12 noon

Next featured writers (2):

Leigh Robinson

Tracey Dunn

**Next exercise:** *Rage*

Suggested word count around 500 words.

Next meeting Holland Park Library

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

10.00am – 1pm

Next featured writers (3):

John Jukes

Leslee Anne Hewson

Inda Zabri

**Next exercise:** *Colour*

Suggested word count around 500 words.



### Author talk

Our very own Hazel Barker will give an author talk at Logan North Library on 10<sup>th</sup> November. To reserve a place (and to support Hazel) please contact Logan North Library, and see Hazel’s website <https://hazelmbarcker.wordpress.com>

## Anthology update

Anthology preparations are well in hand. We already have enough promised material to make up at least half the required word count. Closing date for submissions is 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019, giving you plenty of writing time. Hopefully the Christmas holidays will enthuse you to further edit and polish your suspenseful stories! A ‘dummy’ was passed around for members to get a sense of what our latest book will look like in size and shape.

## Christmas meeting

The last meeting of the year for Carindale Writers Group will take place at Holland Park library on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. All members are invited to come along, whether you normally attend meetings at Holland Park or Carindale. This is a ‘mix and mingle’ meeting, without featured writers or formal business. Every member is asked to bring a plate of food to share. If anyone has a trivia quiz or a humorous play reading to bring along, and other festive offerings for a bit of fun, please notify Dave or Debby in advance.

## Meetings next year

From next year onwards, meetings of Carindale Writers Group will be held only at Carindale Library. The meeting room is available from 9am to 12 noon.

Carindale Library staff have alerted us to the possibility of holding a second meeting per month—just some months—at Carindale library. We are waiting to hear from them if the third Thursday of the month is available, to keep with our current schedule.



Email	<a href="mailto:carindalewritersgroup@gmail.com">carindalewritersgroup@gmail.com</a>
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Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Carindalewritersgroup/">https://www.facebook.com/Carindalewritersgroup/</a>

Co-conveners	Dave Shellshear and Debby Raymond
Treasurer	Debby Raymond
Librarian	Dave Shellshear