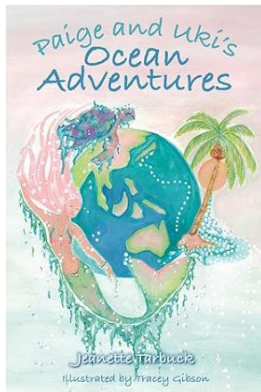


The Write Stuff

Monthly Newsletter of the Helensvale Writers Group – September 2024

This month: Rhianna Elton, Jan Tarbuck

Rhiannon Elton spoke at our group before, in [June last year](#). Her subject was of a general nature on how one becomes a successful author. (Hint: you must write every day!) as well as building a personal website. This time, her presentation will concentrate on **building a comfortable marketing platform**. “Comfortable Marketing”? Many of our members shrivel up when just thinking about terms such as marketing; all we want to do is to write our



stories and let “somebody else” (whoever that may be) take care of the rest. Well, here is your answer, calm down your anxiety. Be there!



How does one imagine what children want to imagine? Our very own resident children’s book author, **Jan (Jeanette) Tarbuck** will address this subject in her **Under the Spotlight** session. But it goes well beyond just publishing children’s books. They are good enough to get personal letters from high up, such as from QLD Education Minister Di Farmer, and – wait for it - from Buckingham Palace!

Oh, almost forgot: Grahame wants to have **a group photo of all the authors** to be published with the compilation of the Fear, Ghost and Serenity stories (see below), so make sure you put on your most colourful lipstick (*no mate, ladies only*) and wear a bright, unusual T-shirt!

Last month’s guest speaker: Janeen Vosper



A meeting with a difference last Thursday: About 17 (by my count) braced the shocking weather. Our convenor Grahame Moore spent only little time on his 'in the spotlight' segment on how to overcome writers block and quickly proceeded to announce the winners of his 'Fear' competition (see next story)

This was followed by a professional speaker, coach and trainer, **Janeen Vosper** (picture, with Grahame), on how to build your personal brand. Yes

people, you might be writers and artists, but you need to pay attention to your brand image. If people like your book, make sure that you can be found and recognised! Janeen condensed an entire day's seminar into one hour... You will find a lot of goodies, including a full online training course, on her website <https://janeenvosper.com/>. **Thank you, Janeen!** Much appreciate your sharing your expertise.

The winners of the Grahame Moore 'Fear' Challenge



(from left) Ralph Mayn (2nd), Selena Jane Budgen (1st), Ronaldo Rizzo (3rd) with Grahame Moore. Thank you Selena for sending me the picture that was taken with your camera.

For those who came in late: Grahame (our convenor) offered a handsome prize for entries to a 1000 word competition, open only to registered members of our group, on the theme of 'Fear'. A total of 25 entries were received, competing for the \$300 (1st) and \$200 (2nd) prizes. But Grahame decided that a 3rd prize was to be awarded - \$100. Thank , Grahame! Very generous indeed.

The next competition on the theme of 'Ghost' closed on Saturday 31st August. **Grahame will announce the winners at this month's meeting.**

And a final of the special series is on the theme of 'Serenity', due in November - see below.

The Grahame Moore 'Serenity' Challenge:

As foreshadowed, Grahame is again putting up two very **generous prizes of \$300 and \$200** respectively for first and second rank: Sme conditions as for the previous competitions apply:

1. The competition is **only open to registered members** of our group (if you received this newsletter via email, you are)
2. **Only one story** per member
3. **No Artificial Intelligence** software (e.g. Chat GPT etc. Yes, ve haf vays to detect 😊)
4. The story **must be on the topic of 'Serenity'** - your interpretation
5. It **must not exceed 1,000 words**, including its title
6. Stories must be submitted in **MS Word or Google Docs format** (not PDF). Please name the file **[name]-[title]** - for example 'John Smith - Noisy Serenity'
7. **Deadline is 5 pm, 24th November 2024 - no exceptions**
8. Stories to be submitted to this email address: helensvalewriters@gmail.com

Google says that the word "serenity", is the state of being calm, peaceful, and untroubled. Well, we await YOUR interpretation!

Compilation of all stories submitted into a book

All the stories (Fear, Ghost and Serenity) will be compiled into an A5 book. Grahame has arranged with [Clark & Mackay Publishers](#) and all authors will be presented with a free

copy at our Christmas party. Talking about 'limited edition' collector's item! Note: **authors will retain their copyright** of submitted stories.

Christmas Party on 12th December 2024

Grahame has booked the 'Glass Room' at the newly refurbished **Club Helensvale (Helensvale Bowls Club)**. It is right between the bistro and the bowling lanes. Its major attraction is that the entire room is enclosed in smoky glass, which provides an almost noise free environment, yet you can see out. (Yes, you'll be able to hear and understand what the person next to you says!). Lunch (main course and dessert) will be served, drinks can be purchased at the bistro bar. The event is **free of charge for members**; partners and guests are cordially invited for a very low cost of just **\$40.00 per person**. Put it into your diary now - more details in next month's newsletter.

What else happened?

OK, I might as well own up to it: There was much more, but your newsletter editor got so much caught up in the reading out of the Fear competition entries, as well as individual people's accounts of their recent experiences that I forgot to take notes... Sorry folks, you should have been there!

Can you improve on that?

How is that for the opening paragraph of a novel. **I challenge you: can you stop reading?**

This is how it feels when you realise your child is missing: The pit of your stomach freezes fast, while your legs go to jelly. There's one single, blue-bass thud of your heart. The shape of her name, sharp as metal filings, gets caught between your teeth even as you try to force it out in a shout. Fear breathes like a monster in your ear... **Jodi Piccoult - Tenth Circle**

Upcoming Writers Competitions

- Helensvale Writers Group (that's us) - Grahame Moore competition 'Serenity.** In celebration of his birthday (was towards the end of August). Submissions **close on 24th November 2024**. See details above.
- 2024 Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing.** Various sizeable prizes, including for non-fiction. 'Emerging Authors', Poetry. [Click here for details](#). **Closes 27th September 2024.**
- There are another 280 (last time I looked) competitions on [reedsy.com](https://www.reedsy.com) – There must be one or two that suit you!

See you at this month's meeting on **19th September 2024**. Usual time, 10 am - 12:30 pm, location: ground floor meeting room at Helensvale Library.

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I'm going to write a book about all the things I should have done in my life.

I'm going to call it my

Oughtabiography.

