



# THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

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A Publication of  
The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.  
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## Welcome from the Editor

Last meeting we had a very interesting talk by the Document Detective, Vicki Wilson is a researcher who works at The State Archives at Kingswood and gave a talking about what is available at the State Archives.

This months meeting we have Lorraine Turtle from Turtle Transcription Agents, she will be talking about the new Web Site of the NSW BDMs.

Our May meeting the Guest Speaker will be Kim Phillips from the Spirit of Gallipoli Web Site. This meeting will be in conjunction with the National Trust Heritage Festival.

## **Camden Area Family History Society Inc. Research Room, Library/Museum Complex, John St. Camden**

The research room is open  
**Thursday 10:00am to 3:00pm**  
**Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm**  
**Saturday 9:30am to 12:00 noon**

**There is a charge of \$5.00 per session for non-members to use our  
resources,**

There is a volunteer on duty whenever the research room is open. They are only too happy to assist with any inquires.

**If you would like to volunteer to assist in the research room please contact the  
Library Co-ordinator Tony Jackson on 4655 1098 letting him know when you  
are available.**



*Happy Birthday  
To the following members  
For April 2015*

**10<sup>th</sup> Dawn Lotty**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sharon Greene**



## MEETINGS

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30pm in the Meeting Room of the Library/Museum Complex, John St. Camden.

To help cover the cost of supper there is a gold coin donation.

*Visitors most welcome.*

MEMBERSHIP  
SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Normal	Pensioners/Concession
Single \$25	Single \$20
Couple \$30	Couple \$25

## Upcoming Events;

**St. Mathews Cemetery** Transcription and Photographing of this cemetery will take place on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

**Heritage Festival 12<sup>th</sup> Apr to 26<sup>th</sup> May.** This year's theme is Conflict & Compassion; there are Event Guides available from the Library. CAFHS contribution will be at our May meeting, we will have Kim Phillips talking about the Spirit of Gallipoli Website.

**Shoalhaven Family Local and Cultural** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 9am to 4pm. The fair will be at the Nowra School of Arts

**NSW&ACT Association of Family History Societies 2015 State Conference.** 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September at Panthers - Port Macquarie, Early Bird registrations are now available on their web site

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmfhs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmfhs/). If you are booking online you will need to use the discount code to obtain the lower fee for member societies, which CAFHS is, of \$120.00, the code is PM2015.



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## **Cemetery Transcribing and Photographing**

We have now completed the first stage of checking with a number of corrections now completed. I have also been back and checked the numbering and took a number of photos due some being missed out this is now all but completed, I am starting on the index at the moment.

I would like to start on the second cemetery before I go away and I would like someone who would be willing to organise to work on one of the other cemeteries whilst I am away, probably Cawdor, anyone interested.

The only day I have available to do the St. Mathews Church The Oaks cemetery is on the 11<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 8.00am as before so as to get through it before it gets to hot, let me know if you are interested.

Tony Jackson

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## **Book Reviews**

**The Peculiar Case of the Electric Constable.** London, Oneworld Publications, 2013. (Carol Baxter)

This book proved a fascinating read. When Carol Baxter was writing a history of her first fleet ancestors, the name of John Tawell cropped up. When researching this person she learned that John was a Quaker who was convicted of forgery, transported to Sydney, and where he opened Australia's first pharmacy and made a fortune . When he returned to England after 15 years he joined his wife and family. However, the story becomes even more bizarre when John in 1845, is convicted of poisoning his mistress and after a trial, was hanged. This is truly "a delicious true tale of murder and scientific revolution in Victorian England". Available at Camden Library at 364.152/BAX

**Across Great Divides.** Glenbrook, NSW, Birrong Books, 2013 (Susan E. Boyer).

True stories of life at Sydney Cove during early settlement. When I am researching my family history, I have come across some family that were part of the first settlement in Sydney Harbour. What was life like in the early settlement? This book addresses the social issues of this convict and military settlement, but



also looks at the interaction with the aborigines. The stories are true and vividly capture the struggle of the early years. Recommended reading to people who want to know more about the fascinating and remarkable of the human experience on the Australian continent. Available from Carol Baxter at \$26.95 or your local bookshop or library.

**The Spirits of Gallipoli: A Centenary of Anzacs.** North Ryde, Rawson Graphics, 2015 (Kim Phillips).

This book tells the story of 100 brave Australian soldiers who lost their lives in the Gallipoli campaign. Chapter One covers the landing and the battle, followed by the lives of 9 soldiers (with pictures and family details), who died on 25 April, 100 years ago. Further chapters cover the months of 1915 from May to December 2015, when 3 soldiers die in December 1915. The book is well illustrated with photos of soldiers, places, gravestones, memorials and maps. The back cover holds a CD which lists and honours the 7,249 Australian soldiers commemorated at Gallipoli. The forward of the book states “ Kim Phillips’ devoted work in collecting all the valuable information of these great hearted men has been itself truly heroic, and *The Spirits of Gallipoli: A Centenary of Anzacs* will prove an invaluable tool for present and future researchers.” I bought my copy, hot off the press at the Penrith Library Conference on 14 March 2015. A bargain at \$50, especially when you consider all the work that has gone into its production.

**All the Way To the USA: Australian WW11 War Brides.** by Robyn Arrowsmith. 2013.

This book was shown to me by Del Clinton at the last Family History meeting. The book told a wonderful heart-warming story about the many (15,000) women who married American servicemen. As Bob Bach commented in the Newsletter of the US 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (Feb 2014 )”Robyn Arrowsmith turned a doctorate thesis into a fascinating story of courageous women, who grabbed life by the seat of the pants and made a go of it . I must recommend this book to all who want to learn about love, hardship, bravery, strength and endurance. All came in a single beautiful package that was the Australian War Bride.”

Robyn’s own story is a fascinating one. A great read, Highly recommended.