CAROL BAXTER

About Carol

Pursuing thieves and murderers through the ages is just an average day for the history detective, Carol Baxter. Like Dr Who, she hunts ordinary individuals who unwittingly had such an extraordinary impact on their world that the consequences changed the course of history. Then she brings their stories to life in her works of "popular history": *An Irresistible Temptation* (2006), *Breaking the Bank* (2008), *Captain Thunderbolt and his Lady* (2011), *The Peculiar Case of the Electric Constable* (published internationally in 2013), and *The Lucretia Borgia of Botany Bay* (2014). In *Writing Interesting Family Histories* (2009 & 2010), Carol endeavours to help genealogists bring their own family histories to life. Carol is also the editor of seven volumes of early colonial transcriptions, a Fellow of the Society of Australian Genealogists, and an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of New England.

By the Congress, Carol will have another four 'how to' books published: *Help! Historical and Genealogical Truth: How do I separate fact from fiction?*; *Help! How do I trace my convict ancestors?*; *Help! Why can't I find my ancestor's surname?*; and *Publishing Interesting Family Histories*. Her fifth popular history, *The Lucretia Borgia of Botany Bay*, will also be available.

Her topics

Help! Why can't I find my ancestor's surname? Understanding the sounds and letters of surnames
Beginner

Surnames are the historical life-lines that link generations of families together. Yet most family historians struggle at some point to find an ancestor's surname because they know little about the speech and language side of surnames. This seminar focuses upon the pronunciation and writing of surnames along with problems associated with mis-pronunciation, mis-articulation, mis-hearing, mis-writing, mis-spelling, mis-transcribing, mis-indexing and mis-coding (Soundex and so on).

Help! Which information is correct? Tried-and-true strategies for determining historical truth
Beginner

How do we determine "truth" when two pieces of historical information contradict each other? During decades of research, Carol Baxter had to develop strategies for determining historical truth that produced results so reliable they would withstand strident criticism. In this seminar, she teaches the strategies she uses to separate fact from myth, truth from mistruth.