

# Doctor Ian Willis

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Staff, School of Humanities and Social Inquiry

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Blog: [camdenhistorynotes.com](https://camdenhistorynotes.com)

## Experience

### Academic Appointments

Honorary Fellow, School of Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong 2010-present

## Education

### Degrees

PhD University of Wollongong 2004

## Publications

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2021). History, No 148, June 2021. *History*, (148). Retrieved from <https://www.rahs.org.au/discover-new-south-wales-history/publications/>  
Willis, I. (2021). The Bells of Sydney's St James' Church Ring Out. *History*, (148), 7-10. Retrieved from <https://www.rahs.org.au/discover-new-south-wales-history/publications/>

**Title:** Spring Farm rural to residential

**Abstract:** Spring Farm is one of the newer suburbs in 2006, the population was 287, but in recent years it has become one of the fastest growing areas made up of a mix including families and investors. It now also has its own public school.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 21 May 2021

**Volume:** 24

**Issue:** 9

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <https://www.tdr.com.au/>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Record created at source:** 5 June 2021

Willis, I. (2021). Local Newspapers and a Regional Setting in NSW. ISAA Annual General Meeting Online. Retrieved from [https://scholars.uow.edu.au/display/ian\\_willis](https://scholars.uow.edu.au/display/ian_willis)

**Title:** Macarthur Women in Business  
**Abstract:** Women have made an important contribution to the economy of the Macarthur region. Many of their stories have remained in the shadows.  
**Authors:** Willis I  
**Date of publication:** 19 May 2021  
**Publisher:** Smarter Macarthur B2B Magazine  
**Publisher URL:** <https://www.smartermacarthur.com.au/macarthur-women-in-business/>  
**Place of publication:** Narellan NSW  
**Publication status:** Published  
**Journal title:** Smarter Macarthur B2B Magazine  
**Record created at source:** 21 May 2021

Willis, I. (2021). *Camden Edwardian Cottages*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2021/05/18/camden-edwardian-cottages/>

**Title:** Funny Little Dunny Controversy  
**Abstract:** In the backyard of an historic cottage at 80 John Street there is a funny little dunny that dates from the 1890s. In 2011 it created a great deal of fuss when there was a proposal for a two-storey development at the rear of the cottage site and the demolition of the dunny for parking.  
**Authors:** Willis I  
**Date of publication:** 7 May 2021  
**Volume:** 24  
**Issue:** 8  
**Pagination:** 16  
**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications  
**Publisher URL:** <https://www.tdr.com.au/>  
**Place of publication:** Camden NSW  
**Publication status:** Published  
**Journal title:** The District Reporter  
**Record created at source:** 5 June 2021

Willis, I. (2021). *Motherhood and nation-building in the early 20th century*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/>

Willis, I. (2021). *A funny little dunny draws controversy*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/>

Willis, I. (2021). *Hard-bitten local newspaper identities*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2021/04/23/macarthur-regional-newspaper-history/>

Willis, I. (2021). *New exhibition at Alan Baker Art Gallery*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/>

**Title:** Bush carpentry became a craft  
**Abstract:** Carpentry was an essential craft in all communities and has been practised for centuries. In the Camden area, the traditional trade of carpentry as it was practised had a variety of forms. Traditional trades were part of the process of settler colonialism on the colonial frontier in the Cowpastures.  
**Authors:** Willis I  
**Date of publication:** 9 April 2021  
**Volume:** 24  
**Issue:** 07  
**Pagination:** 16  
**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications  
**Publisher URL:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pmozibtppqf51ok/tdr2407.pdf?dl=0>  
**Place of publication:** Camden NSW  
**Publication status:** Published  
**Journal title:** The District Reporter  
**Record created at source:** 19 May 2021

**Title:** Crazy Colourful Koalas on the prowl

**Abstract:** Prowling crazy colourful koalas are on the loose in the Australian Botanic Gardens in Mount Annan. The cute onemetre- high fibreglass sculptures, called Hello Koalas, are loose across the garden landscape. They are a sight to behold after being a hit at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney in 2019. The artworks are part of the Hello Koalas Sculpture Trail, jointly hosted by The Australian Botanic Garden (ABG), Mount Annan and Campbelltown City Council that will be around until April 30,

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 9 April 2021

**Volume:** 24

**Issue:** 07

**Pagination:** 11

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pmozibtppqf51ok/tdr2407.pdf?dl=0>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Record created at source:** 19 May 2021

Willis, I. (2021). *The enduring appeal of a rural pageant*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2021/04/06/miss-camden-showgirl/>

Willis, I. (2021). *Camden's carpenters*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/>

Willis, I. (2021). *Camden's heritage inventory*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2021/03/28/camdens-heritage-inventory/>

Willis, I. (2021). *Narellan 'Gayline' Drive-In Movie Theatre*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2021/03/26/narellan-gayline-drive-in-theatre/>

**Title:** A grand exhibit for a pandemic

**Abstract:** This time of the year usually is show week in Camden when the festival rolls into town. 2021 is a bit different. Not normal at all. In the middle of a pandemic, there is no show for the second year in a row. That has not stopped the Camden Show Society from getting into action and the spirit of the event for its recent Sponsors' Night.. Camden Show committee member Jason Sharpe provided a taste of the show with a colourful temporary display at the recent event which had a good turnout.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 26 March 2021

**Volume:** 24

**Issue:** 06

**Pagination:** 5

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/rgb315h2g4crbk0/tdr2406.pdf?dl=0>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Record created at source:** 19 May 2021

Willis, I. (2021). *Camden Show Sponsors' Night*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2021/03/23/camden-show-sponsors-night/>

Willis, I. (2021). *Bottled milk and hygienic dairies: agricultural modernism*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/>

Willis, I. (2021). Camden History v5 n1. *Camden History*, 5(1), 1-45. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/chsjournal.html>

**Title:** Local captured in Fall of Singapore

**Abstract:** The Fall of Singapore in February 1942 was a disastrous military defeat for the British Imperial forces and a defining point of the Second World War for Camden.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 26 February 2021

**Volume:** 24

**Issue:** 04

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/a2soetxute4syni/tdr2404.pdf?dl=0>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Record created at source:** 19 May 2021

Willis, I. (2021). *Fall of Singapore and the Camden response*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/>

**Title:** Conservatism and the Flapper

**Abstract:** Flappers of the 1920s were young women known for their energetic freedom, embracing a lifestyle viewed by many at the time as outrageous, immoral or downright dangerous," describes the History.com website. If you read the pages of the Camden News you might have agreed. In 1920 the Camden News reported "flappers" were "running wild" on the streets of Sydney, or so it seemed to the casual reader.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 15 January 2021

**Volume:** 24

**Issue:** 01

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/xrmi74lewf24261/tdr2401.pdf?dl=0>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Record created at source:** 19 May 2021

Willis, I. (2021). *The Bulls are loose on the paddock – football and Macarthur regionalism*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/2021/01/09/football-and-macarthur-regionalism/>

Willis, I. (2021). Local Newspapers and a Regional Setting in New South Wales: Parochialism, mythmaking and identity.. *Media History*, 27(2), 197-209. doi:[10.1080/13688804.2020.1833710](https://doi.org/10.1080/13688804.2020.1833710)

Willis, I. (2020). *The Camden News affronted by Sydney 'flappers' and the appearance of the modern girl*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.com/>

**Title:** Mural dedicated to Camden's early days

**Abstract:** One of the most important pieces of public art in the Macarthur region is the Camden Pioneer Mural. The mural is located on the corner of the Old Hume Highway and Menangle Road, adjacent to Camden Hospital. Thousands of people pass by the mural and few know its story. Public

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 4 December 2020

**Volume:** 23

**Issue:** 21

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/rzed3neqxyyb6b/tdr2321.pdf?dl=0>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Record created at source:** 19 May 2021

Willis, I. (2020). Red Cross humanitarianism and female volunteers in Australia. *Hektoen International Journal*, Winter(2020). Retrieved from <https://hekint.org/>

**Title:** Social distancing of yesteryears

**Abstract:** COVID 19 has caused the introduction of washing hand and social distancing of 1.5 metres for the first

time. Or is it the first time? Well no, it is not the first time. It is an interesting proposition to note that the past is bound to

repeat itself. This is certainly the case with this pandemic.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2020

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2308.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Iconic council buildings were built on hope

**Abstract:** Hope and optimism were behind the construction, 18 years apart, of the two iconic buildings that make up the Campbelltown Council administration headquarters, writes local historian IAN WILLIS:

In 1964, the Campbelltown-Ingleburn News (which local shortened to CI News) ran a banner headline on its front page, Symbol of Progress, over a story about the opening of a new council administration building as part of a proposed civic centre precinct in the town centre.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2020

**Publisher:** South West Voice

**Publisher URL:** <https://southwestvoice.com.au/iconic-council-buildings/>

**Place of publication:** Campbelltown NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** South West Voice

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2020). Camden History Journal vol 4 no 10. *Unknown Journal*, 4. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/chsjournal.html>

**Title:** The trainee teachers' mystery of 1924

**Abstract:** Recently Peter Hammond posted an intriguing photograph taken at the Camden Showground on the Camden Museum Facebook page. It

showed a large group of young men and women who were identified as trainee teachers from Sydney Teachers College. Camden resident Peter Hammond asked on the Camden Museum Facebook page: Any idea why they were in Camden? A quick search of the Camden News on Trove revealed that in May 1924 there was indeed

a camp of trainee teachers who stayed at the Camden Agricultural Hall in Onslow Park.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2020

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2304.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Airs shopping centre demolition symbolic of planning failures

**Abstract:** The imminent demolition of the Airs shopping mall, writes local historian and author IAN WILLIS, is a sad indictment of the dreams of many and the ultimate demise of the 1970s Macarthur Growth Centre project.

The shopping mall is an example of urban decay in the middle of our local suburbia.

It is a failure of modernism and the town planning utopia of city-based decision-makers.

The decay at Airs is not unusual and is symbolic of larger trends in global retailing.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2020

**Pagination:** 5 pages

**Publisher:** South West Voice

**Publisher URL:** <https://southwestvoice.com.au/airds-3/>

**Place of publication:** Campbelltown

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** South West Voice

**Title:** History will record how Camden adapted to a modern pandemic

**Abstract:** With more restrictions being lifted or eased as a result of COVID 19 - many believe we are now living the new normal. These are interesting times and local historian Ian Willis has an idea how this period will be remembered in the annals of history and what will be learned in the future.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2020

**Pagination:** 7

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2308.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2020). Camden History v4 n9. *Unknown Journal*, 4. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/chsjournal.html>

**Title:** Macarthur Bridge built to connect Camden

**Abstract:** The Macarthur Bridge across the Nepean River is one of the most important pieces of economic and social infrastructure in the Macarthur area. The bridge can also be regarded as one of the most items of engineering heritage in the Camden local government area. The bridge provides a high-level flood free crossing of the Nepean River which can isolate the township of Camden when the numerous low-level bridges of Cowpasture Bridge (Camden), the Cobbitty Bridge and the Menangle Bridge are flooded.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2020

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2301.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Knitting socks was a patriotic act

**Abstract:** During the First World War there was considerable fuss over socks. Not just any ordinary socks but hand-knitted socks. Camden women hand-knitted hundreds of pairs of socks. So what was going on? As it turns out there was a good reason for all the fuss. Soldiers on the Western Front suffered in terrible conditions in the trenches. They were constantly wet and cold. In winter the temperatures were freezing.

Soldiers wore stiff leather boots that were poorly insulated with two pairs of socks in freezing winter conditions to keep out the cold and wet.

Authorities recommended that troops change their socks twice a day to avoid trench feet. Reports from New Zealand maintained in 1915 that "a pair of socks lasted no more than two weeks when on active service." So it was unsurprising that there was a constant shortage of socks.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2020

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2305.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Camden's own tram the Pansy

**Abstract:** One of the most popular memories of the Camden area by locals and visitors alike is the Camden tram, affectionately known as 'Pansy'. It has always had an enthusiastic bunch of supporters. They positively drool about it and overlook its foibles. Old timers tell and retell Pansy stories to anyone who wants to listen. Fans gloss over its short comings. All the stories are laced with a pinch of nostalgia and a touch of the romantic. It was a vital part of local life. So why does this old locomotive conjure up such a strident bunch of supporters?

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2219.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Architecture in the interwar years

**Abstract:** Interwar Camden has a direct connection to a noted architect of Interwar Sydney and its architecture.

Aaron Bolot, a Crimean refugee, was raised in Brisbane and worked for a time with Walter Burley Griffin in the 1930s. He designed the 1936 brick extensions on the front of the 1890s drill hall at the Camden showground. At the time he worked for Sydney architect, EC Pitt, who supervised construction of the new showground grandstand in 1936 and agricultural

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2224.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** The versatility of the Nepean River

**Abstract:** The Nepean River is one of the most important waterways in the Sydney basin and has particular significance

for Sydney's southwestern rural-urban fringe. The river's catchment extends south and east of the Sydney Basin to take in areas near Robertson and Goulburn. The Nepean River is economically important to the Sydney Basin and is used for mining, irrigation, recreation and other activities.

It is ecologically significant to the area and has a number of rare and endangered species of plants

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter



**Title:** Formidable women of Camden

**Abstract:** On International Women's Day in 2019 it worthwhile to reflect on some of Camden's prominent women

over the decades - they were elite women; formidable figures and matriarchs in their own right. They left their mark on the community.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2208.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** A little black cocktail fantasy

**Abstract:** This little black dress dating from the 1920s is an attractive item from the Camden Museum dress collection. The 1920s was a period of cultural change after the First World War destroyed the old European orders and women discovered a new sense of freedom. The little black dress is a cocktail outfit and dates from the mid-to-late 1920s and drew its inspiration from the styles of the period including the chemis and flapper designs.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2216.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** A colonial diarist of the Cowpastures

**Abstract:** In 1854 Charles Tompson described that the 'village of Camden' had 'the aspect and the attributes of an English village' in a new book that has been released 'Camden, Through the Poet's Eyes, Charles Tompson Jnr'. In doing so he was probably the first European to describe Camden's Englishness, an attribute that numerous writers have agreed with, particularly in the early 20th century. Tompson was not the first to note the Englishness of the Cowpasture district. That privilege belonged to John Hawdon in 1828.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2227.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2019). History: Magazine of the Royal Australian Historical Society. *Unknown Journal*, 139.

Retrieved from <https://www.rahs.org.au/discover-new-south-wales-history/publications/>

**Title:** The valley: A lost Gothic fantasy

**Abstract:** The Burraborang Valley is one of those lost places that people fondly remember from the past.

A place of the imagination and dreaming where former residents fondly retell stories from their youth. These places create powerful memories and nostalgia for many people and continue to be places of interest. They are localities of myths and legends and imminent danger yet at the same time places of incredible beauty.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2222.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Community bands hit the right note

**Abstract:** Camden has a long heritage of bands and musical groups in the local community. Playing music has been one of the longest surviving voluntary sector activities in the town. Banding in the Camden area has a rich history of involvement by amateur musicians who held a variety of paid-day jobs. These folk contributed a large number of hours at community concerts, military parades, remembrance ceremonies, fetes, garden parties, and a host of other community events.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2019

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2223.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2019). *Current Research Notes: Going to London*. Professional Historians Association (ACT & NSW).

Retrieved from <http://www.phansw.org.au/current-research-notes-going-to-london/>

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2018). Camden History Journal vol4, no6, Sept 2018. *Unknown Journal*, 4. Retrieved from

[http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/2018%20September\\_CamdenHistoryJournal.pdf](http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/2018%20September_CamdenHistoryJournal.pdf)

Willis, I. (2018). Elizabeth Macarthur A Life At the Edge of the World. (pp. 12). Camden NSW: Wombaroo Publications. Retrieved from <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2113.pdf>

Willis, I. (2018). Richlands, an outpost of a colonial farming empire. *The District reporter*, 3 August, 16.

Retrieved from <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2116.pdf>

**Title:** Lost cultural icons and place making

**Abstract:** On Sydney's urban fringe the landscape is one of loss, where both Indigenous people and Europeans alike have been dispossessed of their territory and memories. Yet paradoxically these same localities are sites for place-making in the recently created suburbs of Oran Park and Catherine Park where residents come to build a new life.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2018

**Pagination:** 2 pages

**Publisher:** Professional Historians Australia

**Publisher URL:** <https://www.historians.org.au/historia-newsletter/>

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** Historia Issue 23 March 2018

Willis, I. (2018). *Local museums – a trusted source*. Independent Scholars Association of Australia. Retrieved from <http://www.isaa.org.au/blog/local-museums--a-trusted-source-->

**Title:** Narellan Army Camp in WW2

**Abstract:** Once the army moved into Narellan Military Camp it commenced operation and became part of the wartime scene during WW2. Men were seen marching all over the district, there were mock raids and the men practiced firing small arms. The camp is an important part of the story of Narellan during war as thousands of men, and some women, moved through the camp on their way to somewhere in the theatre that was the Second World War.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2018

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2106.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2018). Utopia or Dystopia: A Contested Space on Sydney's Urban Frontier. In *Remaking cities urban history planning history Proceedings of the 14th Australasian Urban History Planning History Conference 2018* (pp. 557-567). Melbourne: Australasian Urban History Planning History Group and the RMIT Centre for Urban Research. Retrieved from <https://cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus/s/g0FtJzRx3H5vSTb#pdfviewer>

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2018). Camden History: Journal of the Camden Historical Society. *Unknown Journal, Vol. 4, No. 5, March 2018*. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/chsjournal.html>

**Title:** 1918 Australia Day was a major fund raiser  
**Abstract:** In early 1918 Camden Red Cross workers supported the national Australia Day appeal, which aimed "to relieve the sufferings of Australia's men who are suffering that Australia shall be free". (Camden News April 18, 1918) Camden mayor George Furner called a public meeting on March 23 of the Camden Red Cross sewing circle.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2018

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2109.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Vital work of netting volunteers

**Abstract:** The Camden CWA camouflage netting centre was assisted by sub-branches at Campbelltown and Narellan, which were established after the joint CWA-WVS meeting in December 1941. Making netting was one of the important wartime activities of the NSW Country Womens Association across the state. CWA volunteers recalled that they were doing their bit for the war effort while the men were away at the front. Women felt that they were doing their duty for the country.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2018

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2111.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Despite the doom and gloom in Australian media, the outlook for regional papers remains strong

**Abstract:** Is the "local rag" doomed under the Nine-Fairfax merger and the re-shaping of the Australian media landscape?

Does the creation of the new media-entertainment conglomerate threaten the very existence of the local newspaper?

Media commentary has justifiably questioned the continuation of quality journalism and editorial independence of the metropolitan dailies in Sydney and Melbourne. Yet there has been a silence on the threat to small country and suburban mastheads.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2018

**Volume:** 7 August

**Pagination:** 1-6

**Publisher:** The Conversation Media Group

**Publisher URL:** <http://theconversation.com/>

**Place of publication:** Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The Conversation

**ISSN:** 2201-5639

- Willis, I. (2018). *Creating a wartime record*. PHA (NSW & ACT). Retrieved from <http://www.phansw.org.au/creating-a-wartime-record/>
- Willis, I. (2017). *The Cowpastures, just like an English landscape*. Narellan, Australia.
- Willis, I. (2017). Address 60th Anniversary Meeting of the Camden Historical Society.
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- Willis, I. (2017). *Greens Motorcade Museum Park Leppington*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

**Title:** Wedding unites colonial families

**Abstract:** In late August 1928 two Camden colonial families celebrated the marriage of Keith Whiteman to Alice Margaret (Marge) McIntosh. This was an important local wedding between two local families of some importance and social status. The McIntoshes conducted a very successful dairy operation on the family property of Denbigh at Cobbitty, while the Whiteman family were successful Camden retailers.

The wedding ceremony was a relatively small country wedding of 60 guests given the social profile and economic position of both families. It was held in the historic setting of St Pauls Anglican Church at Cobbitty. St Pauls was the centre of village of Cobbitty and an expression of its Englishness, which was typical of a number of villages across the Camden District.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2038.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** The soul of a country town, it's historic church St John's

**Abstract:** On the hill overlooking the Camden town centre is a church building that represents the historic, moral and emotional heart of community. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the church represents the soul of the town, which was built below it on the Nepean River floodplain in the mid-19th century.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2010.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2017). *Camden History: Journal of the Camden Historical Society. Unknown Journal, Vol. 4, No. 3, March 2017*. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/index.html>

Willis, I. (2017). A new horizon on Sydney's urban frontier: the St Elmo land releases. *ISAA Review*, 16(1), 29-41. Retrieved from <http://www.isaa.org.au/isaa-review/>

**Title:** Convicts in the Cowpastures

**Abstract:** The story of European settlement in the Cowpastures is intimately connected to the story of the convicts and their masters. This story has not been told and there is little understanding of the role of the convicts in the Cowpastures district before 1840. Who were they? What did they do? Did they stay in the district?

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2009.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** The not-so-humble fibro cottage

**Abstract:** The humble fibro cottage of the 1950s and 1960s in Camden is an important part of the town's progress and development. The

fibro house is representative of the babyboomer era, when drive-ins, Holdens, Chiko rolls, black & white TV, rock & roll, vinyl

LPs were the norm. Camden has a number of different types of fibro buildings dating from the 1940s and 1960s.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Womabaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2018.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden, Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2017). New South Wales and the Great War [Book Review]. *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, 103(1), 102-103. Retrieved from

<https://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=911560663653596;res=IELAPA>

**Title:** Couples to families visited the 'Gayline'

**Abstract:** A notable part of Camden modernism that has disappeared is the drive-in movie theatre. The Narellan Gayline Drive-in Movie Theatre was one of the notable attractions in the local area between the 1960s and 1980s located on Morshead Road, Narellan (now Narellan Vale).

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Public ations

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2021.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** El Caballo Blanco, a forgotten past

**Abstract:** Catherine Fields once boasted a national tourist facility which attracted thousands of visitors a year to the local area, the El Caballo Blanco entertainment complex. The El Caballo Blanco complex opened in April 1979 at Catherine Fields. The main attraction was a theatrical horse show presented with Andalusian horses, which was held daily in the large 800-seat indoor arena. .

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2004.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden, Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2838>

**Title:** Banishment, transportation and a penal settlement

**Abstract:** On January 26, 1788 a group of sailing ships unloaded their human flotsam and jetsam in Sydney Cove. Amongst those who were landed were souls who were part of the dark story of banishment and exile that dates back to Roman times. The foundation of the Australian nation was just one part of a global story of forced human suffering that is still going on today.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2002.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden, Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2837>

**Title:** Menangle was once a private village

**Abstract:** The Menangle village parallels the ups and downs of English private estate villages. The story of the village is the story of Camden Park itself.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 3

**Publisher:** Sue & Brian Peacock

**Publisher URL:** [http://menangle.com.au/?page\\_id=749](http://menangle.com.au/?page_id=749)

**Place of publication:** Menangle, Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The Menangle News

Willis, I. (2017). *Convicts in the Cowpastures, an untold story*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

**Title:** The history of the Percival Wagon

**Abstract:** The Camden Percival Wagon is probably a Bennett construction and was placed in the forecourt area next to Macaria by the Camden Historical Society in 1977. Where it stayed until 2012. (Camden Historical Society). The wagon is likely to have been built at the Bennetts Wagon Works at St Marys which started in 1858 and eventually closed down in 1958.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2024.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Macarthur, by any other name

**Abstract:** The Macarthur region is an area made of the Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly local government areas and is a formal region with an arbitrary political boundary. The first official use of the term Macarthur as a regional place-name was the proclamation of the new Federal seat of Macarthur in 1949 after the 1948 re-distribution and the federal House of Representatives was increased from 75 to 122 members.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2026.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden, Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2017). *Camden Needs A Residential Heritage Style Guide*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

Willis, I. (2017). Silent Anzacs: Red Cross convalescent homes in NSW, 1914-1916. In *Entangled Histories: Australian Historical Association 36th Annual Conference Abstracts*. Newcastle, Australia. Retrieved from <http://www.aha2017.com.au/?pgid=1247>

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Willis, I. (2017). *Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens: an historical source*. Professional Historians Association (ACT & NSW). Retrieved from <http://www.phansw.org.au/sydneys-royal-botanic-gardens-an-historical-source/>

**Title:** Picton band hit the right note

**Abstract:** Well before radio - band music was a popular form of entertainment and Picton was no exception - the fledging town had its own brass band.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2017

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr2014.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter



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- Willis, I. (2016). *Movie making Camden style*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/2016/06/01/movie-making-camden-style/>
- Willis, I. (2016). *Illuminating local history*. Professional Historians Association (NSW &ACT). Retrieved from <http://www.phansw.org.au/illuminating-local-history/>

**Title:** Voluntary Aids at the Nerve Hospital

**Abstract:** In the days immediately following the First World War a group of women from The Oaks and Camden volunteered at Waley Nerve Hospital at Mowbray Park as part of the activities of the Camden and The Oaks Voluntary Aid Detachments.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2016

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1934.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2581>

Willis, I. (2016). *Elderslie, a suburb on Sydney's fringe*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

Willis, I. (2016). *Place making at Narellan NSW*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

Willis, I. (2016). *On the edge, settler colonialism on the Cumberland Plain*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

Willis, I. (2016). 'Just like England', a colonial settler landscape. *ISAA Review*, 15(2), 5-18. Retrieved from <http://www.isaa.org.au/isaa-review/>

**Title:** Flood free crossing via Macarthur Bridge

**Abstract:** One of the most important pieces of economic and social infrastructure in the Macarthur area is the Macarthur Bridge. The bridge is also one of the most significant pieces of engineering heritage in the Camden local government area. It provides a highlevel flood free crossing of the Nepean River which can isolate the township of Camden when the numerous low-level bridges in the area are flooded - the Cowpasture Bridge (Camden), the Cobbitty Bridge and the Menangle Bridge.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2016

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1948.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden, Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2835>

Willis, I. (2016). *Westies, Bogans and Yobbos. What's in a name?*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

Willis, I. (2016). *Ben Linden Narellan An Edwardian Gem*. Camden History Notes/Ian Willis. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

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Willis, I. (2016). *London women in the colonies*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/2016/05/11/book-review/>

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Willis, I. (2016). Camden: launch of a new regional newspaper. *Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter*, 90, 11. Retrieved from <http://www.amhd.info/anhg/index.php>

Willis, I. (2016). *Histories of the Red Cross*. PHA (NSW & ACT). Retrieved from <http://www.phansw.org.au/histories-of-the-red-cross/>

Willis, I. (2016). *Local history: a view from the bottom*. History Workshop. Retrieved from <http://www.historyworkshop.org.uk/local-history-a-view-from-the-bottom/>

Willis, I. (2016). *Menangle 'Little England' says Duchess of York*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

Willis, I. (2016). *Beulah and Sydney's urban sprawl*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

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- Willis, I. (2016). *Camden modernism*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/2016/07/24/camden-modernism/>

**Title:** Do you know what is under your feet?

**Abstract:** What is under your feet and totally ignored? What do you walk over every day? What is essential in an emergency? What provides access to essential utilities? The answer lies under our feet. What is it? Give up yet? The answer is the humble utility inspection cover. Utilities like electricity, water, gas, sewerage, communications and others are essential in any community. Camden has acquired the utilities as time has progressed over the past 150 years to the present. Argyle Street has a number of utilities buried beneath the street and footpaths. Their histories provide a valuable insight into the town's development and progress, particularly in the 20th century.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2016

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2641>

**Title:** Snapshots of the past

**Abstract:** When photography was still in its infancy it was used as a tool to capture moments that would become a chronology of the past for future generations. Here is a snapshot of special moments from the Perkins family album of Cawdor. Harold E. Perkins was a smallholder dairy farmer at Cawdor living on the family farm of Verdundale. One of his pastimes was photography.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2015

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2640>

**Title:** Cobbitty Sports Day benefited the war effort

**Abstract:** major event on the social calendar of a number of picturesque villages in the Camden district was the annual New Year's Day Sports Carnivals. They were part of the English traditions brought to the area by colonial immigrants, and in 1915 they were held in the villages of Cobbitty and The Oaks. Sports carnivals were wonderful community events that included all classes of villagers regardless of their station in life and during the First World War they held special appeal for patriotic fundraising. These social and cultural traditions were not isolated to the Camden district and have been held in many other parts of Australia.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2015

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2638>

**Title:** The early days of Elderslie

**Abstract:** In 1929 Madeline Buck the granddaughter of Elderslie pioneer James Hawdon published a series of letters written in 1828 to friends in England. Hawdon had lived in Elderslie for five years from 1828. Hawdon's letters surfaced in England in 1929 amongst old family papers and have many interesting insights into life in the early days of the colony.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2015

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhapapers/2639>

Willis, I. (2015). *Urban planning and community engagement: the historian's role*. Professional Historians Association (NSW &ACT). Retrieved from <http://www.phansw.org.au/>

**Title:** Camden's progress during the interwar years

**Abstract:** The interwar period in Camden was a time of development and progress driven the dairy industry and coal mining. Camden was one of the most important commercial and administrative centres between Sydney and Goulburn. The town was the centre of the police district, it had the regional hospital, it was the largest population centre and it was a transport node of a district which spread from Campbelltown to the lower Blue Mountains.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2015

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1808.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2015). *Making Camden History*. Camden History Notes/Ian Willis. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/2015/11/20/making-camden-history/>

Willis, I. (2015). 'Doing Their Bit', The Red Cross on the New South Wales Homefront During the First World War. *History*, (123 March), 3-5. Retrieved from <http://www.rahs.org.au/discover-new-south-wales-history/publications/>

**Title:** Lady Street supported the Red Cross

**Abstract:** The local Red Cross played an important role during the inter-war period and Camden also had its part. Ian Willis explains the connections that drew the influential to the area to support the cause. The Red Cross drew many important people to visit Camden during the interwar period. One of those was Lady Linda Street, a member of the Street family, a dynasty of important barristers and judges. Lady Belinda Street was part of the influential network of friends and contacts that formed the circle that swirled around the lives of the Enid and Sibella Macarthur Onslow of Camden Park that moved between London and New South Wales.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2015

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1844.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Hop in the car to the drive-in

**Abstract:** A notable part of Camden modernism that has disappeared is the drive-in movie theatre. The Narellan Gayline Drive-in Movie Theatre was one of the notable attractions in the local area between the 1960s and 1980s located on Moreshead Road Narellan (now Narellan Vale). Along with rock 'n roll, transistor radios, the bikini, the mini-skirt, it marked the lifestyle of the baby boomers. Always popular with teenagers and young families. The drive-in movie theatre was a defining moment in the district for a 20th century culture that was based around the icons of the period: cars and movies.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2015

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Publisher URL:** <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1829.pdf>

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2015). *Pictorial History Camden and District* (1 ed.). Alexandria, [New South Wales]: Kingsclear Books. Retrieved from <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Willis, I. (2015). *2015 Australian Historical Association conference overview*. Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT). Retrieved from <http://www.phansw.org.au/>

Willis, I. (2015). *Camden bibliography a biography of a country town*. Camden History Notes. Retrieved from <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/>

**Title:** Doing their patriotic and civic duty

**Abstract:** Camden netting volunteer, Elaine, remembered volunteering for duty at the Camden netting centre when she was 15 years old. She recalled that the netting effort was organised and supervised by Rita Tucker. She stated that she had left school and attended the centre on a weekly basis with a group of friends. Elaine maintained that Camden men "were away and we were doing our bit" for the war effort. She stated that Camden women "all had to do something to help our boys" and they took up netting as part of their civic and patriotic duty. Elaine reported that, for her, netting was not hard work and she enjoyed going with her friends. She maintained that they worked "long hours" and "didn't really worry about it".

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2014

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (May 30)

Willis, I. (2014). *Ministering Angels, The Camden District Red Cross, 1914-1945* (1 ed.). Camden: Camden Historical Society Inc.

**Title:** Camden CWA's role in the war effort

**Abstract:** The Camden Country Women's Association, formed in 1930, played an important role in wartime Camden between 1939 and 1945. The branch undertook a number of roles under the direction of its wartime president Mrs MS (Rita) Tucker. Mrs Tucker was a lifelong member of the CWA and its president from 1939 until her death in 1961. She was driven by community service as were most of the Camden women that worked for the home-front war effort.

Mrs Tucker was a foundation

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2014

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (April 25)

Willis, I. (2014). Interwar journeys to a country town. *History Magazine*, (September), 12-14. Retrieved from <http://www.rahs.org.au/publications/history-magazine/>

Willis, I. (2014). Camden CWA leads way in wartime. *The District Reporter* (16 May), 17(18), 16. Retrieved from <http://www.tdr.com.au/online/342-16052014>

**Title:** Community got behind net making

**Abstract:** During the Second World War the Camden Country Women's Association were not the only community organisation to make camouflage nets in Camden. In May 1941 the Camden Women's Voluntary Services established a separate netting centre on the suggestion of Sibella Macarthur Onslow, to supply nets to the National Defence League. On one of the few occasions she attended a WVS meeting, Macarthur Onslow outlined a variety of war work that could be undertaken by the women and suggested forming a netting class. She had an immediate response from 10 volunteers who were members of the Camden WVS, Camden CWA, the Camden Red Cross and the Camden District Hospital Women's Auxiliary.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2014

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (May 9)

**Title:** Shortage of wartime CWA volunteers

**Abstract:** The Country Women's Association (CWA) netting centre always relied on a small, but dedicated band of volunteers, and Una Swan always maintained that there was a constant need for volunteers. She often appealed for volunteers at the CWA meetings and in the Camden press. This shortage was made worse in August 1941 when some members of the CWA felt that they were unable to attend the centre because of petrol rationing.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2014

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (May 23)

**Title:** CWA's patriotic net making

**Abstract:** The main wartime activity undertaken by the Camden CWA during the Second World War was making camouflage nets for the Australian Army.

Rita Tucker, Camden CWA president, established the CWA netting effort in 1941. Mrs Tucker felt that camouflage netting provided an opportunity for Camden women to express their patriotic citizenship and service commitment to support Australia's military effort.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2014

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (May 2)

Willis, I. (2014). Illawarra Mercury. In B. Dr Bridget Griffen-Foley (Ed.), *A Companion to the Australian Media* (pp. 212). North Melbourne, Australia: Australian Scholarly Publishing.

Willis, I. (2014). Foreward. In J. Johnson (Ed.), *Camden's WWI Diggers: 1914 to 1918* (pp. 1-3). Camden: Camden Historical Society Inc..

**Title:** Camden's distinct Edwardian cottages

**Abstract:** Camden has quite a number of Edwardian cottages in the town area, on surrounding farms and in local district villages. They are typical of the early twen- tieth century landscape in the local district. The housing style was evidence of the new found confidence of the birth of a new nation that borrowed overseas trends and adopted them to suit local conditions. These styles of houses were a statement of the individualism and the national character.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2014

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (July 25)

**Title:** Camden's Central Flying School

**Abstract:** Australia's entry into the Second World War created a demand for trained pilots. In July 1940 the Commonwealth Government acquired 468 acres of land on the Nepean River floodplain at Macquarie Grove "for defence purposes" for an airfield. The site had been inspected in January 1940 for the RAAF by Wing-commander EC Bates (RAF). He had found it eminently suitable for the establishment of a flying training school.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2014

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (August 15)

Willis, I. (2013). Imaginings on Sydney's Edge: Myth, Mourning and Memory in a Fringe Community. *Sydney Journal*, 4(1), 127-140. doi:[10.5130/sj.v4i1.2804](https://doi.org/10.5130/sj.v4i1.2804)

**Title:** A seaside holiday for the locals

**Abstract:** Local folk from the Camden district have been going to Wollongong and the South Coast for beach holidays for generations. It is a time to relax, chill out, slow down, drop out, and generally escape the hum drum of daily existence of home and work.

The seaside holiday has been more than that. The development of the beach holiday owes much to the Industrial Revolution of the late 1800s and the shorter working week and increased wages of ordinary workers. Australian's copied the English Victorians and their interest in health and well-being and particularly cold-water bathing. The scourge of diseases like tuberculosis (or consumption as it was known) was constant threats to health and well-being of people. The inter-war period (1919-1939) saw the added influence of modernism, consumerism, movies and tourism on the mobility and spending patterns of people. All these contributed to the attraction of the beach.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 8-June 21

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** The Camden Recreation Room during the war years

**Abstract:** The welfare of soldiers from the Eastern Command Training School at Studley Park (1939), the Narellan Military Camp (1940) and the airmen at the RAAF base at Camden Airfield (1940) concerned a number of Camden residents early in the Second World War. In 1940 it prompted the establishment of a Recreation Room at the AH&I Hall in Camden's main street. A dry canteen where soldiers and airmen could find a quiet spot to read a book, write a letter and have a talk to a friendly local.

The Recreation Room was initiated in June 1940 by Robert Crookston, a local doctor and husband of Zoe Crookston president of the Camden Women's Voluntary Services, and strongly supported by George Sidman the owner of the Camden News, a staunch Methodist. The initiative went by variety of names including the Soldiers' Room, Soldiers' and Airmen's Club Room, Soldiers' Recreation Room and the Soldiers' Rest Room.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16-March 29

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter



**Title:** The estate village of Menangle

**Abstract:** The village of Menangle is one of the Camden's district examples of an English-style private estate village. It evolved as a closed estate village over the last 150 years within the limits of the Macarthur family's Camden Park estate. The English-style aesthetics of the Camden Park countryside have only served to re-enforce the cultural mythology that has developed around the village and its hinterland.

The Menangle village parallels the ups and downs of the private estate villages of early 19th century England. Today, these English villages have turned into the picture postcard rural village that tourists love to visit. Menangle still has the essence of its rural Englishness with the Anglican church on the hill, the common and general store. It even has the elements of rural decline in its midst typical of English villages, as it comes under pressure from city-based developers.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16-May 24

**Publisher:** Wombarra Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Menangle Australian Light Horse

**Abstract:** A little known military facility in the local area during the First World War was the Menangle Australian Light Horse Camp based on the Menangle Park racecourse in 1916. The establishment of the camp was the result of drunken unrest amongst the troops at the Casula and Liverpool military camps in February 1916 that was later called the Battle of Central Station. These events also contributed to the success of the campaign for 6pm closing in New South Wales that was not repealed until 1955.

After the soldier riots the Casula camp was closed and the 'troops in training' were distributed to other camps, including one at Menangle Park in February 1916. Military authorities leased the race track off the Menangle Racing Club. The racetrack was first surveyed by military authorities in January 1916, although Campbelltown Showground had been inspected in September 1915.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Volunteers and the Waley Nerve Hospital

**Abstract:** In the days immediately following the First World War a group of women from The Oaks and Camden volunteered at Waley Nerve Hospital at Mowbray Park as part of the activities of the Camden and The Oaks Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Waley was a farm hospital with about 60 acres under cultivation and the main house supplied with vegetables, eggs, milk and butter from the farms 21 cows and 26 pigs. Mowbray Park had been the country retreat of Sir Frederick and Lady Waley. Sir Frederick Waley (1860-1933) was a prominent Sydney businessman with interests in the Bellambi colliery in the Illawarra. Amongst other philanthropic interests he was an executive member of the New South Wales division of the Red Cross and in 1919 his wife presented Mowbray Park, and 180 acres (73 ha), to the Commonwealth Government as a "permanent home for shell-shocked and permanently incapacitated sailors and soldiers".

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2013). French Troops welcomed in Camden. (pp. 16-April 5). Camden NSW: Wombaroo Publishers.

**Title:** Camelot's Country Matriarchs

**Abstract:** A popular TV drama 'A Place to Call Home' on Channel 7 has been set in and around the Camden district. Amongst the characters is the fictional 1950s matriarch of the Bligh family, Elizabeth (Noni Hazlehurst). This figure has a number of striking parallels with Camden's own 20th century female patrician figures. Camden's matriarchs just like Elizabeth, were formidable figures in their own right and left their mark on the community.

The fictional Elizabeth Bligh lives on the family estate Ash Park (Camelot, formerly Kirkham) in the country town of Inverness during the 1950s.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16-June 7

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2013). Camden History, Journal of the Camden Historical Society. *Unknown Journal*, Vol 3 No 5.

Willis, I. (2013). Imaginings on the edge: myth, mourning and memory in Sydney's fringe communities. *Sydney Journal*, 4(1), 127-140. Retrieved from <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/>

**Title:** Little angles of the Junior Red Cross

**Abstract:** The earliest efforts by the Camden district youth to help the Red Cross occurred in 1914 at The Oaks Public School, while the first established in over 40 countries including the United States with an estimated membership of 20 million.

The Camden JRC schoolgirls undertook the sewing of comforts for Camden Red Cross from as early as 1919 and the Camden Junior Red Cross Circle was formed up in 1918 at the Camden Public School, just as the Junior Red Cross (JRC) movement sprang into action at a national level.

The Second World War acted as a catalyst for action for the movement in the district and by the 1940s there were seven Junior Red Cross Circles at Bringelly, Camden, Gilbulla at Menangle, Central Burragorang, Narellan and Rossmore. When the war passed so did the enthusiasm and the activity of the circles declined. Only Camden JRC Circle carried on to the end of the 20th century.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16-February 22

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** Hitting the Right Note

**Abstract:** Camden has a long heritage of bands and musical groups in the local community.

Playing music has been one of the longest surviving voluntary sector activities in the town.

Banding in the Camden area has a rich history of involvement by amateur musicians who held a variety of paid-day jobs. These folk contributed a large number of hours at community concerts, military parades, remembrance ceremonies, fetes, garden parties, and a host of other community events.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16-August 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

**Title:** The Camden War Cemetery

**Abstract:** Camden war cemetery is located on the corner of Burraborang and Cawdor Roads, three kilometres south of Camden Post Office. The cemetery is on slight rise above the Nepean River floodplain, with a northerly aspect at an elevation of 75 metres. The vista to the north provides a picturesque view across the floodplain and is dominated by the town with the spire of St John's Church in the background. It is not hard to imagine the scene that met these servicemen when they arrived in Camden during wartime over 60 years ago.

There were thousands of servicemen who passed through the Camden area between 1939 and 1946 at the various defence facilities. The major military establishments were the Narellan Military Camp on the Northern Road at Narellan, and the Eastern Command Training School at Studley Park, Narellan. Many army units also undertook manoeuvres throughout the area and there were temporary encampments in a number of other locations including Camden Showground, Smeaton Grange and Menangle Paceway. The principal RAAF establishment was located at Camden aerodrome, with a secondary airfield at The Oaks and Menangle Paceway. As well, there were a number of emergency runways constructed throughout the local area. The RAF also had a number of squadrons based at Camden airfield between 1944 and 1946.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2013

**Pagination:** 16-September 13

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden NSW

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter

Willis, I. (2013). *Camden History Notes*. Google Blogger. Retrieved from <http://camdenhistorynotes.blogspot.com.au/#/>

Willis, I. (2012). Yearning, longing and the remaking of Camden's identity: the myths and reality of 'a country town idyll'. *Camden History, Journal of the Camden Historical Society*, 3(3), 107-117. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/chsjournal.html>

Willis, I. (2012). Townies, ex-urbanites and aesthetics: issues of identity on Sydney's rural-urban fringe. In A. Gaynor, E. Gralton, J. Gregory, & S. Mcquade (Eds.), *Urban Transformations: Booms, Busts and Other Catastrophes: Proceedings of the 11th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference* (pp. 394-406). Crawley: The University of Western Australia.

**Title:** Camden women go to war

**Abstract:** In 1943 it was not common for young Camden women to go off to war. One way was to join the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS), as did a number of young Camden women. One woman who did this was Jacqueline Crookston, daughter of Camden surgeon, Dr Robert Crookston OBE. She is pictured here at an Australia Field Hospital in New Guinea as part of AAMWS in December 1943.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 7 December

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1989>

**Title:** Academic snobbery: local historians need more support

**Abstract:** Local history is one of the most popular forms of history in Australia. Yet there is a yawning gap between the enthusiastic amateur and the academic historian.

While some academic historians engage with local history, sadly there is an entrenched snobbery from the academy. From the other side, the enthusiastic amateur is too wound up with a parochial approach to local history and often doesn't see the bigger picture.

If both sides can engage with each other, the result would be a better type of history practise and a greater contribution to the story of Australia.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Issue:** 04 April

**Publisher:** The Conversation Media Group

**Publisher URL:** <http://theconversation.edu.au/>

**Place of publication:** Australia

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The Conversation

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1924>

**Title:** The inter-war image of Camden

**Abstract:** One of the hidden parts of the history of Camden is the early 20th century. It is all around the local community yet few know much about it. So what is the significance of the inter-war period in the town's history?

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 9 November

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1987>

**Title:** Women's Land Army filled farming labour shortage

**Abstract:** The Women's Land Army was active in the Camden area between 1942 and 1945. They were located at camps in the local area and the largest was at Orangeville.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter (22 June)

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1935>

**Title:** Camden 'War Chest' Patriotic Day 1917

**Abstract:** A Camden Red Cross fundraiser for the Citizen's War Chest Fund was held in 1917 (Tuesday, October 16) in Camden's main street. The day raised over 320 pounds a huge amount of money at the time. The local press reported that this was a first for the town. Originally the day had been scheduled for the previous week but was held over because of bad weather.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 31 August

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1986>

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2012). Camden History, Journal of the Camden Historical Society. *Unknown Journal*, vol 3 no 4.

Willis, I. (2012). Townies, ex-urbanites and aesthetics; Issues of identity on Sydney's rural-urban fringe. *AQ-Australian Quarterly*, 83(2), 20-25. Retrieved from <http://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=697645319083276;res=IELLCC>

**Title:** Blacksmithing was a Camden Heritage Trade

**Abstract:** In the pre-industrial era all towns and villages had a blacksmith. It is one of the oldest trades in human civilisation dating back to ancient times. Blacksmiths were essential to the daily life of a country town like Camden and relied on a mixture of work from local farmers and passing traffic on the main road.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 23 January

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1982>

Willis, I. (Ed.) (2012). Camden History, Journal of the Camden Historical Society. *Unknown Journal*, vol 3 no 3.

**Title:** Camden's carpenters, a traditional trade

**Abstract:** Carpentry was an essential craft in all communities and has been practiced for centuries. In the Camden area the traditional trade of carpentry as it was practised had a variety of forms: the discussion with be restricted to the formally trained artisan and the bush carpenter.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 30 January

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1983>

**Title:** St John's Mothers' Union

**Abstract:** Elizabeth Macarthur Onslow and her daughter Sibella were some of the foundation members of the St John's Mothers' Union in 1900.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 18 May

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1984>

**Title:** Babies helped homefront warriors war effort

**Abstract:** Most people do not understand that during wartime there were two frontlines. One is the battlefield and the other is the homefront and other both have sets of warriors. Since the mid-1800s, and the days of the Crimean War, folk have been active on the homefront supporting the efforts of the those who have been risking their lives on active service.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 23 November

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1988>

Willis, I. (2012). John Carlyle Southwell OAM, RFD, ED. *Camden History, Journal of the Camden Historical Society*, 3(4), 124-128. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/chsjournal.html>

**Title:** The foundation of the Camden Red Cross

**Abstract:** A group of Camden women formed a local branch of the Red Cross within days of the British Empire declaring war on Germany on August 4, 1914. It was one of the first branches of the Red Cross formed in Australia.

**Authors:** Willis I

**Date of publication:** 1 January 2012

**Pagination:** 16

**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publishers

**Place of publication:** Camden

**Publication status:** Published

**Journal title:** The District Reporter 3 August

**IR link:** <http://ro.uow.edu.au/artspapers/1985>

Willis, I. (2012). Francis Warner. *Camden History, Journal of the Camden Historical Society*, 3(3), 74-78. Retrieved from <http://www.camdenhistory.org.au/chsjournal.html>

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Willis, I. (2011). Cultural heritage and conservation: issues of education and training. In *5th Anniversary Conference, Professional Historians Association (NSW): Islands of History 2* (pp. 262-268). Spit Junction, NSW: Anchor Books Australia.

**Title:** Footraces, nail driving and bazaars: Part of New Year's Day Carnival  
**Authors:** Willis I  
**Date of publication:** 1 January 2011  
**Pagination:** 16  
**Publisher:** Wombaroo Publications  
**Place of publication:** Camden  
**Publication status:** Published  
**Journal title:** The District Reporter

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