

For what it's worth

Inga Gilchrist
on Wills



'Among the royals, losing your trousers runs in the genes.'

Poor old Kate Middleton barely stood a chance.

She was only an expensive rock away from being a fiancée. Now her dream of starring on a royal wedding commemorative tea towel is in tatters.

The souvenir teaspoons have had the axe and Woolworth's royal memorabilia arm is counting its losses.

But for Kate, the writing was on the family tree. Until today, her all-but betrothed Wills seemed a moral cleanskin, leaving all the hard-drinking shenanigans to younger brother Harry.

Lately he's been less likely to inspire playboy lust than pity for his mid-20s receding hairline and brown-on-blue-on-green fashion sense.

He's done the right thing scrubbing toilets in South America and being an officer and a gentleman at Sandhurst.

The revelation, though, that Wills was romancing two women as things disintegrated with Kate proves he's a chip off the old block.

Among the royals, losing your trousers runs in the genes. Crafty devil.

While his girlfriend was celebrating her 25th birthday, Wills was entertaining entirely different thoughts.

And wandering Wills has got it on both sides.

Ma found his pa to be a hard dog to keep on the porch.

Old flames burn strong and nuptial bonds weren't enough to keep Prince Charles from falling back into the arms of Camilla Parker Bowles.

Pop, meanwhile, couldn't rein in his wife's headstrong gallop toward her riding instructor.

Diana's fling with a polo hero was not so much a below-stairs affair as an in-stable tryst that was in the blood.

She can hardly be blamed – she was a direct descendant of Charles II by four illegitimate sons.

If the post-Kate Wills is reverting to type, he now has a chance to rival the heroic sexual feats of his royal forebears.

Henry VIII scarcely kept his breeches on long enough to split the church, between six wives and enough mistresses to make Don Juan feel exhausted.

His daughter Elizabeth I was known as the Virgin Queen, widely understood to be code for "whomever she likes, whenever she pleases".

From Eleanor of Aquitaine to Princess Diana, Wills is in good company keeping a royal something on the side.

Royal lovers through history are as common as mud – sometimes in both senses – and plenty of affairs were mighty public.

Catherine the Great, Marie Antoinette, and the Empress Alexandra of Russia were the standard-bearers for queenly adultery, but for ending in tears, German princess Sophia Dorothea of Celle takes the cake.

Married off to the dud Prince George Louis of Hanover in 1682, their shared dislike led to extramarital affairs and she fell heavily for the debonair Count Philip von Konigsmark.

After years of adulterous joy, Konigsmark's suspicious death led George Louis to lock his wife in a dilapidated estate for 20 years until her death.

Memo Kate: better to be the dumped girlfriend than the royal floozie locked in the Tower.

■ Inga Gilchrist is an *mx* reporter who believes in meeting the parents.

● ANZAC SCANDAL

Sun sets on MPs' breakfast TV gig

Matt Sun

Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd and Federal Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Joe Hockey today quit their Channel Seven *Sunrise* TV segment in the wake of the Anzac Day dawn service controversy.

Rudd today insisted his senior position, and not the revelation of a staged Anzac Day

ceremony, was the reason he had quit.

Plans for the breakfast show to stage a mock dawn service involving Rudd in Vietnam on Anzac Day at 4am, just in time for Australian breakfast audiences, were revealed last week.

But emails obtained by *The Daily Telegraph* showed Australian diplomats had labelled the Long Tan stunt as "a beat-up for television ratings".

Hockey originally sided with Rudd but called on the Opposition leader to explain his intentions yesterday.

"This morning both Mr Rudd and Mr Hockey decided that given their friendship and their senior positions in opposing political parties the segment was no longer possible," Rudd's spokesman said.

"Joe and Kevin are good mates, but given their senior

positions it wasn't possible to keep the segment going.

"Mr Rudd has loved the time he spent on *Sunrise*, talking to viewers and sharing some amazing times."

The spokesman said the decision was not based solely on the Anzac Day situation, but it had showed the segment could no longer work.

Co-host Melissa Doyle told viewers the news today.



Julian Toohey from Second Bite gets stuck in at Il Solito Posto.

Picture: BEN SWINNERTON

● SAVVY DINING

Tips help homeless

That gold coin you flipped into the donation box after a night out dining has helped raise \$113,450 to put food on the plate for homeless people.

Diners at 147 restaurants in Melbourne and Sydney (102 in Victoria) left a \$2 tip for the StreetSmart campaign last year.

Top contributor was Collins St's slick Italian restaurant Il Solito Posto with \$5640.

David Mills from the restaurant dished up a bowl of pasta to Julian Toohey from Second Bite to mark the success.

Second Bite collects unwanted tucker from restaurants and markets and gets it to homeless dining halls like the Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda.

The money will be split between 35 groups including Second Bite and will kick-start the first art gallery for the homeless, fit out a women's refuge with computers and support a homeless choir.

Il Solito Posto manager Jay Town said he was chuffed his diners were so generous.

— REBECCA BEISLER

It's true



The game of billiards gave us the word "debut". It is derived from the French "debuter", which means "to lead off".

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