

# The Southern Yarn

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

June 2014



## downundercalendar

### SUMMER

**Saturday July 12, 2:00 pm**  
**Pool Party and Potluck**  
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The club will provide burger and buns, but it is a potluck so please bring side dishes and desserts. Let Lynley know you are coming by calling her at 204-275-7631 or 204-943-3775.

### Summer lawn bowls anyone?

DUCW members and friends have an open invitation to join the recreational **West End Lawn Bowlers**. Most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:30 pm at Sargent and Wall – weather permitting. Judy and Charlie Powell and Bill Pooley can be found having fun most days. Ph. Pooley: 204-998-1074



### RSVP

If you let us know you are coming, we can be ready for you! RSVP to 204-228-9959 or [social@downunderclub.mb.ca](mailto:social@downunderclub.mb.ca).

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Al reading at the 2013 ANZAC ceremony at the DUCW.

## Alen Hansen

Following a relatively short illness, Alen Hansen died at the St Boniface Hospital on May 23, 2014.

In many respects Al and I lived parallel lives: we were both born “down under” – Al in New Zealand and I in Australia – in 1924 within 2 weeks of each other; during World War II we were in the Army before transferring to the Air Force, coming to Canada in '44 for air crew training in Winnipeg and Dafoe, SK, as well as wireless air gunners (WAGs).

I did not know Al in those days as he was in a few courses ahead of me. Following the cessation of hostilities, we both came back to Canada and that is where I got to know him through the DUCW.

Al took flying lessons here and became a pilot for Trans Canada Pipelines, compiling over 20,000 hours! During those early days he met Millicent (Milly) and they married in Birtle. Al and Milly had 4 children. Robert, also a pilot, was killed in an aircraft accident near Regina in 1976. A son Brett lives in Vancouver and daughters Jo Ann and Shannon in Calgary.

The celebration of Al's life will be held at the Western Canadian Aviation Museum, where he was a founding member, on Sunday June 8th, from 1 – 4 pm.

*Gordon Keatch*

online



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## editorially yours

Charlie Powell



I had an all too brief visit downunder in the middle of May – 4 days just north of Melbourne for a cousins'/family reunion; and 4 days in Adelaide. Short as it was, any time "back home" is always welcome – apart from catching up with family, it's great to re-experience the bush, the wildlife and the general atmosphere again – so unique! It's just the "vibe" of the place, to quote the lawyer in The Castle. And that reminds me of another great Aussie movie that I watched on the flight home – Backyard Ashes – a must see for anyone who enjoys a game of cricket in the backyard.

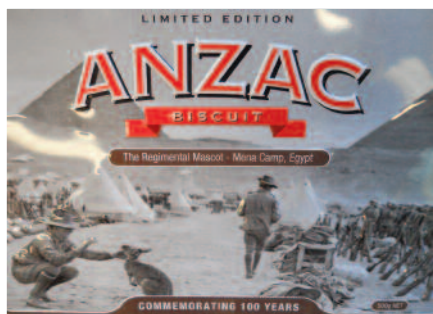
While browsing in a thrift store in Adelaide I came across a book called: "Bride of an ANZAC: My Life Story" by Queenie Sunderland – written in her 100th year! I bought it, with the thought of sharing excerpts in future *Yarns*. For now, a summary of her life is reprinted on p.6. Judy found another neat keepsake (pictured below) – a 2014 Limited Edition ANZAC Biscuit Tin, depicting a training camp in Egypt, 1914. They will sort of make up for the Vegemite that the \*%\$#@! airport security guy confiscated!

Gordon's "Getting to know" interview this month is with Wendy Fox, p.4. Thanks also to other regulars who have contributed to this edition – Murray, Peter and Brian.

The Yarn will be taking a break next month – so don't forget the Pool Party, otherwise we'll catch up again in August.

Enjoy!

*Charlie Powell*



Now we have had warm sunshine, blue skies, and very few bugs, the last few days have certainly improved my temperament regarding the @\*!!^% weather we have experienced in the past few months. Golfers are golfing, gardeners are gardening, and all is well with the world. We are having visitors from Tanunda, S.A., in the middle of June. On a recent trip to OZ, Margaret and I did a little genealogy research, and met up with a second cousin who has taken my maternal grandmother's lineage back 500 or so

## president's ramblings

Peter Munn



years. They are on a cross-Canada trip, and we are able to repay the hospitality they have given us. And talking of my grandmother, she really enjoyed the 6 pack of stout I took her on a regular basis, (she took it for her blood, she told me). Must have worked, because as she (at the age of 82) was doing the family ironing one day to help my mother, I asked her how she made out at a new seniors' social club she had visited: "Not too bad", she replied, "but such a lot of elderly people."

Enjoy the Summer,  
Peter

## 70 years ago ...

June 6, 2014, marks 70 years since allied troops landed along 80 kilometres of beaches in Normandy in 1944. Sir Winston Churchill called Operation Overlord, "Undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever taken place. It involves tides, wind, waves, visibility, both from the air and the sea standpoint, and the combined employment of land, air and sea forces in the highest degree of intimacy and in contact with conditions which could not and cannot be fully foreseen."

14,000 Canadians landed on Juno Beach on D-Day; some 450 Canadians parachuted inland before dawn. Approximately 45,000 Canadians lost their lives during the Second World War. Some 5,000 were killed during the Battle of Normandy and 359 on D-Day.



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**More than 40 years' South Pacific experience**





This new old cruise ship promises to recreate conditions endured by early 20th century immigrants

## Rough it on Clive's Titanic II

The mega ship built by Australian billionaire Clive Palmer will feature third-class quarters with rooms for six people, shared bathrooms and even a symbolic 'delousing.'

The Titanic II will have all the antiquated amenities of its doomed predecessor – minus that sinking feeling.

Eccentric Australian billionaire Clive Palmer revealed that his new mega ship will feature the same cramped conditions in third-class as the original Titanic that sunk in 1912.

That means Spartan rooms for a family-of-six with only bunk beds and a single sink, bathrooms shared between hundreds and access to the decidedly unluxurious General Room, which served as a nursery, lounge and communal dining area for all the lesser passengers slumming it in the cabins below the water line, according to news.com.au. [Link]

## State of Origin pies

Sydney pie maker Garlo's Pies has crossed the State border,

releasing a special range of "Maroon" pies in the lead up to the State of Origin, to raise money for a rugby league charity. The limited edition Maroon pies will be sold exclusively at the iconic Caxton Hotel in Brisbane one week prior to the first Origin game and



throughout the whole series. Garlo's traditional beef pies will have a special Maroon coloured potato crust over the 7-week period raising money for the Men Of League (MOL) foundation. The MOL supports former rugby players, trainers and volunteers who have suffered an injury. [Link]



## Overnight Brissy-Cairns rail

The Spirit of Queensland is a new overnight rail service running the full 1681km between Brisbane and Cairns in just over 24 hours.

By the time you are onboard and tucked into a revolutionary RailBed you will have no fears about where you'll sleep. Each comes with its own entertainment system, and of course there are also the magnificent views of Queensland whizzing past the window.

The RailBeds convert into a lie-flat bed, with linen. Meals are served to your seat and there are shower facilities onboard. It all makes for an incredibly relaxing and civilised trip, especially overnight. [Link]

# newszealand

source: NZ Herald, unless otherwise noted



## Rebuilding a green Christchurch

The EECA Business Awards celebrates organisations and community groups making efficiency and environmental concerns part of what they do. Tonight is this year's award ceremony – with a special category for the Christchurch rebuild.

Engineer Jason Bretherton can vividly recall the mad scramble out of bed in the early hours of September 2010 to check on his kids after the first earthquake hit his hometown of Christchurch.

It's also become a defining point in his career at Opus International Consultants as he and his engineering colleagues work to rebuild parts of the city destroyed by the quakes.

Bretherton, who heads up Opus' Christchurch-based mechanical and electrical engineering team, says the rebuild has entered a phase that means taking the rebuild vision and introducing the best in new technology to create a smart, efficient city for the future.

"The opportunities that are now in front of us are about building a green city, an energy efficient city, one where transportation infrastructure works a whole lot better than it did prior. [Link]

## Christchurch solar table

Visitors to Christchurch's Re:START Mall will be the first in the country to use an innovative table with a built-in solar panel that can charge mobile devices such as phones and tablets. [Link]

## Kiwi food waste habits laid bare

The dirty secrets of Wellington households are being revealed as part of a region-wide survey on food waste.

Rubbish bags from 300 homes were torn open and analysed at the Southern Landfill, between Brooklyn and Owhiro Bay, this week to determine how much food the region threw away.

A dozen staunch workers pushed aside smelly nappies, dirty underpants and other unsavoury trash to get to binned food.

Each home's waste was sorted into food types, then weighed and recorded on a spreadsheet. Feijoas, mandarin peelings, half-eaten chicken thighs and bread were common items. [Link]



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## Wendy Fox

Wendy's story essentially goes back to the Second World War when many of us came to Canada for Air Crew Training and other duties. Her father, from Melbourne Australia, was a Flight Lieutenant in the RAAF and was here training other pilots. In 1941 he was on Portage Avenue in Winnipeg with three other airmen, walking between The Bay and the old Eaton's store (now the MTS hockey arena) when Wendy's grandmother got talking to them, which ended up with an invite to dinner. This was quite common in those days and happened on several occasions. Their home at the time was on Bonner Ave and is where Peter Debenham eventually lived and hosted several pool parties for DUCW members in the summer months.

Wendy's father, and mother Isabel, were married in January 1942 and stayed here for 2 years. A daughter, Judy, was born in 1943 and has since died. They went back to Oz by ship in 1944 and stayed for five years. A son, Don, was the next born and has also passed. Back in Winnipeg, a daughter, Pauline, came along and she too has since died.

Next was Wendy and finally a son, Kevin, was added. He is retired and lives in Princeton, BC. Their father worked at Federated Co-op in Winnipeg as a book-keeper until 1961 when sadly he died at age 41.

Wendy has lived in Winnipeg all her life, attending elementary to high school in Transcona, and later, in 1991, completed a



three year night school certificate in communications (public relations, media, writing, creative brochures, public speaking).

She did clerical work at Misericordia Hospital from 1967 to 1972 and at nursing homes for 12 years as an administrative CEO, etc. She was also with Manitoba Health Organization doing payroll, accounting, benefits and labour relations. With the advent of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, that office closed. Wendy went on to be a Communications Officer at the Workers Compensation Board for the next nine years, retiring in 2010.

Wendy was a Board member and President of the Canadian Public Relations Society and served a year on the national Board. For 15 years she has worked on a research program looking for the most effective drug in the prevention of breast cancer. She curled at Fort Rouge CC for 25 years and enjoys reading and using her computer. Wendy has been a DUCW member for at least 15 years.

G.K.

## You know it's summer in Australia when...

By Chris TH

1. The best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.
  2. Hot water now comes out of both taps.
  3. You learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.
  4. You drop the eggs on the way home from the shop and they cook on the ground.
  5. The temperature drops below 30 (Celcius!) and you feel a little chilly.
  6. You discover that it only takes 2 fingers to steer your car.
  7. You can boil eggs in your swimming pool.
  8. You discover that you can get sunburned through your car window.
  9. You actually burn your hand opening the car door.
  10. You turn on the hose to water your garden and only get steam.
  11. You break a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 a.m.
  12. Your biggest bicycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death?"
  13. You can make tea or coffee with water from the tap without boiling.
  14. You realize that asphalt has a liquid state.
  15. The birds have to use potholders to pull worms out of the ground.
  16. The potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter, salt and pepper.
  17. Farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard boiled eggs.
  18. The cows are giving evaporated milk.
  19. The afternoon breeze feels like it comes straight from a hair dryer.
  20. The trees are whistling for the dogs
- [Link]



spring blossoms  
on Winnipeg trees

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## Case made for stronger Australia-Canada role

Regional allies are urging Canada to pay more attention to, and seek more alliances with, Pacific nations. The point was made in several papers at the 2014 Conference on Defence and Security, hosted by the CDA Institute in Ottawa this year.

While Ottawa expresses interest in more Asia-Pacific alliance, several speakers said Canada must do more and be a more active member of the Pacific community.

Panel speakers focused on a current global shift towards the Pacific, and highlighted key areas of engagement and regional allies, which Canada should focus on in a quest to become a more influential.

More Canada-Australia intimacy was an obvious value, especially closer cooperation on defence and security in the region. Leonard Edwards noted that Canada has expressed little interest in engaging in such security issues and that there had been little domestic discourse over the changes in the region. This, it was suggested, resulted in a minimal understanding of the relationship between Canada's economic interests and potential instability in the Asia-Pacific.

Following the Pacific security theme, the experience of Australia was cited as having major relevance to Canada's involvement in the region. John Blaxland said the two nations should work harder to heighten their influence in Asia. Both have failed to think about how to leverage each other, and pool resources to have a greater impact. The singularity of Canada and Australia are of little consequence, but together they can have great effect, he said.

Eric Lehre said Canada's record of only sporadic security involvement in the region "does not bode well for our inclusion into the region's trade forums." Canada should not expect such access without offering some level of defence commitment, he added.

The lack of hard power commitment is equated to free-riding, Lehre said, saying it was a damaging permanent posture. However, given the fiscal reality, a more robust involvement is unlikely to happen soon.

Ottawa-Canberra interests are inevitably intertwined in the quest for stability in the Pacific Ocean. And as a result, the region will become of greater consequence to Canadians, and prospects for Australia-Canada collaboration must be grasped to support mutual long-term interests.

## Dairying fuels big Maori institution's \$1.5b expansion

Over the next 15 years Ngai Tahu, one of the most economically powerful Maori bodies in New Zealand, expects to build the value of its agricultural investment to more than \$1.5 billion. This has been spurred by its conversion of forestry land into dairy farms.

Ngai Tahu Property chief executive Tony Sewell said the \$1.5b target would be backed by hundreds of millions of dollars of extra capital investment, \$600 million alone in land conversion, stock and dairy company shares.

The first tranche of that expenditure, to date and over the next five years, would be \$150m, including the transformation of Eyrewell and Balmoral forest land to irrigated pasture.

Farm investments includes 36,000 hectares of high country property at Greenstone, Routeburn and Elfin Bay, near the head of Lake Wakatipu. Eyrewell and Balmoral on the West Coast were recent additions involving 9,000ha and 7,000ha respectively.

Ngai Tahu has already begun running three pilot dairy farms north of the Waimakariri River, with three more in its sights. Expenditure would include 7,000 cows and shares in Fonterra.

Sewell said it would make sense for the tribe to establish a board and separate management group to oversee the farms, but for the moment the operation remained under Ngai Tahu Property.

Ngai Tahu Holding Corp, the Kiwi's investment arm, also has tourism, seafood and capital subsidiaries, each with their own boards and management lines.— with files from Fairfax.

## Solomons still struggling to recover from quake, flood

Two months after the fact, Solomon Islanders are still feeling the effects of an undersea quake of magnitude 7.6 that hit near their tiny Commonwealth nation. It was registered at a depth of 29km (18 miles), 100km (60 miles) south-east of Kira Kira.

A tsunami warning issued through much of the south Pacific did not materialize. But besides the shake, the islands also suffered devastatingly heavy rain and severe flash floods in which at least 16 people died. And strong waves were reported after the earthquake struck early on a Sunday morning.

Dorothy Wickham, who lives in the capital Honiara, told the Agence France-Presse news agency that people had been warned to stay away from low-lying areas, as high seas battered the coast. The flooding in Honiara that had followed days of heavy rain in the

area and caused the flash floods killed at least 16 people and left some 10,000 homeless in the capital.

Save the Children says 40 people are unaccounted for. Days of rain caused rivers to burst their banks late, washing away homes and bridges and submerging large areas of the capital.

Save the Children's Graham Kenna in Honiara said: "In the city thousands of homes were completely washed away, with people fleeing for their lives," and Save The Children staff reported seeing a child being swept away by the floodwaters. "They are devastated by what they have witnessed."

Pictures showed debris thrown on to the shore and houses washed into the swollen Matanikau and Lungga rivers.

The director of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Loti Yates, told the BBC that people had lost their lives because they had failed to heed earlier government warnings to move away from river banks.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma conveyed his sympathy to the government and people of Solomon Islands especially to the bereaved, and pledged solidarity with all those displaced or otherwise affected by the catastrophe.

He said he was confident Commonwealth member states in the region would mobilize support to alleviate the hardship of families that have been made homeless.

The nation is made up of scores of islands in Oceania to the east of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu. In total, they have a land mass of 28,400 square kilometres (11,000 sq mi). Honiara is on the island of Guadalcanal.

Read more items from Murray Burt on the extra page in this month's Yarn available online in PDF format at our website.

Murray Burt writes this Commonwealth column to lift the curtain on our understanding of a third of the population of the world that doesn't get the news attention it deserves. There has been much significant Commonwealth news in the past month — Nigeria, South Africa, India, Pakistan — but how often did the media identify them as Commonwealth? Sad shortcoming. Enjoy. Burt is president of the Manitoba branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society; past president of the Commonwealth Journalists Association; secretary of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada advisory board; Hon LCol of the 78th Fraser Highlanders; a senator of the 166th Battery RCA (Kenora) and a director of The Intrepid Society. He is retired from more than 50 years of journalism.



## Milk and God helped bride outlive them all

**Queenie Sunderland, Anzac bride 1897-2003**

[A touching story from back in June 2003]

After Ted Sunderland, a Gallipoli veteran, brought his English bride home in 1919 to a primitive farmhouse near Dubbo, she cried with loneliness. Ted put Queenie on the back of his stump-jump plough and said her tears would water the dry earth and produce a bumper crop so he could take her back to England.

He took her back five years later but Queenie had become Australian and loved Ted too much to stay in England. They returned to Australia, she lived across three centuries and became almost certainly the last of the Anzac brides.

Born Edith Rose Soffe in Kent, she was 106 years and five months old when she died. Andrew Robbins, a grandson, said before her funeral service in Sydney that Queenie's heart and mind had remained strong to the end, but her body had failed her. "I have lived too long," she had said.

Queenie's father died when she was three and she was raised by her grandparents in a strict, Victorian household with servants. She won a school scholarship in Winchester and became a private secretary.

Queenie and Ted met at Salisbury railway station, while he was among Australian troops camping on Salisbury Plain. The weather was bitter and little Queenie sought shelter behind big Ted's back.

Her mother, Ada, had warned against Australians but she kept "bumping into this big Aussie" who asked "How yer going?" and took her for their first date to an Australian Rules football match in a local park.

It was too painful for Ted to talk about Gallipoli, other than to mention Simpson and the donkey. He courted Queenie by reciting The Man from Snowy River and presenting her with a volume of the works of Adam Lindsay Gordon.

Gunner Ted survived the horrors of France and they married the next year, 1918. They honeymooned on the Isle of Wight and she always remembered him walking back to the train after his leave. "He didn't turn to wave," she said. "He said later he was crying so much he had to watch where he was walking."

Queenie and Ted settled on Pine Farm on the outskirts of Dubbo, sharing the primitive farmhouse for some time with Ted's mother and sisters - Ted was the 17th of 18 children.

While the family smothered him with hugs and kisses, Queenie looked at the barren paddocks, dry gum trees and skinny sheep and cattle. She said

later: "It was so remote from what I'd left behind... English meadows, watching cricket on the village green, reading poetry while the servants did all the housework."

Queenie had no electricity, no sink, no glass in the windows and, at first, no bathroom on the farm. She made her own soap and candles. Electricity was her favourite invention.

They moved to Sydney in 1970 but Queenie's Anzac died in 1976, aged 83 and after 57 years of marriage. She always kept near her favourite chair the favourite photo she took of him, when he was 42. And, on her frequent return visits, Queenie always visited the property outside Dubbo where Ted's ashes had been buried under two gum trees. She went back, too, in 1999 to cut Dubbo's 150th birthday cake.

She lived alone at Merrylands past her 100th birthday, with her photographs and her typewriter, although relatives dropped in regularly and her birthday drew the clan together every year for a party.

Queenie wrote poetry and, for her 100th birthday, *Bride of an Anzac*, an account of her life through a century of progress and generations of children. The book was designed for her family but a publisher printed a new edition for general release before Queenie's 104th birthday, a feat that might qualify for inclusion in the Guinness Book of Records.

Queenie Sunderland's family wondered at this time whether she should have to face so many interviews. They asked her doctor, who advised: "Go for your life, Queenie."

She had always gone for her life, from the time about 100 years ago when a Sunday school teacher told her that Christ would return to judge the quick and the dead.

"Who are the quick, sir?" the girl asked. They were those alive in Christ, he said. "Well, I'm going to be among the quick."

She survived nearly 30 family doctors and put her longevity down to God and dairy products, "plenty of milk, butter and cheese," she had said.

She received a centenary medal last year for her "contribution to Australian society". Andrew Robbins said in his eulogy that she was a living treasure and "national resource of fun, wit and experience" with "a deep pool of knowledge of the workings of human nature".

One thing that had troubled her about modern human nature was promiscuous sex. "I was a virgin until my wedding night," she said. "I adored him."

Queenie went to a nursing home only after the death in December of a daughter, Daphne Robbins.

Two years ago Queenie was telling Daphne how Ted hardly ever spoke of Gallipoli. "But he marched on Anzac Day 1936," Daphne Robbins ventured. "1935, Daphne," Queenie had corrected.

She is survived by her other daughter, Rita Fielder, five grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren. [Link]



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## Brunei's Sultan set on enforcing a Sharia Law

The edict last month by Brunei's all-powerful Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah has entrenched sharia law in his tiny oil-rich Commonwealth country on the north coast of Borneo. The sharia law he endorses will eventually include tough penalties such as death by stoning and the severance of limbs as punishment. The Sultan is also concurrently prime minister, finance minister, and defence minister of this nation of about 409,000.

The repercussions of the announcement sparked criticism and some sharp-edged responses from around the Commonwealth. Prominent among them was Virgin group founder Richard Branson and other celebrities who have vowed to boycott a hotel chain linked to Brunei's sultan.

Branson said Virgin employees would not stay at the Dorchester Collection luxury hotel chain, which includes The Dorchester in London and the Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles.

"No Virgin employee, nor our family, will stay at Dorchester Hotels until the sultan abides by basic human rights," the British billionaire posted on Twitter. According to an Agence France Presse file, others on the boycott list include comedian Stephen Fry, TV host Sharon Osbourne and comedienne Ellen DeGeneres.

The US group, Feminist Majority Foundation, said it had also pulled its annual Global Women's Rights Awards, co-chaired by Jay and Mavis Leno, from the Beverly Hills Hotel in protest. The Dorchester Collection is reportedly owned by the Brunei Investment Agency, a sovereign wealth fund under the oil-rich sultanate's Ministry of Finance.

AGF said the sultan's move has sparked rare domestic criticism of the fabulously wealthy ruler on the Muslim-majority country's active social media, and international condemnation, including from the UN's human rights office. But the sultan has defended implementation of the law, meant to shore up Islam and guard the Southeast Asian country against outside influences.

"We have never thought ill of others. We have never relied on them to accept us or agree with us but it is enough if they respect us the way we respect them," he said when announcing the law's implementation.

The initial phase introduces fines or jail



terms for offences including indecent behaviour, failure to attend Friday prayers and out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

A second phase covering crimes such as theft and robbery is to start later this year, involving more stringent penalties such as severing of limbs and flogging. Late next year, punishments such as death by stoning for offences including sodomy and adultery will be introduced, the AFP report from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, said.

Brunei was a British protectorate in 1888 and became independent of Britain, and joined the Commonwealth in 1984.

Indignation over the Sultan's decision made the edict great media fodder.

For example, as columnist Crispin Black wrote in The World News in London:

"Is Brunei a country that you would wish your soldiers to protect?" he asks. "So what of the battalion of Gurkhas who protect the ruling Brunei government and family? They have served the British Crown with distinction in nearly every British military campaign. They are much favored by Prince of Wales. They have a distinguished military history in the service of the British Crown dating from the time of the Indian Mutiny when they were crucial in maintaining British rule in India, against the odds. They have served with distinction in every British military campaign."

Nearly a quarter of Brunei's 400,000 inhabitants are not Muslim. There are thousands of Filipinos doing much of the drudge work, and the Roman Catholic priests who administer to them are already worried that soon baptism and Christian marriage will be illegal. Sharia law in the modern world only

goes one way.

The fabulously rich sultanate family's Moslem tone is hard to square with contemporary mores when one of the Sultan's brothers is said to have named his superyacht Tits, and the speedboats attached to it Nipple 1 and Nipple 2.

## Abbott backs up on Australia budget after angry grassroots reception

After days of hostile political talk, largely over pressure to "adjust" Prime Minister Tony Abbott's budget, senior government ministers are tut-tutting that there is room for adjustment – and presumably parliamentary peace – as events move deeper into June.

The willingness to compromise on key reforms comes after a wave of public agitation, and in the face of entrenched opposition from interest groups and a hostile Senate.

The government's backing down with dilution issues seem to have been fuelled by assurances an income tax rethink is in the works. The unrest on this issue was fed by disastrous polling results and injudicious and, at times, hostile on-air interview behaviour.

But promised changes by big-spending ministers like Education Minister Christopher Pyne and Health Minister Peter Dutton, have signalled negotiations would see some ground given to ease the nerves of MPs in marginal seats and pacify a disaffected public., according to The Sydney Morning Herald.

Backbench MPs and senators say that raising the pension age to 70 is perhaps "the" big issue among the objections to the budget.