

Brits' tea etiquette dunked

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AUSTRALIAN attitudes towards general household etiquette are shifting, with the vast majority of Aussies, particularly Generation X, turning their backs on former faux pas once respected by their British forebears.

These findings are the result of the Bushells Barometer, a survey which polled 1200 Australians aged 18 to 64 years, exploring attitudes towards etiquette and cultural values.

The survey revealed a remarkable shift in Australian etiquette away from traditional British social niceties. In particular, tea drinking, one of the last bastions of British imperialism, appears to have been Australianised.

A massive 76 per cent of Australians prefer to drink tea without a saucer and the majority of the nation (58 per cent) enjoys dunking cake or a biscuit in tea.

Australians have also proudly abandoned the formal British style of entertaining. Only 18 per cent of respondents said they still have a room specifically designed for hosting guests, suggesting Aussies now prefer to connect and enjoy a social cup of tea with their friends in a relaxed, laid back setting.

Social researcher Mark **McCrindle** believes this generational change in tea-etiquette is a sign of a larger trend.

"We're seeing Australian tastes and social norms moving consistently further away from British principles," he says.

"The Bushells Barometer reaffirms that there is a strong belief among many Australians, particularly the younger demographic, that everyday etiquette espoused by their British counterparts is outdated and in many ways un-Australian.

"Although there are some habits which remain unacceptable for all generations, such as answering a mobile phone or discussing your financial status while entertaining."