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Editorial

I'm sitting at my desk pondering over my many thoughts swirling around how to get this Editorial started and I suddenly realised the general election is less than a week away! I also realised that, probably like most of my readers, during the last three weeks most of my 'leisure' thinking had been about politics, politicians and the various political parties vying feverishly for our votes to get at least some of their candidates into Parliament so they don't disappear into almost certain political oblivion! Isn't it amazing how, just before a general election, the chief candidates from all parties are suddenly fully aware of all the main concerns of the majority of voters and promise to put these right as soon as possible after they are elected! And then conveniently forget about them

for as long as possible after they are elected! I don't know about you, but speaking for myself, what I enjoy the most about a general election campaign is the antics many candidates get up to to get 'one across' the opposition, whether about a supposedly real or perceived misdemeanour! Just look at the furore of the Exclusive Brethren - Don Brash episode and the 'leaked' National Party emails! And no sooner had these fiascos petered out, when -Booohm-, Winston Peters dropped a bomb on his most dangerous opponent for 'his' Tauranga Seat, Bob 'the Builder' Clarkson! We will find out on Election day what, if any, 'fallout' this fiasco may have on the Tauranga result!

Don't you just love it? I do! I just love watching a general election! Almost as

good as watching a three-ring Circus, except for the very serious decision each one of us has to make at the grand Finale!!!

I guess maybe I've got a small, fiendish, political streak in me, hence my gleeful enjoyment watching the candidates, especially the Party Leaders, being 'grilled' by the Media during an election campaign! I just love it! I love having two votes under MMP. In my opinion it's the best thing that's happened in NZ politics since we won the right from the Crown, to have our own Parliament and manage our own affairs, over 100 years ago. Under MMP the smaller parties at least get a chance to get a few MP's into Parliament and occasionally can even put the brakes on some Government excessive intentions! Good show, I say!

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Look at our old Homeland! Switzerland has been ruled by coalition governments for nearly 150 years, as far as I know, and for all that time has been the most stable and peaceful democracy in the World! The Federal Council (Cabinet) is made up of Ministers from three, and more often four, Political Parties, who all know they had better learn how to work together, fast, if they want to keep their jobs!!! Our NZ MP's also had better get used to the idea of coalition governance, because I feel MMP is here to stay. I feel more and more of my fellow-kiwis are beginning to see, like me, the advantages of a twin-vote!! I love it, don't you?

Even if the Media Polls over recent weeks are only half-right, we could see some interesting results on Saturday evening! Roll on 17th, I'm looking forward to it!

Cheerio for now, Paul.

*Congratulations
to our Editor
who reached 75
years young on
21st July this
year!*