

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 71 (2005)
Heft: [9]

Rubrik: [Impressum]

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Editorial

Well, the General Election 2005 has come and gone since I wrote last months' Editorial and as I suspected before the Voting Day, the electors have delivered to the Politicians some really good 'Curlers', I reckon. I think the message from the people to all Politicians is loud and clear. 'If you want to be part of the Government, learn to compromise, and no nasty post-election surprises for the people!! Hold the ship steady on your promised courses, --- or else!!!'

Just a few days ago I read a very interesting article in a newspaper, written by a former MP and sometime Cabinet Minister in the Labour Government of 1984-90. I would like to repeat for you some of the sentences this Person wrote.

The voting public is making a better job of understanding and making MMP work than media commentators or business organisations have given them credit for. Faced with competing bribes and the politics of division, New Zealanders have declined to give any one party a broad mandate for the next three years. The voters clearly understood the issues facing the country and the limits of Government. We all might like tax cuts but can we really afford them? The public declined to give an easy majority to the parties offering the biggest bribes!

They also understood how to strategically use the two votes they have under MMP. Every party represented in the last Parliament has survived to be represented in the new

Parliament and no one party is in a position to form a government without at least two other parties co-operating. Some parties have still not learned that politics under MMP is a team sport, not an individual event!

The major party that emerges with majority support in the Parliament is likely to be the party most able to work with a number of other parties to form a reasonably stable Government for the next Term.

Multi-party coalitions look like remaining the norm for the foreseeable future, so business organisations can no longer usefully rely on one or two parties to look after their interests. Business has to learn to work with all parties likely to be represented as supporters of a future coalition government. This will be a challenge! Unquote!

Interesting words from an ex Cabinet Minister, don't you think? Especially so, if you go back and read my Editorial again in last months' "Helvetia".

Speaking of last months' "Helvetia", did you all see the beautiful photos of the Auckland Harbour Bridge on the bottom of page 3, topped by the Swiss National Flag flying proudly alongside the NZ National Flag? Wasn't it a beautiful sight? I'm sure I speak not only for our Executive Committee but for all members of our Society in expressing grateful thanks to Peter and Fritz and their Buddy for climbing to the top of 'that' bridge early on a late-winters' morning to do the job. Maybe next year you could try for the top of the Skytower!!! -- no, no, guys, I'm just kidding -- far too dangerous, stick to the Bridge!!!

Please convey to the Auckland City Council sincere thanks from the Society for their kind permission to fly 'our' Flag on 'our' National Day from the Bridge. Thanks, guys!

Cheerio everyone, from Paul

Heartiest congratulations to our President Marianne and her husband Adrian on the birth of their second child, Richard, on 26 August 2005.

From the editing team.

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