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Regional Events / Streeksgebeure

10 May, Harmonic Brass from Munich, Hermanus:

This Brass Ensemble (trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba) is sure to 'wow' the audience yet again! Book your tickets early at BELLINI GALLERY on 028 312 4988 so that you don't miss out on this extraordinary experience! The concert will be held on Saturday, 10 May, in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus and starts at 19h00. Phone Secretary René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further enquiries.

BotSoc Talks

1) Saturday 17th May. Professor Ansuya Chinsamy Turin, a paleobiologist at UCT will speak on

"The Evolution of Birds" in the Nivenia Hall at 6p.m.

2) Saturday 21st June. Dick Stroh will talk on the Helderberg Fire Record, a comprehensive account of the terrain before, during and after fires.

At all talks a voluntary collection will be taken and there will be liquid refreshments. Please check the posters for possible changes of venue.

Contact Merrilee 028 272 9314.



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Deadline for submissions:
20th of each month

<http://www.bettysbay.info/>

*Please send us your comments, sugges-
tions, events and news.*

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NB! Reference must include your surname
and Erf Number. *Please do not send cash.*

Contact: Adrian de Kock 028 272 9998

Obtaining the BUZZ

The following options are available:

1. Get a copy at the Village Centre Café
or Penguin Place, normally first week
of each month.
2. Download a PDF version from our
web page. Go to link 'The Buzz' at
<http://www.bettysbay.info>
3. We also leave a number of copies at
the Betty's Bay Library.

Advertising and Crassula Hall payments

Payable to:

BBRA Current Account

ABSA Hermanus

Branch Code 632005

Account No 4066 6164 39

NB! Reference must include your business
name. *Please do not send cash.*

Contact: Liz Fick 028 272 9800

Disclaimer: The views expressed by the Buzz contributors are the authors' own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor of the Buzz.

Notice: The Buzz is a private newsletter, administered, financed and published by the BBRA so as to communicate important issues with its members. The committee reserves the right not to publish letters or articles it may receive.

SAPS Emergency Contact Numbers

Charge Office **028 271 8219**

028 271 8200

Capt Marthinus **082 778 6793**

Additional Cell Nos. **079 894 1624**

079 894 1622

082 443 6069

082 522 1831

Water Pipe Replacement in Betty's Bay

SIXTH PHASE

The process of replacing old water pipes began in 2007 and up to now there have been five phases spread over six years in this exercise. The budget for these previous phases was R40 million.

Overstrand has a total of approximately 800 KM of pipes to replace and up to now 56 KM have been completed. As can be seen from these figures this is a long process and will take many years to complete.

The sixth phase is spread over three years and is budgeted at R32 million.

The process in determining the order of replacement looks at many factors one of which in our case is the number of pipe breaks.

Taking this into account Bettys Bay has been allocated in this next phase just under 3.1 KM for replacement.

The sixth phase in replacing water pipes in Bettys Bay will begin shortly and is expected to be completed at about the end of July 2014.

The targeted roads or parts of roads which will be included in this phase are as follows:

Lachenalia

Agapanthus

Crassula

Lakeside Road

Disa Circle

Crossing Clarence Drive

Porter

Clarence Drive (Opposite Harold Porter)

Marine

The process will be carried out in an orderly fashion and will entail open trenches and "pipe cracking" where warranted. In the latter case holes will obviously be dug at points where households are connected to the pipeline. During this exercise temporary lines will be installed to ensure continued supply to houses. These pipes are obviously of a smaller diameter and dependant on usage could result in reduced water pressure.

The above installation is necessary due to the continued pipe breaks in our village. Just as an example last December nineteen breaks were recorded.

Adrian de Kock – Vive-Chairman & Treasurer BBRA

Overstrand Municipal Budget 2014/15

Subsequent to the report issued by Dan Fick a short while ago the Municipality held a public ward committee meeting on Monday 14 April 2014 @ 18H00 in Crassula Hall in the place of an OMAF meeting so that all property owners, where possible would be able to attend and express their views.

This event was well publicized but it was disturbing to note the few people who attended the meeting especially as the Mayor together with Directors and support staff were there to answer questions.

The following is a summary of the intentions with regard to the budget together with some background information.

Overstrand Income

Area	Percentage Increase
Property Rates	15-0%
Property Rates Undeveloped Erven	0-0%
Services – Water, Sewerage, Refuse	6-0%
Electricity	8-0%
Total Increase to Consumer last year	8-0% to 8-5% compared to just under 10%

Overstrand Expenditure

Area	Percentage Increase
Staff Salaries/Wages	9-4%

Explanations

- 1) The budget is based on an inflation rate of 6-0%.
- 2) Salaries/Wages are determined through collective bargaining on a national basis.
 - a. Determining increases allows for inflation and notch increases.
 - b. Salaries/Wages account for 31-6% of the operational budget which is within the guidelines of between 25% and 40%.
 - c. Over the last two years only 13 staff have been appointed.
 - d. A freeze has been placed on filling vacant posts which do not affect service delivery.
 - e. A further saving on the salary budget of R1 million is being investigated through abolishing posts and centralization where prudent.
 - f. Concerted efforts to improve on staff productivity.
 - g. Senior management account for a small percentage of the salary/wage bill i.e.
 - i. Mayor & Councilors 3%
 - ii. Municipal Manager & Directors 5%

3) Proposed Savings:

a. Grants In Aid	R 200,000
b. Festivals	R 320,000
c. Ward Specific projects	R 650,000
d. Baboon Monitoring Hermanus	R 1,356,400
e. Closure Local Labour Promotion Office	R 104,000
Total Saving	R 2,630,400

4) In the current year certain expenditure exceeded the total growth in income over the previous year of 10-8%. These were:

- a. 18-7% Chemicals
- b. 13-4% Fuel
- c. 17-3% Maintenance
- d. 38-9% Contracted Services

5) The Municipality is currently investigating the possibility of outsourcing the operation and maintenance of the water and sewerage purification plants.

6) The ageing vehicle fleet is becoming expensive to maintain and ways of financing the replacement of some of them are being investigated.

7) The centralization of certain areas is being investigated such as Town Planning but if this occurs service will continue to be given in the various areas.

Overstrand Municipality has assured us that they will maintain quality services in core areas

I will not go into detail on items in the capital budget but would like to point out that there is very little money to fund the many projects needing attention. Funds for capital expenditure come from certain sources i.e.:

- 1) Borrowings – Limited to R40 million
- 2) Surpluses from the previous year – Very small
- 3) Proceeds from sale of land – A scarce commodity
- 4) Grants – Designated for specific areas

We must reiterate that maintenance of roads and storm water channels is an operational issue and not a capital one.

The provision of new tarred roads and new storm water systems are of a capital nature and there is very little available to fund such areas particularly as they have to compete with the provision of new vehicles and other minor assets.

As can be seen from this information “money is tight” and you can be assured that your association will keep you informed of developments and will address issues where appropriate.

Adrian de Kock – Vice-Chairman & Treasurer BBRA

Marine Protected Area (MPA) – Bettys Bay – Jock’s Bay To Stony Point

Public Participation Process Prior To Formal Participation Process

Meeting held in Crassula Hall on 27 March 2014 in respect of the proposed closing of the current MPA to all forms of fishing and the requirement for recreational divers to acquire permits to enter the sea in the area during day time between certain hours.

Attendance records reveal that 105 persons attended the meeting and the following stats have been extracted from information provided by attendees:

Non Residents of Bettys Bay	-	13
Bettys Bay Angling Club	-	5
Bettys Bay Boat Club	-	4
Fishermen	-	9
Bettys Bay Residents	-	28

This is by no means an exhaustive list as not all attendees revealed their interest or affiliation.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Barry Clark of Anchor Environmental Consultants who outlined proposals in closing the MPA entirely. He then asked for objections, comments and input from the floor. These are summarized as follows:

1. The area can not and has not been effectively policed and there apparently is no plan in this regard.
2. There is a lack of inspectors to police the area.
3. Property prices will be adversely affected by the ban.
4. Residents/Visitors come to the area for recreational purposes.
5. Rather move the area to a 4KM strip towards Rooi-Els which is sparsely populated.
6. Move the MPA to a less populated area.
7. Access to fishing outside the MPA is difficult or impossible for less able bodied residents.
8. The MPA is not a good site for fish breeding due to strong currents.
9. The catch of Galjoen has increased since 2006 and the Angling Club has records to substantiate this.
10. The proposal is based on outdated research.
11. This is the first step in expanding the MPA area.
12. Have other solutions been looked at such as bag limits, size limits and closed seasons.

13. What about using a rotational fishing plan.
14. Children will not even be able to catch Klip Fish.
15. Other factors impact on the lack of fish stocks such as pollution, sea temperatures, strong currents, breeding areas and climate change.
16. Allow recreational diving until 18H00 to allow for those working during the day.

Dr. Clarke responded to a number of the comments and said that all of these would be passed on to the Minister together with their recommendations.

The public were given until 25 April 2014 to submit comment to Anchor Consultants in respect of this pre formal process.

A notice would then be published in the Government Gazette by the Minister from which date the public would have 60 days in which to object or pass comment on the proposals.

Four attendees stood up and expressed their support of the closure and in fact one suggested that the area be extended.

Adrian de Kock – Vice-Chairman & Treasurer BBRA



Introducing the new

Hangklip Community Care Centre (Hangklip CCC) (102-000-NPO)

– successor to the Hangklip Fynbos Service Centre.

It is Hangklip CCC's vision that:

Members of the Hangklip community, especially the aged and needy, through their own care centre, are enabled to continue living dignified lives in a caring and hunger-free environment.

To this end, our mission is to:

- Mobilise financial support from government, business and community members to enable the centre to acquire infrastructure and resources that are needed for effective functioning.

- Promote a culture of mutual caring and opportunities for fellowship amongst members of the Hangklip community.
- Provide nutritious and enjoyable meals in accordance with a pricing structure which makes them affordable for every community member.
- Facilitate the provision of basic health, transport and maintenance-related services as needed, especially in cases of community members being unable to meet such needs from within their own resources.



Background

Since 2002 the **Hangklip Fynbos Service Centre**, operating as a satellite of the Fynbos Service Centre in Kleinmond and under the control of BADISA, a government-registered national welfare organization, has provided care and services for the people of the Hangklip area from Rooi Els to Betty's Bay. Over recent years it has become evident that community care and services could be provided more effectively if a new, independent and local organization could be formed that would be exclusively for, and operated by, residents of the Hangklip area. Consequently, the "**Hangklip Community Care Centre**" ("Hangklip Gemeentesorgsentrum"), or **Hangklip CCC**, has been registered as a non-profit organization (No.102-000 NPO) with the Department of Social Welfare.

However, operation of Hangklip CCC as an independent entity has until now been delayed, pending a response from the Department to an application for payment to Hangklip CCC of a subsidy, which would be a substitute for the subsidy currently being received, by virtue of the welfare work being done as a Fynbos satellite. Although final confirmation of the new subsidy for Hangklip CCC has yet to be received, it was recently decided to not delay any longer, and to set 1 April 2014 as the date on which the new Care Centre will take over the current work from Fynbos and commence operating for its own account.

Current activities

With Fynbos having operated for a number of years in premises provided by the Lakeside Chapel in Betty's Bay, the Hangklip CCC will continue in this venue and, with the support of local churches, businesses and volunteer members from Hangklip communities, will also continue to provide the following services:

- Nursing care and provision of medical aids (such as wheel chairs, walking aids, commodes and even hospital beds), as well as delivery of chronic medications, blood pressure testing, etc.
- Serving of nutritious meals, either as take-aways or as sit-down meals, at various subsidized rates to members on 3 days each week (currently an average in excess of 250 meals per month are served).
- Delivery of food parcels containing a selection of groceries and household goods to those in special need, including



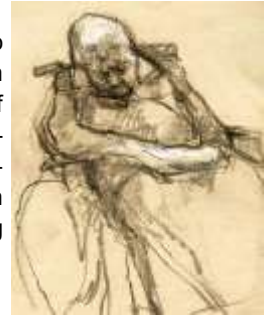
old-age and disability pensioners (currently an average of 24 parcels are distributed each month).

Future activities

It is intended to expand the above services where possible and in addition attempt to provide:

- Fellowship activities when possible and appropriate.
- Transport in cases of emergency and special need.
- Where possible and appropriate, assistance in doing household repairs for those in special need.
- Home-care nursing services.

The current and future care and services are, and will continue to be, available to all residents of the Hangklip area, many of whom are retired, elderly, sometimes lonely, and are often in need of assistance both financially and physically. The level of care provided depends, however, upon the financial support and participation of all living in this area. We need caring residents who will join Hangklip CCC as subscribing members and who are also willing to volunteer their time and services in various ways.



Current needs

- **An expanded annual membership base.** Those who join as members pay an annual subscription which constitutes the basic financial foundation of care-centre operations. There are presently 85 members, but this number needs to be increased substantially.
- **Volunteer cooks** who assist in the kitchen with preparation of meals, ideally on not more than one morning per month. There is an urgent need for more cooks to relieve the load on current cooks and make allowance for times of non-availability owing to travel, illness, etc. All ingredients, recipes and facilities for the preparation of meals are provided.
- **Financial support**, not only from government sources and local churches and businesses, but also from individuals who have the means to contribute.

Finances

Our current budget is approximately R10 000.00 per month with income being provided by:

- Payment for meals.
- Annual membership fees (2014: R82 p.a.).
- Donations by individuals, churches and local businesses.
- Street collections and various fund raising events.
- State subsidies (application currently being processed and awaiting approval).
- Local government grants.

Expenses

Our expenses consist of salaries for two staff members, cost of ingredients for meals, gas and other operating costs, auditing costs, stationery, bank fees, etc. The cost of each meal is currently just over R35 and these meals are provided at subsidized rates which currently vary from R9 to R35 for members, depending upon the income of the recipients.

Further information and enquiries

Chairman: Brian Anderson: 028 272 9938

Secretary: Adrian de Kock: 028 272 9998

Manager: Patricia Ackerberg: 028 272 9051

Postal address: P.O. Box 592, Betty's Bay, 7141.

E-mail: lakesidechapel@sonicmail.co.za

Hangklip Community Care Centre “Naked Chef”



What a pumpkin! What a smile! What a chef! ...and a loving, cheerful disposition to match!

Keith's kitchen expertise was volunteered by his wife, Rennie, last year, and we who enjoy midday sit-down meals on a Wednesday when Keith helps with the cooking have voted unanimously to keep him. His superb veggies are complemented by delicious puddings. Also, his excellent service is accompanied by his heart-warming smile and meals are all the more enjoyable for this. But if you are part of our external, out-of-town readership, NO, Keith is NOT modelling the Hangklip CCC catering team's summer uniform, and yes, he changed back to the clothing he arrived in before his guests arrived. A retired weather man, it seems the sun still shines on and through him!

Although the Hangklip CCC kitchen is hosted by the Lakeside Chapel, the Hangklip Community Care Centre itself is not a Chapel initiative, but is owned by and serves members drawn from the entire Hangklip community. Previously a satellite of Kleinmond Fynbos, it has now gone independent and been renamed Hangklip Community Care Centre (Hangklip CCC).

Why not consider becoming a member of Hangklip CCC? By doing this you can enjoy delicious, reasonably-priced meals served on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and, if you choose a sit-down rather than take-away meal, you can also join in fun and fellowship at the dinner table in a beautiful setting with other patrons. But more importantly, you also serve the community by helping to subsidise meals and clinic facilities for the less privileged members of our community.

By the way – are there any other naked (or fully clothed, for that matter) chefs out there? Hangklip CCC needs you.

For more information, please contact Patricia Ackerberg: 082 378 1641.

Bev Green

“Better Together” / “Beter saam”

As I write this, I wear two hats. (Fortunately however I have only one heart!)

As the **councillor** for Ward 10 of the Overstrand, I am part of the multi-faceted clockwork that needs to keep going in order for our residents to live quality lives. On a daily basis I am involved in addressing and being intensely aware of the many aspects of this challenge.

One of these is the annual budget process that the municipality is currently dealing with. By the time you read this, the window of opportunity for the public to comment on the 2014/2015 budget may be over; but at least it cannot be said that no efforts were made to engage with residents and ratepayers on the thorny issues involved.

VERWAGTINGE

Daar is altyd groot en talryke verwagtinge van die enkele begroting wat die hele Overstrand moet bedien – met sy 13 wyke wat oor 'n lengte van meer as 200 kilometer se kuslyn strek. Dit is nie net die publiek nie, maar ook raadslede wat elke jaar styf duimvashou dat broodnodige sake op die prioriteitslys sal verskyn. En glo my, daar word onderhandel, voorleggings gedoen, gemotiveer, gepleit, soms selfs baklei...

Ten minste het Bettysbaai en Pringlebaai die vooruitsig van nog heelparty nuwe water-

Emergency Contact Numbers

Overstrand Emergency	24 Hours	028 313 8111
Fire Department	Control Room	028 312 2400
	Marlu Rust	082 776 9287
	Wendy Tawse	082 442 8005
	Fires in Reserves	082 783 8585
Police	Emergencies	10111
	Charge Office	028 271 8219
	Capt. Marthinus	082 778 6793
	Sector Policing Officer	082 522 1831
Security Providers	Safe Security	028 272 9110
	Response	082 410 7845
	ASK Security (Office)	028 272 9500
	24 Hour Emergency	082 951 1892
		071 135 9029
	Sandown Bay Security	028 271 5633
		028 271 3306
		028 272 9575
Ambulances	Provincial	10177
	ER24	084 124
Doctors	Dr Du Plessis	028 271 4227
	Dr Van Niekerk	028 271 4227
	Dr Morkel	028 271 4227
	After Hours	082 653 6355
	Dr Greeff	028 272 9999
	After Hours	082 659 9437
	Dr Moses	028 271 3152
	After Hours	078 417 5628
Dentists	Dr Duvenhage	028 271 3467
	After Hours	082 861 0616
	Dr Engelbrecht	028 271 3662
	Dr Visser	028 271 5321

Hospitals	Hermanus Provincial	028 312 1166
	Hermanus Medi-Clinic	028 313 0168
	Vergelegen Medi-Clinic	021 850 9000
Child Welfare	Kleinmond	028 271 4044
Veterinarian	Dr Dave	028 271 4183
	After Hours	083 440 5191
KAWS	Animal Welfare	028 271 5004
Pharmacies	Albertyn Pharmacy	028 271 4666
	After Hours	082 927 5240
	After Hours	082 868 4267
	Kleinmond Pharmacy	028 271 3320
	After Hours	082 652 4309
Optometrists	Obermeyer	028 271 3119
	Optical Eyes	028 271 5684
Municipality	Betty's Bay	028 272 9263
	Kleinmond	028 271 8400
	Fire & Water	028 313 8111
	Law Enforcement	028 313 8111
		028 271 8466
	Traffic	028 313 8111
	Sewerage Removal	028 271 8435
	Hermanus	028 313 8000
Seawatch	Betty's Bay	028 272 9532
	Mike Tannett	082 994 9300
NSRI	Gordons Bay	021 856 1992
	Hermanus	028 312 3180
Electricity (Eskom)	Electricity	021 859 5304
	Emergencies	08600 37 566
General	Councillor Lisel Krige	028 272 9533
	Betty's Bay Post Office	028 272 9363
	Centre Shop	028 272 9230
	Penguin Place	028 272 9257
	Tourism Bureau	028 271 5657
	Fynbos Service Centre	082 719 6200
	Fire Extinguisher Service	083 741 9914

pype, wat broodnodig is. En wanneer hierdie BUZZ verskyn, sal die nuwe reservoir op Rooiels ook reeds amptelik in gebruik geneem wees.

DIVERSE INTERESTS AND NEEDS

Further afield a brand new soccer field adjacent to the informal settlement Overhills is finally taking shape – after years of expectations and repeated disappointments.

Something we can hope for, is that prospective land sales will materialise for the municipality and bring some financial relief. There are many other obvious needs that have to be addressed. Needless to say, roads and stormwater drainage are practically top of the list!!

The dilemma of ward 10 is that it comprises at least 8 communities with each a long list of needs. And these are all so diverse...

ELECTIONS 2014

Need I say much? Except that with my politician's hat on my head, I am urging each and every registered voter in my ward to be sure to go out and vote on 7 May!

As provincial Minister of Health, Theuns Botha, said at a DA rally at Hartenbos a few weeks ago: our country is in serious trouble under the present government and we, the people, must save it!

Your vote is your power.

South Africa is staggering under the corrupt and malfunctioning government of the moment. Change is desperately needed – for ALL.

Jou stem gee jou mag.

Suid-Afrika steier onder die korrupte en disfunksionele huidige regering. Verandering is noodsaaklik – tot voordeel van ALMAL!

I especially like one particular **slogan** that is associated with Helen Zille, Premier of the Western Cape, and her party: "BETTER TOGETHER".

Dit is 'n eenvoudige **slagspreuk**. Maar dit sê alles: Verdeeldheid, kleinlikheid, apatie en onbetrokkenheid gaan ons werklik nêrens bring nie.

All of us who agree that we desperately need change and equally desperately need to move forward – away from the beckoning precipice of total demise – must stand together and vote for something new and better...

SEE YOU AT THE CRASSULA HALL ON 7 MAY!

SIEN JOU OP 7 MEI BY DIE CRASSULASAAL!

Lisel Krige

Another taste of wine

Vines grow in the temperate regions of the world, between latitudes 28 and 50 and has done since time immemorial. Noah planted a vineyard on Mount Ararat after the flood and later was reproved by Jehovah for his drunkenness. A wine list has been found in Babylon

dated in the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar; we also know that in Babylon only women were permitted to keep the taverns! Could they possibly be called the first 'madams'? Over 4000 years ago wine was being made in Bessarabia now the Republic of Moldova. Today, in Moldova, one winery holds the largest wine library in the world. (Library is the term applied to the collection of wines from each vintage that a producer holds, these assist in monitoring the maturation potential of each wine. Producers also collect wines from other wineries). At Milestii Mici winery in Moldova, listed in the Guinness World Records for its library; one and a half million bottles of wine dating from 1968 are stored in the cellars in their fifty five kilometres of underground galleries which had been excavated during lime mining. In France, Chateau Mouton-Rothschild also has a large wine library of their own wines and those of other top Bordeaux estates as every year the top estates exchange five bottles of their newest vintage. As well as the library Chateau Mouton-Rothschild also has a museum of vine and wine related objects d'arts. These include a unique mediaeval Belgian tapestry depicting an al fresco meal which has an optical illusion woven into the tablecloth so that as one walks past the tapestry the table appears to change position; if I had not seen it myself, I would have thought this a tall tale. The secret lies in the weaving and it remains a secret.

In the eighteenth century the pirates in the Mediterranean captured a young Bordeaux girl and presented her as a gift to the sultan, who became enamoured of her. She asked him to allow her to receive her favourite 'mineral' water from her homeland. It was, of course not water but a white wine from Chateau Carbonnieux. Having sampled it himself, he expressed astonishment that the French would want to drink wine when their mineral water was so good!

Some wineries in the Cape issue invitations to 'join in the harvest', 'come pick the grapes' 'celebrate the vintage' all with wine tastings, musical entertainment and food on offer. It is a good idea to bring to mind the labour intensive (and back breaking) work of grape picking and it is not romantic at all. Barefoot tramping of grapes is often part of such a festival for the foot is the perfect press. The foot is hard enough to release the juices but soft enough not to allow the pips and stalks to be crushed and if they were they would release bitter flavours to the juice. Nowadays clean feet stamp the grapes but the unhygienic unwashed feet of the peasantry caused the Emperor Charlemagne to forbid barefoot tramping in Burgundy in the eighth century.

In South Africa's wine growing regions in the past little attention was paid to climatic differences when selecting vines for planting; but through trial and error as our industry has advanced it was found to be advantageous to match climate and varietal. Of course within each region climates vary and in fact within one estate and also within one vineyard they vary. We speak of a macroclimate, a mesoclimate and a microclimate, the last can be manipulated by man viticulturally and for instance by allowing the canopy of leaves to provide shade from an afternoon sun or by cutting it away to permit greater sunlight to fall on the ripening bunches. The French speak often of 'terroir' a term that covers the macroclimate, the topography, the soil, hydrology and hours of sunlight, some also include viticultural practises. This matching of varietal (cultivar) and soil the Europeans, especially the French learnt many years ago. Most of their wines are blends which allows them each year to adapt the blend according to the year's weather, always using the same grapes but blending in different percentages. A Bordeaux red wine (the English dubbed it a claret) will

be a blend of up to five varietals – Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot. Rhône is best known for its red Château Neuf-du-Pape wines which are always blends legally of up to thirteen varietals but generally fewer are used. In the northern part, syrah (shiraz) is the dominant red grape and in the south it is grenache. Burgundy is predominantly a single varietal wine. Call for a red Burgundy and you will drink a Pinot Noir wine; a white Burgundy will be a Chardonnay. Alsace does label their wines according to the varietal but Alsace has yo yo-ed between belonging to either France or Germany many times in the past, and Germany does tend towards labelling their wines according to the varietal.

I am drawing on various books while writing these articles; Wine Lore, Legends and Tradition by Pamela Vandyke Price, Discovering Wine by Joanna Simon, The Oxford Companion to Wine edited by Jancis Robinson, The History of Wine by Hugh Johnson and my notes from the Cape Wine Academy.

Merran Silberbauer

Democracy Isn't

In an ideal world, elections should be two things: **free and fair**.

Every adult, with a few sensible exceptions, should be able to vote for a candidate of their choice, and each single vote should be worth the same.

Ensuring a **free vote** is a matter for the law.

Making elections **fair** is more a matter for mathematicians.

They have been studying voting systems for hundreds of years, looking for sources of bias that distort the value of individual votes, and ways to avoid them.

Along the way, they have turned up many **paradoxes** and **surprises**.

What they have **not done** is come up with the **answer**.

With good reason: it **probably doesn't exist**.

The many democratic electoral systems in use around the world attempt to **strike a balance** between **mathematical fairness** and **political considerations** such as accountability and the need for strong, stable government.

1. FIRST-PAST-THE-POST OR "PLURALITY" VOTING,

This is used for national elections in the US, Canada, India, and the UK,

Its principle is simple: each **electoral division** elects one representative, the candidate who gained the most votes.

This system scores well on stability and accountability, but in terms of mathematical fairness, it is a **dud**.

Votes for anyone **other** than the winning candidate **are disregarded**.

If **more** than two parties with substantial support contest a constituency, as is typical in Canada, India and the UK, a candidate **does not have to get** anything like 50 per cent of the votes to win, so **a majority of votes are "lost"**.

Dividing a nation or city into bite-sized chunks for an election is itself a fraught business

In first-past-the-post or "**plurality**" systems, **borders matter**.

To ensure that each vote has roughly the same weight, each constituency should have roughly the same number of voters.

Threading boundaries between and through centres of population on the pretext of ensuring fairness is also a great way **to cheat** for your own benefit - a practice known as **gerrymandering**.

Suppose a city controlled by the Liberal Republican (**LR**) party has a voting population of 900,000 divided into **three constituencies**.

Polls show that at the next election (**LR**) is heading for defeat - 400,000 people intend to vote for it but the 500,000 others will opt for the Democratic Conservative (**DC**) party.

If the boundaries were to keep the **proportions** the same, each constituency would contain roughly 130,000 LR voters and 170,000 DC voters, and **DC would take all three seats** - the usual inequity of a plurality voting system.

In reality, voters inclined to vote for one party or the other will **probably clump together in the same neighbourhoods of the city**, so LR might well retain one seat. However, it could be all too easy for LR to redraw the boundaries to reverse the result and secure itself a majority.

But that invites other distortions, too. A party can win outright by being only marginally ahead of its competitors in most electoral divisions.

In the UK general election in 2005, the ruling Labour party won **55 %** of the seats on just **35 %** of the total votes.

If a candidate or party is slightly ahead in a bare majority of electoral divisions, but a long way behind in others, **they can win** even if a competitor gets more votes overall - as happened most notoriously in recent history in the US presidential election of 2000, when George W. Bush narrowly defeated Al Gore.

The **anomalies** of a plurality voting system can be **more subtle**, though:

Suppose **15** people are asked to rank their liking for milk (**M**), beer (**B**), or wine (**W**).

Six rank them **M-W-B**, five **B-W-M**, and four **W-B-M**.

In a plurality system where only **first preferences** count, the outcome is simple:

Milk wins with 40 per cent of the vote, followed by beer, with wine trailing in last.

So, do voters actually prefer milk? Not a bit of it. **Nine** voters prefer beer to milk, and nine prefer wine to milk - clear majorities in both cases.

Meanwhile, **10** people prefer wine to beer.

By pairing off all these preferences, we see the truly preferred order to be **W-B-M**.

The exact reverse of what the voting system produced.

In fact, given a set of voter preferences, you can design a system that produces any result you desire!!!

In the example above, **simple plurality voting** produced an anomalous outcome be-

cause the alcohol drinkers stuck together: wine and beer drinkers both nominated the other as their second preference and gave milk a big thumbs-down.

Similar things happen in politics when two parties appeal to the **same kind of voters**. They split the votes between them, and allowing an unpopular third party to win the election.

Can we avoid that kind of unfairness while keeping the advantages of a first-past-the-post system?

Only to an extent. One possibility is a second **"run-off"** election between the two top-ranked candidates, as happens in France and in many presidential elections elsewhere.

But there is no guarantee that the two candidates with the widest potential support even make the run-off.

In the 2002 French presidential election, for example, so many left-wing candidates stood in the first round that all of them were eliminated, leaving two right wing candidates, **Chirac** and **Le Pen** to contest the run-off.

2. ALTERNATIVE OR PREFERENTIAL VOTE

Another strategy allows voters to place candidates in **order of preference**, with a 1, 2, 3, and so on.

After the first-preference votes have been counted, the candidate with the lowest score is eliminated and the votes reapportioned to the next-choice candidates on those ballot papers.

This process goes on until one candidate has the support of over 50 per cent of the voters.

This system is used in elections to the Australian House of Representatives, as well as in several US cities.

Preferential voting comes **closer to being fair** than plurality voting, but it **does not eliminate ordering paradoxes**.

Suppose we have three candidates, **A, B, and C**, and three voters who rank them:

A-B-C, B-C-A and **C-A-B**. Voters prefer A to B by 2 to 1. But B is preferred to C and C preferred to A by the same margin of 2 to 1.

"Everybody has won and all must have prizes."

3. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

This type of voting system avoids such circular paradoxes entirely:

Here a party is awarded a number of parliamentary seats in **direct proportion to the number of people who voted for it**.

Such a system is **undoubtedly fairer** in a mathematical sense than either plurality or preferential voting.

But it has political drawbacks. It implies **large, multi-representative constituencies**:

The best shot at **truly proportional representation** comes with just **one constituency**, the system used in **Israel**. But **large** constituencies **weaken the link** between voters and their representatives.

(As pertains In South Africa)

Candidates are often chosen from a **centrally determined list**, so voters have little or **no control over who represents them**.

What's more, proportional systems tend to produce coalitions of two or more parties, potentially leading to unstable and ineffectual government - although plurality systems are not immune to such problems, either. **(cf. current UK Government)**

Power in the balance

One criticism of proportional voting systems is that they make it less likely that one party wins a majority of the seats available, thus increasing the power of smaller parties as **"king-makers"** who can swing the balance between rival parties as they see fit.

The same can happen in a plurality system if the electoral arithmetic delivers a **hung parliament**, in which no party has an overall majority **(cf. UK)**

Where does the power reside in such situations? -- **Power shifts dramatically.**

Proportional representation has its own **mathematical wrinkles**. There is **no way**, for example, to allocate a whole number of seats **in exact proportion** to a larger population.

This can lead to an odd situation in which increasing the total number of seats available reduces the representation of an individual constituency, even if its population stays the same.

Such imperfections led the American economist Kenneth Arrow in 1963 to list the **general attributes** of an **idealised fair voting system**.

He suggested that voters should be able to express a complete set of their preferences:

No single voter should be allowed to dictate the outcome of the election:

If every voter prefers one candidate to another, the final ranking should **reflect** that.

And if a voter prefers one candidate to a second, introducing a third candidate should not reverse that preference.

All very sensible. There's just one problem: Arrow and others went on **to prove** that:

No conceivable voting system could satisfy all four conditions.

In particular, there will always be the possibility that one voter, simply by changing their vote, can change the overall preference of the whole electorate.

So, we are left to make the best of a bad job.

Some less fair systems produce governments with enough power to actually do things, **though most voters may disapprove**; some fairer systems **spread power so thinly** that any attempt at government descends into **partisan infighting**.

Crunching the numbers can help, but deciding which is the lesser of the two evils is ultimately a matter not for mathematics, but for **human judgement**.

WE ARE LEFT WITH THE UNHAPPY CONCLUSION:

DEMOCRACY IS IMPOSSIBLE.

Dr Peter Joubert

Diensplig

Eendag merk die dominee 'n klein seuntjie in die voorportaal van die kerk op wat aandagtig na 'n groot gedenkplaat teen die muur staan en kyk. Dit was oortrek met name en daar was klein landsvlaggies weerskante. Toe loop die dominee nader, kom staan langs die seuntjie, en sê saggies: "Goeiemore my seun." "Môre, Dominee," sê hy, met sy oë nog vasgenael op die plaat. "Dominee, wat is dit hierdie?" vra hy. Die dominee antwoord: "Wel, my seun, dit is 'n gedenkplaat vir al die jongmanne wat in diens gesterf het." In doodse stilte en met groot eerbied staan die twee voor die plaat en staar na die name... Uiteindelik, in 'n skaars hoorbare stemmetjie en bewend van vrees vra die seuntjie: "Watter diens, Dominee? Die oggend- of die aandiens?"

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