



Good day to you. The odd thing about democracy and freedom is that the people can vote for the wrong outcome. By this I mean the will of the people should prevail but in that decision making, society gets what it wishes for and sometimes a bit more. Remember the old saying to be careful what you wish for because you might just get it. In other words a wish may bring unintended consequences so careful consideration is needed. Mankind has a long history of doing just that and from this flows the adage that "*the only thing man learns from history, is that he doesn't learn from history*". So the people can actually get it wrong or is it that *the will of the people can never be wrong*. I must admit I would like to be a dictator in Australia for 12 months and get a whole range of issues sorted out and then hand democracy back to the people, such is my disappointment with government. I am sure I could get it right, yet can the path to freedom begin with one person dictating what should happen and how society should function. Put simply it's a conundrum and one we battle with at family and social gatherings.

In 1935 Sidney and Beatrice Webb wrote a book called "A New Civilisation" in which communism was the pre-eminent method of rule. In the book they refer to the infamous Lenin as saying..... "*It is true that liberty is precious - so precious it must be rationed*". Now that is a curious statement but one well worth considering. Freedom and liberty are so valuable and such a basic tenet of society it must be guarded and limited. I find this to be quite profound although perhaps not the way it may have been originally used. Could it be that we can't be completely trusted with freedom, liberty and democracy? Could it be our performance at governing our selves is so bad that some form of intervention is required at times?and so we return full circle to the genesis of all wisdom, the great Australian BBQ where most of the world's problems are solved over lunch.

So to ask the people is a right and proper thing to do. This underpins my belief in Christianity which has as its basic tenet the freedom to choose and therefore responsibility and ownership of the consequences that follow. However it comes with a rule book which rations the freedom to make the **right decisions**. Pretty impressive wisdom for a 2000 year old book and that combination of worldly and spiritual regulation provides both wisdom and liberty along with proper governance and accountability. Put simply, it works.

In my view, today we have a society divided and confused. There are many enclaves all trying to shout the loudest to change liberty and freedom as we see it. As an example, the so called marriage equality movement cares not for our long standing beliefs and simply demand we do as we are told and hand the ultimate decision to a gaggle of politicians to set a new moral path we may not want. A routinely conflicted Council tell us we must live on ever smaller blocks of land with social aggression and grid lock because it's good for us, when we know it's not, but they demand we comply. We vote in but do not hold politicians to account so ultimately diminished men like Sam Dastyari actually take tainted money from another country and claim it's ok. When we the people become indolent in our decision making then perhaps freedom should be rationed because we have lost control of our lives and the legacy for our children and care not for the planet which sustains us. Freedom is indeed precious and it could be said that those who do not contribute to democracy and liberty should not enjoy it. I would like to see a revolution of common sense begin in a new world of sustainable living. So ask yourself what kind of Australia and democracy do you want and then raise your voice and be heard. For my part I would like to see national referendums 'on line' occurring regularly so governments genuinely know what the people want. Let's not be dictated to especially by minority groups or compromised politicians and those who would demand to drink a greater share from the public cup.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley