Grape Expectations by Max Crus
(Column No.1490)

Appealing pulling appalling polling

EVERYONE knows that polling, like statistics, is very inexact, although 100 per cent of statisticians and pollsters would dispute this.

However there is no disputing the power and influence of polls.

It is a great disappointment to most that Australian elections are decided by about five percent of the population – the swinging voters – but what can they do?

Nothing.

Doesn't mean you shouldn't vote, you will be fined if you don't, and okay, you could just get your name crossed off but you're already there, so you might as well vote as you always do, unless you are among that five per cent, in which case you're busting to keep the bastards honest.

Of that five per cent, 95 per cent will ultimately vote as they always have – those who think we should be kind and generous to everyone and share the nations wealth will vote Labor, those who think kindness and generosity starts at home (and their boarding school), will vote Liberal, while those whose forebears voted National since 1901 will do so because Barnaby looks like Grandad in those daguerreotypes on the mantelpiece.

That leaves just five per cent of five percent who are the swingers. Alas 99 per cent of them are swayed by the polls, thinking, "well, I hate Morrison (and Barnaby), but I don't want Labor to think they are that good", and will, on polling day, cast their vote, not as they told the pollsters, but as they always have, which leaves pretty much just me as the only voter able to influence the election.

How do I know my choice will reflect the actual outcome? Easy, I took a poll. Remember Paul the World Cup, Octopus? Well, hello Minky The Election Dog.

I filled a blue bowl with pork to reflect the Coalition, a red bowl with more pork for Labor, a green bowl with vegetables for the Greens and a teal bowl with a refreshing new recipe of clean, green, free-range, free-trade certified, sustainably managed, transparent, honest-to-goodness lobster.

The result was overwhelming, but a quick visit to the vet should fix that and our nostrils.

However not to hold you in suspense ... she ate everything, naturally, but clearly looking for a change, ate the lobster first.

Unlike humans, she has an innate ability to know what's good for her so she ate the vegetables next (okay, they were smeared with free-range chicken), followed by the red bowl because it was closest to the green and the blue last because she is well and truly over pork.

Gee, the pollsters could have saved a lot of time and money and just asked Minky.

Meanwhile let's celebrate, comfortable the country will be in good hands after the 21st.

Now, what wines can we find with teal labels? None, that's why Climate 200 chose the colour.

RedHeads SA Moonlighters Red Blend 2020, $20. You could be forgiven for thinking something called Moonlighters would be light and frivolous. It is in fact quite weighty and frivolous, an even better combination. **9.4/10.**

RedHeads Barossa Valley '1888' Shiraz 2020, $50. For such an understated, this is quite an overstated wine, indeed all of us stated we'd like another. Big and bold in that Barossan, teal way. **9.5/10.**

Vickery Eden Valley Riesling 2021, $23. There was a time when my friends shunned whites. Thanks goodness they've all grown up. This is delightful grown-up riesling, under an almost teal-grey label to go with them. **9.4/10.**

Vickery Eden Valley Zander Quarry Block (EVR903 Z) Riesling 2019, $32. With such an impressive name, the senses are heightened by expectation, and rightly so. That's what marketing is all about. Sometimes the marketing is worth it, like teal. **9.4/10.**

Shaw Wines Canberra Cabernet Sauvignon 2019, $34. The Canberra Cabernets could be a sporting team of some kind, or a political party, perhaps with a hint of teal in the guernsey as it is in the label if you're colourblind. **9/10.**

Shaw Wines Canberra Shiraz 2019, $34. Sometimes you want a wine with bite but not too much, at which times cool climate shiraz is your friend. Don't tell your doctor that. **9.3/10.**