

transTasman

• POLITICS • ECONOMY • LEGISLATION • TRADE

11TH ANNUAL ROLL CALL – How Our MPs Performed In 2015

In this, the 11th annual Roll Call, Trans Tasman's Editors have a look at how "third termitis" might be affecting the Govt, how our new intake of MPs have performed in the past 12 months and how the old hands have carried out their duties in Caucus, Cabinet, Committee, the House, their electorate and the influence they bring to bear in their various forums. As usual the MPs are ranked by the Trans Tasman Editors and their highly respected team of Capital insiders.

- The Trans Tasman Editors
Max Bowden, Ian Templeton, Tony Doe
30 November, 2015

Cabinet Ministers					
Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Key, John</i>	Helensville	Prime Minister Minister for National Security and Intelligence Minister of Tourism Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services	His popularity is un-dented, despite ponytail gate and other controversies. Is he starting to lose interest? Not on your life. The flag debate may deflate his ego, but he is still far and away NZ's most popular leader. Has done well on the global stage	9.5	7.5
<i>English, Bill</i>	List	Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Finance Minister Responsible for HNZC	A foundation for the Government's ongoing success. Dependable and canny as always. Finally getting the books into the black, even if only for a short time, has been a big deal for him. The power behind the throne.	9	8
<i>Brownlee, Gerry</i>	Ilam	Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister of Defence Leader of the House Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission	He's been touted as the next speaker - still possible despite the denials - and would be a much better prospect than the current one. He's as combative as ever, but looks worn out by his efforts on Christchurch and out of sorts as Defence Minister.	7	6
<i>Joyce, Steven</i>	List	Minister for Economic Development Minister for Regulatory Reform Minister of Science and Innovation Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Responsible for Novopay Associate Minister of Finance	His super Ministry has often been in the news for the wrong reasons, but Joyce is unruffled. As aggressive as ever in defence of his policies, he has learned from his failed strategy in the Northland by-election and is focusing hard on the regions. Has performed well all year, and is pushing the right sectors of the economy.	8	6.5
<i>Bennett, Paula</i>	Waitakere	Minister of Local Government Minister for Social Housing Minister of State Services Associate Minister of Finance Associate Minister of Tourism	She has taken to her new roles seriously and has been doing some innovative work behind the scenes which, while not visible to the public, is following in the footsteps of Bill English's style of innovative and careful management. She has been ineffective in social housing - but did crack down on tenants, telling them not to be too picky. We can expect more next year.	7.5	7
<i>Coleman, Jonathan</i>	Northcote	Minister of Health Minister for Sport and Recreation	The Doctor has been in the house with a solid grip on the health portfolio but hampered by a poorly-performing/dysfunctional Ministry. There have been no real problems, and he's kept Annette King at bay. A steady year.	7.5	6
<i>Adams, Amy</i>	Selwyn	Minister of Justice Minister for Courts Minister of Broadcasting Minister for Communications	We said she'd be one to watch and she has added to that impression with strong performances across all her portfolios. Pushed extended opening hours for bars during the world cup and did what she could to act on criminals returning from Aust. She has been good in public.	7	7.5
<i>Finlayson, Chris</i>	List	Attorney-General Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Minister in Charge of the NZ Security Intelligence Service Minister Responsible for the GCSB Associate Minister for Maori Development	Still pushing the Treaty Settlements, and making some progress, but he has been pretty quiet on the intelligence side, not surprising as most of the work of the SIS and GCSB is secret.	8	6

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Bridges, Simon</i>	Tauranga	Minister of Energy and Resources Minister of Transport Deputy Leader of the House Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues Associate Minister of Justice	One of the stars this year he has been largely on top of his work, other than an embarrassing bridge too far in the Northland by-election. He is a potential future leader of the National Party.	7.5	7
<i>Parata, Hekia</i>	List	Minister of Education	After a few grim years, she has been in a less controversial space this year and seems to be thriving. She has Key's backing which must help.	7	6.5
<i>Tolley, Anne</i>	East Coast	Minister for Social Development	Social Development has kept her busy and she has been keeping her head down, getting on top of a complex area and prepared to front issues frankly. No real mistakes, but no earth shattering policy decisions either - called for more education on the pill. The big move to boost benefits was clearly not her decision.	7	6
<i>Smith, Nick</i>	Nelson	Minister for the Environment Minister for Building and Housing	Trying to sort out Auckland's housing woes appears to have defeated him, as it has defeated everyone else who's tried. Beaten but unbowed. Still strong on the environment though.	7.5	5
<i>McCully, Murray</i>	East Coast Bays	Minister of Foreign Affairs Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation	He has been a virtual blur this year, rushing through so many countries and doing so much. Failed to secure Middle East peace though. A strong year for the man, which has ended in a hospital bed. He made a massive effort.	7.5	8
<i>Guy, Nathan</i>	Otaki	Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Racing	He's had some tough issues to battle through and being responsible for the country's primary export sector is no small task. He seems to have grown into it, but can still hide behind a provincial persona that belies his competence.	5	5
<i>Kaye, Nikki</i>	Auckland Central	Minister for ACC Minister of Civil Defence Minister for Youth Associate Minister of Education	Continues to be the EverReady Bunny of Parliament. Doesn't seem to have produced much in terms of policy, but has presided over lower ACC levies for which the public will thank her. Gained \$150,000 funding for "Rainbow Youth."	6	5
<i>Groser, Tim</i>	List	Minister of Trade Minister for Climate Change Issues	Another Minister who has had a huge year and weathered some storms. He is expected to leave soon for a less pressured environment. Kudos for getting the TPP signed, but secrecy and less than anticipated gains for agriculture are negatives.	7.5	7.5
<i>Woodhouse, Michael</i>	List	Minister of Immigration Minister of Police Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety	One of the more impressive Ministers sure footed and strong in public appearances. Caught short by the Safety Law definitions, because he didn't read his papers - learnt a valuable lesson. Dealing well with some tough portfolios.	6.5	7
<i>McClay, Todd</i>	Rotorua	Minister of Revenue Minister for State Owned Enterprises Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs Associate Minister of Trade	Some say he'll step into Foreign Affairs if McCully doesn't come back from his illness, or Trade when Groser goes, should be able to handle both if the new IRD computer system doesn't trip him up.	6.5	6
<i>Sam Lotu-liga, Peseta</i>	Maungakiekie	Minister of Corrections Minister for Ethnic Communities Minister for Pacific Peoples Associate Minister of Health	A baptism of fire for the Corrections Minister as the Govt's much vaunted private contract to run Mt Eden gaol ran into problems. He had to handle the pressure, and to a large extent did so.	5	5.5
<i>Barry, Maggie</i>	North Shore	Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage Minister of Conservation Minister for Senior Citizens	After a shaky start she was strangely quiet this year. Managed to get in a few overseas trips, but hasn't made a big impact. No major policy announcements. Hard on her staff.	5.5	4.5
Ministers Outside Cabinet					
<i>Foss, Craig</i>	Tukituki	Minister for Small Business Minister of Statistics Minister of Veterans' Affairs Associate Minister of Immigration Associate Minister of Transport	Some wondered why he was given Small Business, an important economic sector to deal with. They are still wondering. No real policy delivered.	3.5	3

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Goodhew, Jo</i>	Rangitata	Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector Minister for Food Safety Associate Minister for Primary Industries Associate Minister for Social Development	She has been handed a hopeless bunch of portfolios, and has pretty much sunk without trace as a result.	3.5	3
<i>Wagner, Nicky</i>	Christchurch Central	Minister of Customs Minister for Disability Issues Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Associate Minister of Conservation	Under utilised in the Canterbury space. Pumps out a few news releases, and is involved with border clearance issues. Customs could gain a higher profile with heightened terror worries and GST collection. She should be up to it.	5	5
<i>Upston, Louise</i>	Taupo	Minister for Land Information Minister for Women Associate Minister of Local Government Associate Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment	Barely sighted in the media, despite holding a high profile portfolio. Has stepped up to support equal pay but otherwise hasn't really excelled or made a mark for women, although she does support equal pay.	6.5	5
<i>Goldsmith, Paul</i>	List	Minister of Commerce Minister of Consumer Affairs Associate Minister for ACC	Effective in Cabinet. Launched a major review of the Commerce Commission.	6.5	5
SUPPORT PARTY MINISTERS					
<i>Dunne, Peter</i>	Ohariu	Minister of Internal Affairs Associate Minister of Conservation Associate Minister of Health	He seems to have found a conscience again, but he is a political mercenary and gives the impression he'll go where the political wind blows him. Keeping the Govt honest on the RMA at least.	5	5
<i>Flavell, Te Ururoa</i>	Waiairiki	Minister for Maori Development Minister for Whanau Ora Associate Minister for Economic Development	Has been holding his portfolios steady and getting some good wins for Maori development and in the regions. Isn't one to blow his own trumpet but maybe needs to more often, for the sake of his party's future.	6.5	5
National Back Benchers					
<i>Bakshi, Kanwaljit</i>	List	Deputy Law and Order Select Committee	Works hard on his committee, but there has to be more for him than helping the party's ethnic balance look good.	4	3
<i>Barclay, Todd</i>	Clutha-Southland		We marked him out as one to watch - but what has he done? Not a stellar year.	N/A	3
<i>Bayly, Andrew</i>	Hunua	Deputy Chair Regulations Review Select Committee	Impressive newbie. Had high hopes coming in as an MP, hopefully they have not been dashed by a year of graft on the backbench. Mostly invisible.	N/A	3
<i>Bennett, David</i>	Hamilton East	Chair Finance and Expenditure Select Committee	Still a Committee chair, but probably not destined to go further.	4	3
<i>Bishop, Chris</i>	List	Deputy Chair Finance and Expenditure Select Committee	One of the hardest workers in the Backbench who is giving Trevor Mallard a real run for his money in Hutt South, one of National's "targeted seats" - to the point where whispers are Mallard may not stand in 2017. Strong select committee performer.	N/A	5
<i>Borrows, Chester</i>	Whanganui		A consistent but unremarkable performer. His career has moved strongly to the side.	6	4
<i>Carter, David</i>	List	Speaker	Disappointing performance. Gives every indication of disliking the Speaker's role, and has been far too pro-Govt. Selectively deaf. Looks set to vacate the chair soon and head off to a well deserved dotage in a safe foreign location.	7	4
<i>Collins, Judith</i>	Papakura		Desperate to get back into Cabinet, but probably not much chance of it happening. Still has leadership ambitions and has been somewhat indiscreet outside Wellington in voicing them, but doesn't stand a chance.	4.5	3
<i>Dean, Jacqui</i>	Waitaki	Chair Justice and Electoral Select Committee	Keeps being tipped for promotion, but will probably have to accept the fact it isn't going to happen.	5	3.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Doocey, Matt</i>	Waimakariri	Deputy Chair Social Services Select Committee	We tipped him as an asset, have seen no sign of anything to the contrary, but no real positive signs either.	N/A	3
<i>Dowie, Sarah</i>	Invercargill	Deputy Chair Government Administration Select Committee	An ambitious new MP, who presumably has seen the way things work in Parliament. Struggling to make an impact. No sign of her this year.	N/A	3
<i>Foster-Bell, Paul</i>	List	Deputy Chair Education and Science Select Committee	Last year we suggested he sharpen up his act. He hasn't.	3.5	2
<i>Hayes, Jo</i>	List		Another newbie we are still waiting to see in action. So far nothing to write home to Dunedin South about, one way or another.	N/A	3
<i>Hudson, Brett</i>	List	Deputy Chair Commerce Select Committee	We said he would have to prove he is anything more than a lightweight. So far still punching at his expected level.	N/A	2.5
<i>Korako, Nuk</i>	List	Chair Maori Affairs Select Committee	A man considered genial by most, who has done nothing to change anyone's opinion.	N/A	2.5
<i>Kuriger, Barbara</i>	Taranaki-King Country	Deputy Chair Health Select Committee	Says she wants to help promote regional growth. Her own area is doing well, but it's clear she hasn't had much impact anywhere else.	N/A	2
<i>Lee, Melissa</i>	List	Chair Commerce Select Committee	Probably should be considering another career. Her bus has well and truly pulled out.	3	2
<i>Macindoe, Tim</i>	Hamilton West	Chief Whip	Seems to have coped with his important duties as chief whip without too much trouble, although there has been nothing particularly contentious to deal with either.	5.5	5
<i>McKelvie, Ian</i>	Rangitikei	Chair Primary Production Select Committee	Holds a safe seat, but hasn't done much with it. Probably needs to make his mark in the next year.	5	3
<i>Mitchell, Mark</i>	Rodney	Chair Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee	Another holder of a safe seat. A good example of why we should consider fixed terms for MPs. Has made little impact so far.	5	2.5
<i>Muller, Todd</i>	Bay Of Plenty	Deputy Local Government and Environment Select Committee	Left Fonterra to go into politics. A PM in the making according to some pundits. Needs to find his voice more to justify such praise.	N/A	3
<i>Naylor, Jono</i>	List	Deputy Chair Justice and Electoral Select Committee	Has plenty of political experience, but so far hasn't managed to do much with it.	N/A	3
<i>Ngaro, Alfred</i>	List	Chair Social Services Select Committee	We gave him high praise last year. He is still a promotion prospect.	6	4.5
<i>O'Connor, Simon</i>	Tamaki	Chair Health Select Committee	He could probably be given more work to do in the House as he speaks well, and is making a good fist of the Health Committee.	4	4
<i>Parmar, Parmjeet</i>	List		Has the background to make a real impact, but it will be an uphill battle. One to watch.	N/A	4
<i>Reti, Shane</i>	Whangarei	Deputy Chair Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee	Pitched as an asset last year, but we haven't really seen the evidence.	N/A	3
Ross, Jamie- Lee	Botany		One of the party's "bully-boys" he is an attack dog, with unquestioning loyalty. Expect him to move steadily up the ranks.	4	4
<i>Scott, Alastair</i>	Wairarapa	Deputy Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee	Well connected at home, but obviously not so in Wellington. Has almost disappeared without trace.	N/A	3
<i>Simpson, Scott</i>	Coromandel	Chair Local Government and Environment Select Committee	Can't seem to get anyone's attention outside the Committee he chairs. Needs to do more somehow.	4	2.5
<i>Smith, Stuart</i>	Kaikoura	Deputy Primary Production Select Committee	Replaced an MP who was a waste of space, but proving he's better is tough as well.	N/A	2

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Tisch, Lindsay</i>	Waikato	Assistant Speaker	Has grown roots as Assistant Speaker. Probably has no future - just makes up the numbers.	5	4
<i>Williamson, Maurice</i>	Pakuranga		His career has gone nowhere but down since he lost his Ministerial role. Should consider leaving.	5	3
<i>Yang, Jian</i>	List	Chair Education and Science Select Committee	Has done good work on his Committee, and helps prop up the Asian vote.	4	3
<i>Young, Jonathan</i>	New Plymouth	Chair Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee	Has a Committee chair role, but not much else going for him. Not destined for the top table.	4.5	3
United Future					
<i>Dunne, Peter</i>	Ohariu	See support party Ministers		5	5
ACT					
<i>Seymour, David</i>	Epsom	Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Education and Minister of Regulatory Reform.	What a performance from Seymour. Given a free ride into the House, made leader of a rump party, no one expected much of him. He has proved them all wrong, and become a strong positive MP. He's been everywhere and is a hard worker - a real surprise. If anyone can make ACT relevant again, it's Seymour - he's the man.	N/A	8.5
Maori					
<i>Fox, Marama</i>	List		Last year we pointed to her gaffes. Been more measured this year.	N/A	3
<i>Flavell, Te Ururoa</i>	Waiariki	See support party Ministers		6.5	5
Labour					
<i>Ardern, Jacinda</i>	List		Has done a good job of corralling the Auckland youth vote. Too close to Grant Robertson to have Deputy Leader aspirations. Didn't deserve "pretty little thing" comment, but hasn't exactly mastered her shadow portfolios. Still polled as 4th best preferred PM.	5	5
<i>Clark, David</i>	Dunedin North		His desire for media headlines sometimes overtakes his capability and he has had a number of misfires which just haven't connected and have hurt important relationships.	5.5	4
<i>Cosgrove, Clayton</i>	List		A shadow of his old self, left on the outer in the new look Andrew Little party and has resorted to desperate measures to try to get ahead but fails to make an impression. Probably time to go.	4.5	3
<i>Cunliffe, David</i>	New Lynn		Still one of the best debaters on the Opposition benches. Has registered some good hits against Joyce and retained dignity in the face of continued sledging. Still trying, but not getting anywhere fast. Should be looking to set something up outside politics.	6	4
<i>Curran, Clare</i>	Dunedin South		Continues to have discipline problems and has a reputation for running to the Leader when she doesn't get her own way. Could be a much more valuable MP with a more mature approach.	4.5	3.5
<i>Davis, Kelvin</i>	Te Tai Tokerau		Is getting the hang of how to use the media and register some hits. Gets up the PM's nose, and has a social conscience. Did he pick the right cause re deportation of criminals from Aust? Is ready to be thrown into the attack and relishing it.	N/A	6
<i>Dyson, Ruth</i>	Port Hills	Chair Government Administration Select Committee	Removed from the Opposition Canterbury spokesperson role after ongoing lack of engagement. Another Labour MP on her last legs. Needs to move on.	3.5	2

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Fafoi, Kris</i>	Mana		Had promise, but has yet to deliver anything of significance or weight. Not a good team player. Where does he go from here?	4	3
<i>Goff, Phil</i>	Mt Roskill		Has done it all for Labour and has kept his mana by treating others being treated with respect. A political chameleon. Has decided to move on to a new career. Good on him.	6	5.5
<i>Henare, Peeni</i>	Tamaki Makaurau		Has the political pedigree and is a worker behind the scenes, but needs more public wins and so far hasn't stepped up with anything memorable.	N/A	3
<i>Hipkins, Chris</i>	Rimutaka		One of the Labour MPs who will be the future of the party. If it ever gets back into power, he'll be at the top table.	6	6
<i>King, Annette</i>	Rongotai	Deputy Leader	While she struggles to shake off the mantle of the 90s, she continues to be a dominant force in her party. She's an elder statesman, and she still has the respect and the drive to get things done. The party needs her experience as it heads into what will be another tough election campaign in 2017.	7.5	6.5
<i>Lees-Galloway, Iain</i>	Palmerston North		Has the labour portfolio, which means he's had plenty of help from his boss. Needs to shine now, or it may be too late.	5	5
<i>Little, Andrew</i>	List	Leader	Is making a good fist of the leadership, getting his MPs on side and on message. Is sometimes criticised for being stern and not being able to read MPs' political games. Still not using all his MPs strengths to full advantage. He is not comfortable himself when under pressure. He has time to grow further into the job but polls need to move quickly. Needs better advice - is money the problem?	7	6
<i>Mahuta, Nanaia</i>	Hauraki-Waikato	Deputy Maori Affairs Select Committee	An enigma. Many would say she does nothing, others would say she plays a vital role in helping Labour hold on to Maori support.	3	4
<i>Mallard, Trevor</i>	Hutt South		Whispers around the traps claim he won't stand in 2017 and Labour desperately needs new blood. He may want to be Speaker if Labour wins, but probably shouldn't stay beyond 2017.	5.5	4
<i>Moroney, Sue</i>	List		Has talent and has worked hard on paid parental leave but hasn't been given much air, and it's not enough.	4	3
<i>Nash, Stuart</i>	Napier		One of the party's hopes for the future. Has powerful backers and will be a vital cog in a future Labour Govt.	N/A	5
<i>O'Connor, Damien</i>	West Coast -Tasman		He's a veteran, but one who still has some energy left.	5.5	4.5
<i>Parker, David</i>	List		Another MP for whom the change to Andrew Little's leadership, and his own lack of decision has been catastrophic. Should be his last term.	6	4
<i>Robertson, Grant</i>	Wellington Central		Floundering in the finance role, with generalised comments exposing his lack of knowledge. Isn't making the traction he should and is relying on his cronies like David Clark too much to fill in the gaps. Not doing his party any favours.	6.5	4
<i>Rurawhe, Adrian</i>	Te Tai Hauauru		Makes a contribution to the committee stages of Bills - serving his apprenticeship.	N/A	3.5
<i>Salesa, Jenny</i>	Manukau East		Another newbie lost in the transition into Parliament. Has talent, but hasn't shown it.	N/A	3
<i>Sepuloni, Carmel</i>	Kelston		Once expected to be Little's deputy, she has failed to fire, but will maintain his confidence. Personal problems got in the way of her work.	N/A	4

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Shearer, David</i>	Mt Albert		The leadership never suited him, and he is not getting much traction despite all his foreign affairs experience. Ignored like many on the Labour front bench.	5	4
<i>Sio, Su'a William</i>	Mangere		His role is to deliver the Pacific Island vote, and as long as he is there he probably will.	4.5	2.5
<i>Tirikatene, Rino</i>	Te Tai Tonga		Another MP going nowhere fast. No prospect of advancement. Should look to his future.	2.5	2
<i>Twyford, Phil</i>	Te Atatu		Another of the young Labour stars, who has worked his heart out on housing and transport issues. Deserves a big role in the next labour Govt.	6	6
<i>Wall, Louisa</i>	Manurewa		Has been stymied from shining due to factional politics. Is progressive and works well on cross party issues. Still has potential.	5	4.5
<i>Whaitiri, Meka</i>	Ikaroa-Rawhiti		Has been making a bit more noise on water issues, but must cut through the chatter.	4	3
<i>Williams, Poto</i>	Christchurch East		Labour internal party politics hurts her. Is preferred local Labour MP for businesses wanting a serious conversation.	N/A	4
<i>Woods, Megan</i>	Wigram		A lot of huff and puff but not a lot of substance. Can have some sensible things to say. A future Minister.	6	4
Greens					
<i>Browning, Steffan</i>	List		Trying hard to dispose of his reputation for wackiness - not succeeding.	2.5	3
<i>Clendon, David</i>	List		Not known as a golden performer. Put in the hard yards on the Serco scandal.	3	3
<i>Davidson, Marama</i>	List		Unknown quantity to replace Russel Norman. Says she won't back down on issues she believes in.	N/A	N/A
<i>Delahunty, Catherine</i>	List		Hard working and has had her activist voice under control, but still no real cut through.	2	2
<i>Genter, Julie Ann</i>	List		Solid performer who is doing a good job for the Greens on transport, a crucial issue for them.	4.5	4
<i>Graham, Kennedy</i>	List		He is the party's global affairs spokesman and is handling it well.	5	4
<i>Hague, Kevin</i>	List		Hasn't managed to get the traction he did in 2014. Losing the deputy leadership race hurt.	6.5	5
<i>Hughes, Gareth</i>	List		One of the party's highest profile MPs. A hard worker and starting to get to grips with what it means to be in a minority party. Managed the flag debate/red peak flag promotion beautifully, trumping Labour and showing just what the Greens can do in the right conditions.	5	5
<i>Logie, Jan</i>	List		A hard worker who is very present in the community. Finding it hard to get cut through in her spokesperson role but working up to it.	3	4
<i>Mathers, Mojo</i>	List		She has not really ever lived up to the reputation of Sue Kedgey on animal welfare.	3.5	3
<i>Roche, Denise</i>	List		Quite active in the media. 2016 will be about getting the opportunities to boost her profile.	4	4
<i>Sage, Eugeneine</i>	List		Knows her stuff and gives the party credibility. Less comfortable with the cut and thrust and needs to take on Maggie Barry a bit more.	4	4

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2014 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Shaw James</i>	List	Co-Leader	Has been a bit of a revelation as co-leader. He's a good performer who is doing the hard yards with stakeholders. One to watch. Could be a real threat to Labour, and deserves to be where he is.	N/A	5.5
<i>Turei, Metiria</i>	List	Co-Leader	Doesn't seem to have fired this year, with co-leader Shaw hogging most of the limelight. Makes you wonder why the Greens bother with the co-leader, one male one female set up.	6	4
NZ First					
<i>Ball, Darroch</i>	List		Hard to recall him doing anything in the past 12 months.	N/A	2
<i>Bindra, Mahesh</i>	List		Another MP who appears to be MIA. They are all under Winston's shadow.	N/A	2
<i>Bond, Ria</i>	List		Arrived when Winston Peters won Northland by-election. Good maiden speech. Not sighted since.	N/A	2
<i>Mark, Ron</i>	List		Experienced and savvy. Can be too smart for his own good and can shoot from the lip. Has aspirations for the top job, but Winston is seeing a lot of Shane Jones these days.	N/A	3.5
<i>Martin, Tracey</i>	List	Deputy leader	Apart from a battle over the Deputy Leadership with Ron Mark, you'd not really know she exists.	4	2
<i>Mitchell, Clayton</i>	List		Another NZ First MP who takes up a seat at Parliament, but has apparently achieved nothing.	N/A	2
<i>O'Rourke, Denis</i>	List		He's courted controversy in the past, but has put in a hard working year, especially on transport.	4	5
<i>Paraone, Pita</i>	List		Has high aims, but is nowhere near achieving them. Has had a bit of press this year.	N/A	2
<i>Peters, Winston</i>	Northland	Leader	Stealing the Northland by-election from National proves once again his political judgment rarely fails him and he doesn't need pollsters to tell him where the voter sentiments lie. He still holds dreams of being king-maker in 2017.	7.5	7
<i>Prosser, Richard</i>	List		Hopes weren't high, but he has exceeded the low benchmark set for him by pundits.	2	2.5
<i>Stewart, Barbara</i>	List		Does the work, but doesn't get the recognition - much the same as in all one man band parties.	3	4
<i>Tabuteau, Fletcher</i>	List		Got his name in the media for the right reasons a few times this year, so doing something positive.	N/A	3

2015 Politician Of The Year - David Seymour

While not exactly a political novice - he has form in student politics, and stood unsuccessfully twice in Auckland seats before getting elected, as well as being an adviser to then ACT leader John Banks, 32 year old David Seymour is in his first term in Parliament, he is a novice as a party leader, and coalition member. The surprise is how well he has performed, and the degree to which he seems to have made ACT a potential vote winner again. Sure he made the odd "coq" up, but no more than many of his colleagues.

He has handled his work with dedication, he is "everywhere" and he is a genuine talent. ACT's charter school policies could turn out to be one of the successes of the coalition in policy terms and his move to ensure bars could open during the Rugby World Cup showed how in touch he is with public thinking. He gets the nod as politician of the year because he is at the vanguard of a new wave of politicians - starting with a back to basics approach both in electorate and Parliamentary work. He's doing what a minor party should do under MMP - giving support, but making the Govt's life difficult as well, and he is also doing it tactically. He has proven he can master the Parliamentary bun fight, now he needs to show he can make his party relevant.

