

ROLL CALL – How Our MPs Performed In 2008

Trans Tasman's Editors have run their rule over NZ's MPs and rated their performances in 2008. Roll Call looks at how well they've performed in Caucus, Cabinet, Committee, the House and Electorate and the influence they bring to bear in various forums. After this year's momentous election result there are 33 new MPs. These are not rated for their performance, having only been in Parliament for a few weeks, but we've looked at their potential nevertheless. Takes into account National's new Cabinet portfolios.

National					
Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2007 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Adams, Amy</i>	Selwyn		Young Cantabrian lawyer was given a safe new seat with boundary changes. Did well to get a 10,246 majority. Has potential star quality.		N/A
<i>Ardern, Shane</i>	Taranaki-King Country		No place for him in or out of Cabinet, which wasn't a surprise.	3	2.5
<i>Auchinvole, Chris</i>	West Coast-Tasman		Gets a point for taking a Labour seat. Voters must have noticed him, which isn't easy.	2	3
<i>Bakshi, Kanwaljit</i>	List		Diversity candidate has only been in NZ for seven years. Businessman, executive position in Auckland Indian Association.		N/A
<i>Bennett, David</i>	Hamilton East		Held Associate Transport but hasn't even got that now. Doomed to stay on the backbenches it seems.	3	2.5
<i>Bennett, Paula</i>	Waitakere	Minister for Disability Issues Minister of Youth Affairs Minister for Social Development & Employment	We picked her for promotion and hasn't she done well! Turned a 6000 Labour seat into a 1000 National majority. Has been rewarded but still has a lot to prove.	6	7
<i>Blue, Jackie</i>	List		Would have been an Associate Health Minister but there wasn't room. Still has a lot to offer, pushed the Herceptin case for National.	5	5
<i>Borrows, Chester</i>	Whanganui		Police spokesman who isn't the Minister of Police, or anything else. Former officer must be disappointed, could have expected better.	5.5	5
<i>Bridges, Simon</i>	Tauranga		Young Crown prosecutor took Tauranga against Winston Peters, who didn't turn out to be much of a threat. Said to hold promise. A Young Gun set to shine.		N/A
<i>Brownlee, Gerry</i>	Ilam	Minister for Economic Development Minister of Energy and Resources Leader of the House Associate Minister for the Rugby World Cup	Third ranked in Cabinet. Key obviously rates him because Economic Development is a tough task. So is Leader of the House against Cullen. Interesting to watch his progress. Combination of Economic Development and Energy has "energy play" written all over it.	7	7.5
<i>Carter, David</i>	List	Minister of Agriculture Minister for Bio-Security Minister of Forestry	Worked hard as Agriculture Spokesman. Has to be dynamic in new role if Nats are to lift economic growth rapidly.	4.5	5
<i>Carter, John</i>	Northland	Minister Outside Cabinet Minister of Civil Defence Minister for Senior Citizens Minister for Racing Associate Minister of Local Government	Didn't get a portfolio, didn't deserve one. But he's still a good electorate MP, ran a busy campaign. Won't be able to reproduce any more miracles for the racing industry.	2	2.5
<i>Coleman, Jonathan</i>	Northcote	Minister of Immigration Minister of Broadcasting Associate Minister of Tourism Associate Minister of Health	Like Jackie Blue, this doctor was headed for health. Key sent him there, thinks he's good enough for Cabinet. It isn't obvious why - perhaps it will be next year.	4	6
<i>Collins, Judith</i>	Papakura	Minister of Police Minister of Corrections Minister of Veterans' Affairs	Tough, resilient, Key wanted a softer face for welfare. Police and Corrections will test her. Had a good year.	7.5	7.5

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<i>Dean, Jacqui</i>	Waitaki		Nothing of merit to report. Backbench stayer.	3	3
<i>English, Bill</i>	Clutha-Southland	Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Finance Minister for Infrastructure	National's main attack weapon this year. He'll do the business in the House - if he gets time. Vital economic role in Cabinet. Key will be grateful for his good sense and hard policy grind.	8	8.5
<i>Finlayson, Chris</i>	List	Attorney-General [Includes responsibility for Serious Fraud Office] Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage	Comprehensively capable, he's been given the right portfolios to really show it. Should shine in the House. Has strongly liberal views on human rights issues.	6	7
<i>Foss, Craig</i>	Tukituki		Another Cabinet loser. Said to be highly intelligent. Did a good job on Hawke's Bay DHB fiasco. Devoted a lot of time to making a safe Labour seat into a solid National majority.	5.5	5
<i>Gilmore, Aaron</i>	List		5th generation Cantabrian with a Masters in Economics. Active in the party before being chosen for Parliament, worked on policy development. Most recently a senior manager for an export company.		N/A
<i>Goodhew, Jo</i>	Rangitata		Low profile which she needs to raise. Behind the scenes worker. Good on committees.	4.5	4
<i>Goudie, Sandra</i>	Coromandel		More aggressive in the House this year. Another backbench stayer. Works hard at electorate level.	4	4.5
<i>Groser, Tim</i>	List	Minister of Trade Minister of Conservation Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations)	Key needs his skills. Impressed Caucus with a stream of policy papers. Will keep his colleagues up to date with climate policy trends. Conservation an interesting choice. Could be one of NZ's great trade Ministers. Micro-management tendencies but could prove an asset in these roles.	6	7.5
<i>Guy, Nathan</i>	Otaki		Senior Whip Finally managed to win Otaki for National. Much improved debater. Due for promotion in first reshuffle. Good foil for Darren Hughes.	4.5	5
<i>Hayes, John</i>	Wairarapa		Continues to disappoint and seems permanently disenchanted about something. Isn't going anywhere. Needs a job he cares about.	3	2.5
<i>Heatley, Phil</i>	Whangarei	Minister of Fisheries Minister of Housing	Another good year with State Housing scams and scandal. Now he can fix them.	6	6.5
<i>Henare, Tau</i>	List		Didn't deserve the position he didn't get. Hard man in the House, he'll still pick fruitless fights.	3	2.5
<i>Hutchison, Paul</i>	Hunua		Medical expertise and good manners don't count for much in Parliament, which is a pity. Deserves to be disappointed.	5.5	4.5
<i>Joyce, Steven</i>	List	Minister of Transport Minister for Communications and Information Technology Associate Minister of Finance Associate Minister for Infrastructure	Hand-picked Cabinet bolter. Successful businessman has lots to learn about the Beehive. Hopefully will maintain the entrepreneurial flair Key needs to remain nimble in tough times.		N/A
<i>Kaye, Nikki</i>	Auckland Central		Ran an energetic campaign to beat Judith Tizard, which won praise from party chiefs. Has worked in National's parliamentary research office, most recently ran an infotech project for a finance company. Could be a star.		N/A
<i>Key, John</i>	Helensville	Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Ministerial Services, Minister in Charge of the NZ Security, Intelligence Service, Minister Responsible for the GCSB	What a year! Stood above personal politics. Looks better by the day, highly impressive start to his new Govt. Great election win - team all on board. His vocabulary doesn't please the purist but he knows how to do the "deal."	8	9

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<i>King, Colin</i>	Kaikoura		Mystifying presence, in danger of becoming National's Ashraf Choudhary. Should do something about it.	2.5	2
<i>Lee, Melissa</i>	List		Korean broadcaster, diversity list candidate.		N/A
<i>Sam Lotu-Liga, Peseta</i>	Maungakiekie		Samoan Aucklander holds a Cambridge MBA. Said to be promising.		N/A
<i>Macindoe, Tim</i>	Hamilton West		Public service background, also retail and agriculture.		N/A
<i>Mapp, Wayne</i>	North Shore	Minister of Defence Minister of Research, Science and Technology Associate Minister for Economic Development Associate Minister for Tertiary Education	Made an effort as defence spokesman, rewarded with the portfolio. Severe critic of defence procurement processes, expect some action.	4.5	5
<i>McClay, Todd</i>	Rotorua		Owens a communications business, has been a property developer. Took Rotorua from Labour, it was ripe for the picking.		N/A
<i>McCully, Murray</i>	East Coast Bays	Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister for Sport and Recreation Minister for the Rugby World Cup	Close to Key. Knows how to network. He'll be a competent Foreign Minister. Some question his influence at the top but he is a stayer.	6	7
<i>Parata, Hekia</i>	List		Runs a consultancy company with husband Wira Gardiner. Previous public service career. Will go far if she's allowed to.		N/A
<i>Peachey, Allan</i>	Tamaki		Much more vigorous this year, engaged government on education issues.	2.5	3.5
<i>Power, Simon</i>	Rangitikei	Minister of Justice Minister for State Owned Enterprises Minister of Commerce Minister Responsible for the Law Commission Associate Minister of Finance Deputy Leader of the House	One of the top four "engine room" Ministers. Another hard-hitting year on justice issues - high quality MP. Has moved swiftly to implement tough new law and order measures.	7.5	8
<i>Quinn, Paul</i>	List		Former Reserve Bank analyst, corporate experience, runs strategic planning company.		N/A
<i>Roy, Eric</i>	Invercargill		Low profile year with minor responsibilities. Under-used but doesn't seem to mind.	4	3.5
<i>Ryall, Tony</i>	Bay of Plenty	Minister of Health Minister of State Services	A smart professional. Strong presence in health, he's had a three-year apprenticeship, he's got the connections he needs to do the job.	6.5	7
<i>Shanks, Katrina</i>	List		Tries hard but she's got light hands. Didn't make much headway.	3	3.5
<i>Smith, Lockwood</i>	Rodney	Speaker	Campaign blunder spoiled his chances of making cabinet, might have been too "old guard" anyway. Worked hard as immigration spokesman, should make a good Speaker.	6.5	4.5
<i>Smith, Nick</i>	Nelson	Minister for the Environment Minister for Climate Change Issues Minister for ACC	Huge workload should keep him quiet, which would be a good thing. Capable, needs to focus on his work and stop trying to be a killer in the Chamber.	6	6.5
<i>te Heuheu, Georgina</i>	List	Minister for Courts Minister of Pacific Island Affairs Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control Associate Minister of Maori Affairs	Key recognises her abilities, which previous leaders didn't. Vital link to Maori Party and Pita Sharples. Pacific Islanders will warm to her lineage and mana.	6	6.5
<i>Tisch, Lindsay</i>	Waikato		Could have expected more reward for a good if quiet year.	5	4.5

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<i>Tolley, Anne</i>	East Coast	Minister of Education Minister for Tertiary Education Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office	Big promotion to education, but Key believes in her. Fast learner stands no nonsense. Senior education officials positive about her appointment.	6	7.5
<i>Tremain, Chris</i>	Napier	Junior Whip	No room for him in the executive, despite being a hard grafter who had a strong year. Watch.	5	5.5
<i>Upston, Louise</i>	Taupo		Education, local government, advertising, broadcasting...seems to be multi-talented, we'll see which one works.		N/A
<i>Wagner, Nicky</i>	List		Hasn't improved on previous low-level presence but ran a good campaign in Christchurch Central.	2	2
<i>Wilkinson, Kate</i>	List	Minister of Labour Minister for Food Safety Associate Minister of Immigration	Key picked her out when he took over the leadership, described her as "superb." Big expectation to meet, she'll probably do it.	5	6
<i>Williamson, Maurice</i>	Pakuranga	Minister Outside Cabinet for Building & Construction Minister of Customs Minister of Statistics Minister for Small Business	We said his star may be waning. It has. Too much of a maverick for Key's Cabinet, persistent toll road gaffes didn't help.	3.5	3
<i>Wong, Pansy</i>	Botany	Minister for Ethnic Affairs Minister of Women's Affairs Associate Minister for ACC Associate Minister of Energy & Resources	Lightweight portfolios will suit her, not enough grunt for the heavy lifting. Did well though. Is NZ's first Asian Minister.	3.5	4
<i>Woodhouse, Michael</i>	List		Hospital CEO from Dunedin, previously a manager with ACC.		N/A
<i>Worth, Richard</i>	List	Minister Outside Cabinet of Internal Affairs Minister for Land Information Minister Responsible for Archives New Zealand Minister Responsible for the National Library Associate Minister of Justice	Still curiously under-used. Minor portfolios won't stretch him, he'll probably have another boring year.	4	4
<i>Young, Jonathan</i>	New Plymouth		Did well to prise the electorate from Harry Duynhoven's grip. Primary school and Maori language teacher.		N/A
ACT					
<i>Boscawen, John</i>	List		Right-wing millionaire businessman, bankrolled the anti-EFA campaign.		N/A
<i>Douglas, Roger</i>	List		Hasn't changed much. Ruled out of a Ministerial position by John Key, he'll be a sideline sniper. Must try not to be an angry, arrogant old man.		N/A
<i>Garrett, David</i>	List		Sentencing fanatic, wrote a book about bringing back the death penalty.		N/A
<i>Hide, Rodney</i>	Epsom	Minister of Local Government Minister For Regulatory Reform Associate Minister of Commerce	Kept the seat that's keeping his party alive. Got a better role than many expected. Now can he cut the mustard with big responsibilities instead of headline grabbing?	3.5	5.5
<i>Roy, Heather</i>	List	Minister of Consumer Affairs Associate Minister of Defence Associate Minister of Education	She's been ACT's anchor in Parliament, hard worker, deserves the consumer affairs job she's been given. And she won't be a soft touch. A voice of good sense among wayward colleagues.	5	5
Maori					
<i>Flavell, Te Ururoa</i>	Waiariki		The Maori Party spoke on every Bill in Parliament last year and he carried most of the load. A quiet, thoughtful asset to the party.	4.5	5

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<i>Turia, Tariana</i>	Te Tai Hauauru	Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector Associate Minister of Health Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment	Says this is her last term but she's delighted with the new deal. It's payback time. Maybe she'll stop festering about Labour. Still calling the shots for the party despite Sharples playing the frontman role.	3.5	7.5
<i>Harawira, Hone</i>	Te Tai Tokerau		Needs to get over attitude problems and start focusing on what he can achieve for Maori. He's getting there under Tariana's watchful eye.	3.5	4
<i>Katene, Rahui</i>	Te Tai Tonga		Treaty settlement lawyer took the seat from Labour's Mahara Okeroa.		N/A
<i>Sharples, Pita</i>	Tamaki Makarau	Minister of Maori Affairs Associate Minister of Corrections Associate Minister of Education	Gets on well with John Key. Essential negotiator and fixer if the deal goes wrong. NZ's most important Maori politician.	6	7
United Future					
<i>Dunne, Peter</i>	Ohariu	Minister of Revenue Associate Minister of Health	The Ken Barlow of NZ politics. He read the situation when it mattered. Campaign never fired but he's secured his job for at least three years. A good Revenue Minister and Key has let him keep it. His Families Commission must surely be safe now.	5.5	4.5
Labour					
<i>Ardern, Jacinda</i>	List	Youth Affairs, Associate Justice - Youth Justice	New generation 28-year-old, former policy advisor in the British government.		N/A
<i>Barker, Rick</i>	List	Courts, Veterans Affairs	Opened some new courthouses but otherwise his year was a non-event. He'll be on the next rejuvenation list if he isn't careful.	4	3
<i>Beaumont, Carol</i>	List	Consumer Affairs, Associate Labour	Former CTU boss could find life frustrating under National.		N/A
<i>Burns, Brendan</i>	Christchurch Central	Broadcasting, Associate Environment - Water Quality	They finally gave him a safe seat - which he nearly lost. Former newspaper editor was considered a bit of a toff, once known in the media as Lord Burns, elevated to the Duke of Marlborough. He'll be interesting to watch.		N/A
<i>Carter, Chris</i>	Te Atatu	Education (overall - compulsory), Ethnic Affairs	Professional waffler handled education reasonably well. Keeps his rating, just.	4	4
<i>Chadwick, Steve</i>	List	Junior Whip, Conservation	Worked hard but lost Rotorua. Gets half a point for fighting NZ's case at the IWC.	4.5	5
<i>Chauvel, Charles</i>	List	Climate Change, Energy, Associate Commerce	Would have been a hero if he'd beaten Peter Dunne in Ohariu and wasn't far off. Good campaign after a much better year.	3	4.5
<i>Chaudhary, Ashraf</i>	List	Food Safety, Agricultural Science, Associate Ethnic Affairs	Ashraf, why are you still with us? Do something next year or you get the big zero.	1	0.5
<i>Clark, Helen</i>	Mt Albert	Foreign Affairs, Arts, Culture & Heritage	Good marks for nine years of service, fought to the last day of the campaign. Lost the provinces in mid-2007, thanks to nanny-state perceptions and the toxic mix of Peters and Owen Glenn. Bad campaign strategy. Mastery of MMP may have been her downfall.	8.5	7
<i>Cosgrove, Clayton</i>	Waimakariri	Law & Order (incl Police & Corrections), SOEs, Associate Finance	Nearly lost Mike Moore's old seat. Unthinkable. Aggro didn't work so well this year, immigration was difficult. Will be good in Opposition.	7	5
<i>Cullen, Michael</i>	List	Shadow Leader of the House, Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	Leaves a legacy of the Super fund and Kiwisaver, he'll be a valuable mentor in the new Parliament. Outstanding career. Party kept him invisible in the campaign for fear of losing more votes. Gained a big reputation for fiscal management but there's now a question mark on how he left the Crown A/Cs.	7.5	6.5

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<i>Cunliffe, David</i>	New Lynn	Finance	Gets a pass mark in health, could have done better. New position as finance spokesman is a challenge, Cullen is a hard act to follow. Ran disastrous campaign in New Lynn.	6	5
<i>Curren, Clare</i>	Dunedin South	Communications & IT	Nominated for the safe Labour seat against strong rivals. Trade union advocate.		N/A
<i>Dalziel, Lianne</i>	Christchurch East	Justice, Commerce	Better than her low-profile commerce portfolio suggested. Clever, she'll be valuable in Opposition.	5.5	6.5
<i>Davis, Kelvin</i>	List	Bio-Security, Associate Education	Former school principal, another "rejuvenation" list MP.		N/A
<i>Dyson, Ruth</i>	Port Hills	Health	Rugged and ruthless, another asset for Labour in opposition. Handled welfare in Govt, tough portfolio, didn't slip up. Would pull the party left if she could.	5.5	6
<i>Fenton, Darien</i>	List	Transport Safety, Associate Labour	Didn't do anything to advance herself or the party. Has to perform in opposition or she'll go down next year and there isn't far to go.	2	1
<i>Goff, Phil</i>	Mt Roskill	Leader, SIS	Obvious choice to succeed Clark. Fierce attacker, had a good year in Cabinet. His task will be to demand the loyalty given to Clark in rebuilding the party and recovering lost legions in the provinces.	8	7
<i>Hawkins, George</i>	Manurewa	Housing	Violence in South Auckland put him centre stage, called police to account in pro-active role. Showed real value as an electorate MP.	1	2.5
<i>Hipkins, Chris</i>	Rimutaka	Internal Affairs, Associate Energy	Former Beehive staffer given a safe seat.		N/A
<i>Hodgson, Pete</i>	Dunedin North	Immigration, Defence	More at home with economic development and tertiary education than he was with health. Another key player in plotting opposition strategy. Down from 6 to 16 in Goff's rankings.	4.5	4
<i>Horomia, Parekura</i>	Ikaroa-Rawhiti	Maori Affairs, Fisheries	Fought off Derek Fox, didn't have an outstanding year but he'll be vital in opposition with Pita Sharples as Maori Affairs Minister.	4	4.5
<i>Hughes, Darren</i>	List	Senior Whip, Transport	Ready to move up in the ranks but didn't get the chance. New chief whip is young enough to wait his turn. He'll be tested.	6	5.5
<i>Huo, Raymond</i>	List	Law Commission, Statistics, Associate. Ethnic Affairs	Another list leap-frogger. Auckland lawyer.		N/A
<i>Jones, Shane</i>	List	Local Government, Building & Construction, Infrastructure	Wasn't a standout Minister, scuppered by shower heads in the campaign. More had been expected of him - probably why Goff didn't want him on the front bench.	6	4
<i>King, Annette</i>	Rongotai	Deputy Leader, Social Development	Handled multiple portfolios well, tough and experienced, she'll be a good Deputy Leader.	7.5	7
<i>Laban, Winnie</i>	Mana	Pacific Island Affairs, Associate Health (Aged Care), Associate Economic Development	Competent with minor portfolios, came through cancer. A tad too nice for the Opposition benches.	6	5
<i>Lees-Galloway, Iain</i>	Palmerston North	Land Information, Associate Defence, Associate Health - Drugs & Alcohol	Another trade unionist, given Steve Maharey's safe seat.		N/A
<i>Mackey, Moana</i>	List	Rural Affairs, Research & Development, Science & Technology	Another indifferent year, she'll have to improve to keep her list slot in 2011.	3	2.5
<i>Mahuta, Nanaia</i>	Hauraki-Waikato	Environment, Tourism, Associate Maori Affairs	Survived against strong Maori Party candidate Angeline Greensill. Quiet achiever in her portfolios in Govt.	5	5.5

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<i>Mallard, Trevor</i>	Hutt South	Labour, Economic Development, Sports & Recreation	A pugilist Labour's going to need. Rehab went well after last year's demotion.	4	5
<i>Moroney, Sue</i>	List	Women's Affairs, Education - ECE	Should have started to shine but had a dull year.	3.5	2.5
<i>Nash, Stuart</i>	List	Revenue, Associate Trade, Associate Forestry	Great-grandson of Walter Nash. He's got the pedigree, has he got the goods? Another interesting one to watch.		N/A
<i>Parker, David</i>	List	Attorney-General, Electoral Reform, ACC, Associate Finance	Went through the fire with the ETS and stayed the course. Now he's going to watch it being dismantled. Clearly a senior Minister in the next Labour led Govt.	6.5	5
<i>Pillay, Lynne</i>	List	Disability Issues, Associate Justice - Victims Rights	Unimpressive year, doubtful she'll be any better in Opposition. Achieved the impossible in losing a 5,000 majority.	3.5	3
<i>Prasad, Rajen</i>	List	Voluntary & Community Sector, Associate Ethnic Affairs, Associate Social Development - Family & CYF	Former Race Relations Commissioner. Articulate and competent, but the question is will he be tough enough for Parliament?		N/A
<i>Ririnui, Mita</i>	List	Forestry, Associate Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Associate Agriculture	We said he needed to raise his profile. He didn't.	4	3
<i>Robertson, Grant</i>	Wellington Central	State Services, Associate Arts, Culture & Heritage, Associate Foreign Affairs	Another former Beehive Staffer. Lazy campaign against Stephen Franks, should have held a safe seat with a bigger majority.		N/A
<i>Robertson, Ross</i>	Manukau East	Small Business, Senior Citizens, Racing, Associate Disarmament & Arms Control	A survivor, he was a good assistant speaker and would have made a good Speaker - if Labour hadn't lost.	5	5.5
<i>Sepuloni, Carmel</i>	List	Civil Defence, Associate Tertiary Education, Associate Social Development	Part-Samoan primary school teacher, a diversity candidate. Much to learn.		N/A
<i>Sio, Su'a William</i>	Mangere	Customs, Associate Pacific Island Affairs, Associate Local Government	Showed promise after replacing Dianne Yates as list MP in April, retained Mangere for Labour.	N/A	5
<i>Street, Maryan</i>	List	Trade, Tertiary Education	Performed poorly in Cabinet, election cut her down before she'd really proved herself.	4.5	4
<i>Twyford, Phil</i>	List	Disarmament & Arms Control, Auckland Issues, Associate Foreign Affairs - Development Assistance	Former Oxfam global head of policy. Highly rated - one to watch.		N/A
Greens					
<i>Bradford, Sue</i>	List		National won't give her any space for pet projects. Quieter year after the havoc of the anti-smacking Bill. Voters think she's a pain on the arse.	3.5	3
<i>Delahunty, Catherine</i>	List		Third time lucky, she comes with good activist creds. Passionate environmental advocate.		N/A
<i>Fitzsimons, Jeanette</i>	List	Co-Leader	Never compromises principles, campaigned hard and the Greens are stronger. This is likely to be her last term. Will she look back on wasted chances to be in Cabinet?	6.5	6
<i>Graham, Kennedy</i>	List		Sir Douglas Graham's brother, he's a senior fellow at Canterbury's School of Law and a senior lecturer at Victoria University. Quiet academic and left-wing Greenie, Sir Douglas describes him as the brainy one in the family.		N/A
<i>Hague, Kevin</i>	List		Former DHB chief quit so he could stand for Parliament. Must believe in the cause.		N/A
<i>Kedgley, Sue</i>	List		She'll be on the losing side of junk food wars now, National doesn't do nanny state. But she'll keep trying like she did this year.	5	4

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<i>Locke, Keith</i>	List		Gets half a point for being a persistent pest in Parliament. Lone warrior against the China FTA.	3	3.5
<i>Norman, Russel</i>	List	Co-Leader	New Co-Leader was on a steep learning curve, managed better than most thought. Good Privileges Committee member. Both he and Jeanette outsmarted themselves by showing hand to go with Labour too early.		5
<i>Turei, Metiria</i>	List		Important link with the Maori Party. Didn't have any big hits this year but she put in the hard yards on whaling. Prolific issuer of press statements, not many make it into print.	5.5	5
Progressive					
<i>Anderton, Jim</i>	Wigram	Agriculture	Workaholic Minister is going to find it hard in opposition. Must be his last term, his Kiwibank legacy is secure. Will his party die with him?	5.5	5

Politician Of The Year - John Key

- Contenders for title of Politician of the Year included the screamingly obvious, John Key, exuberant in victory, and Helen Clark, gracious in defeat, and the less obvious, Tariana Turia, Rodney Hide, Tim Groser, and Paula Bennett. Turia, a Labour reject, carved out a special niche in the political spectrum, and repaid Labour in kind by taking her Maori Party into an historic and influential coalition with National. Hide breathed new life into a decaying ACT, looked as if he was back Dancing with the Stars in post-election talks with National, but has been licensed to show he has the right stuff. Tim Groser moved smoothly from being a public servant (and outstanding trade negotiator) to the role of politician, slashed David Cunliffe's majority in Labour's stronghold of New Lynn, and is now a top-ranking Minister. Paula Bennett has scaled the heights in a short political career. The former Westie seldom breathed through her nose (as Keith Holyoake used to instruct newcomers to Parliament was their proper role), refused to back down in the face of intimidation from old hands like Winston Peters, and then crushed Lynne Pillay's 5000 majority in Waitakere. Rewarded with a major portfolio of Social Development and Employment, she could be the whole deal, or she could crash, and burn. In any other year she would have deserved the title. But it goes to John Key, who outwitted Helen Clark in the election campaign, came close to governing on his own, but showed finesse in bringing ACT and the Maori Party into support roles for his Govt. He's been inclusive and decisive in forming Cabinet. Now, all he has to do is pull NZ out of the economic mire.

Epitaph

- Few have had such extraordinary political careers as Winston Peters, but it was no surprise when the party he founded went down in flames in 2008, after funding scandals, tales of policies being bought and sold, and a reluctance to come clean. Peters thought the more he beat up the media, the easier he could fool the voters. It was a fatal mistake. He took with him to the Parliamentary burial ground some good mates including Ron Mark and Doug Woolerton, and others who were a waste of space. Eventually he proved a toxic substance to Helen Clark. But those who relished his Parliamentary skills will miss him.
- Other long-serving MPs who came tumbling down include Harry Duynhoven (who had earlier been saved from ignominy by an act of Parliament). Harry had looked impregnable in New Plymouth, but was swept out on the provincial tsunami of hatred for the so-called nanny-state. Mark Burton was another victim of the same tsunami, along with another stalwart Damien O'Connor from the West Coast. An end to a dynasty was signalled by the demise of Judith Tizard in Auckland Central. Much maligned, Judith acted as the eyes and ears for Helen Clark on many issues. Russell Fairbrother who defied his party to get the nomination for Napier failed to dent Chris Tremain's majority, and faded quickly from sight. Mahara Okeroa got the biff at the hands of Rahui Katene.
- Some of those who left of their own volition (and left a gap) include Katherine Rich, Mark Gosche, Paul Swain, Speaker Margaret Wilson who strove valiantly to improve the manners of the House, but with little success, and assistant Speaker Marian Hobbs.
- Taito Phillip Field lost his seat but still faces his day in court. And the sometimes merciless MMP system claimed another victim - Gordon Copeland, who never seemed quite certain what he was doing in Parliament.

Plays Of The Year

1. Winston Peters – "No."	6. Rodney Hide – John Key is to the left of Helen Clark on some policies.
2. Helen Clark – Owen Glenn told me about his NZ First donation in February.	7. Rodney Hide – ACT will scrap the Emissions Trading Scheme completely.
3. John Key – I'm ruling Winston Peters out.	8. John Key – No, it won't.
4. John Key – I'm ruling Roger Douglas out.	9. Tariana Turia – Getting the best deal possible for Maori with a real say in Govt.
5. John Key – I want to be inclusive.	10. Peter Dunne – Turning his back on Labour in the most opportunistic fashion, much to the annoyance of some National MPs.

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