

PRESS RELEASE

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## Key Pipped Again As Trans Tasman's Politician Of The Year

Trans Tasman's 2010 Roll Call has named Parliamentary power house Simon Power as its politician of the year this year.

Each year Trans Tasman's Editors rank all MPs on the basis of their performance in Caucus, Cabinet, Committee, The House and Electorate and the influence they bring to bear in their various forums. Roll Call is compiled by Trans Tasman's team of writers and Parliamentary insiders, with a final decision on each ranking arrived at after much discussion.

This year on 9 out of 10, up from 8.5 last year, Simon Power gets the nod ahead of John Key, who also scores 9. Power gets the top ranking thanks to his towering performance in Parliament and the sheer volume of the legislative work he has done. He has taken more Bills through Parliament than any other Minister, accounting for one third of the Government's legislation in 2010. He is the lock to Key's flashier winger's performance. Trans Tasman says of Power "An outstanding Minister. Huge workload includes reforming the Justice system and market regulation as well as law reform. He is looking more and more like a leader in waiting."

Of John Key, who has turned in another great performance as Prime Minister, Trans Tasman says "He is probably NZ's most popular PM ever, as comfortable on the world stage as he is on the streets of home, but questions are being asked – is Key spending too long "on the road?" He is the master of the 6pm TV soundbite and has excelled himself in the crises which have engulfed the country this year, but "Key needs an agenda, not just the consensus he is building around personal trust. A brilliant leader, who everyone in the Beehive knows is boss, he hasn't yet produced the brilliant policy set to go with it." Key maintains his 9 out of 10 rating.

Brickbats this year for two MPs who share the lowest rank, Paul Quinn and Chris Carter. Quinn, the National list MP, gets his 1 out of 10 for being a "media loathing misfit. Rude and arrogant. National should start wondering whether this list MP is a waste of space." Chris Carter, now an independent, shares the 1 out of 10 ranking - his "egregious sense of entitlement brought his downfall."

Also at the rear of the rankings on a slightly more respectable 1.5, is Labour's perennial under-performer Ashraf Choudray. Trans Tasman says "if he survives rejuvenation, he will become a veteran list MP and it's difficult to figure out why. Seemed to be more active in the House this year, but he's still a mysterious presence."

Last year's villain Hone Harawira has redeemed himself somewhat, jumping from 0 to 2 out of 10. "Causing more trouble than any other MP – for his Party and the Govt – with his opposition to the Foreshore Bill, but he believes in what he is doing and the others accept it. Has been more careful this year, and his rehabilitation can begin."

National's Pansy Wong joins Harawira on 2 out of 10. She plunges from 5 last year thanks to the travel perks scandal, but could leave Parliament as a result. Trans Tasman suggests she won't be missed "Wasn't the brightest spark in Cabinet."

Bill English takes his score from 8 to 8.5 thanks to the work he has done on tax reform and steering the country through the worst recession since the 1930s. More is expected of English Trans Tasman says "Next year's Budget will be a defining moment. There's got to be more than the GST/wage adjustment."

Last year's politician of the year Speaker Lockwood Smith hit a bump in his form this year slumping from 9.25 to 8, despite his solid rule in the House. He falls off the pace thanks to the travel perk situation "Went from hero to zero when he tried to put the lid back on Parliamentary travel spending – should have known

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the Politicians would turn it over.”

On the Opposition side Phil Goff picks up half a point for trying. He goes from 5.5 to 6. He has moved out of Helen Clark’s shadow and stamped his leadership on the party. “Goff has shown more confidence this year, stronger speeches. But still sounds a bit robotic – fails to connect. Mana a big disappointment.” The three top scorers on the Labour front bench were Annette King, Darren Hughes and David Parker all on 6.5. Labour’s front bench looks weak, and the party desperately needs some policy to differentiate it from National and the Greens.

In the coalition ranks, Rodney Hide gets 4.5, up from 4 last year “Hasn’t been helped by the destructive actions of others and it would be difficult to say ACT deserves to survive.” Pita Sharples holds his rating of 7 out of 10 - “as long as he continues to command respect from all sides he will be an essential wound healer and bridge builder.” Tariana Turia, picks up half a point to go to 7.5. “Aunty Tariana still has a lot of clout with her MPs including Hone. Gets an upgrade for her welfare work and the very strong commitment to it.”

Honourable mention must also be made of Gerry Brownlee who has had another strong year in trying circumstances. “Brownlee gives the impression he is growing into the job, his media management has improved and so has his running of Parliament as leader of the House.” He stays on a rating of 8 out of 10.

Other Ministers to go up in the ratings are Tony Ryall, to 8.5, Nick Smith, to 8, Judith Collins to 7.5, Chris Finlayson to 7.5, David Carter to 7, Murray McCully to 8, Tim Groser to 7.5 (no love lost between that pair), Wayne Mapp to 6 and Kate Wilkinson to 5.

For the Record, 30 National MPs managed to boost their scores this year, 13 stayed on the same score and 15 went down. For Labour a much better performance – last year not one MP improved on their 2008 score. This year 26 of the 42 boosted their scores, 10 stayed the same and 5 went down.

National managed to get 32 of its 58 MPs over the 5 mark this year, improving on the 20 who made it last year – 26 of them were under the 5 mark. For Labour another relatively low scoring year, with just 15 MPs over 5 out of the Party’s complement of 42 – 26 rated below 5.

The biggest movers in this year’s Roll Call were Simon Bridges the National MP for Tauranga who goes from 4 last year to 6, Lindsay Tisch, the Deputy Speaker from Waikato who goes from 5 to 7, and Hone Harawira from 0 to 2. On the reverse side, Pansy Wong takes the biggest fall, from 5 to 2 after the travel perks scandal, and Sandra Goudie, who chairs the riotous Law and Order Select Committee goes from 4 last year to 2.5.

ENDS

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Published since 1968, The Trans Tasman Political Letter is a weekly analytical commentary on what’s happening in NZ politics, the economy, legislation and trade. Max Bowden is Editor in Chief and Ian Templeton is Senior Writer. It’s read and subscribed to by Cabinet Ministers, Government Departments (both NZ and Aust), Embassies, SOEs, Lobbyists, Accounting and Law Professionals, Directors of Public Companies and Overseas Media including The Economist, BBC, Wall Street Journal and Financial Times. Trans Tasman’s Roll Call is in its 7th year. The 6 major contributors (all parliamentary insiders) to Trans Tasman each independently provide their views and opinions on each politician’s performance in Caucus, Cabinet, Select Committees, the House and Electorate. The ratings are then debated by the 6 and a final verdict arrived at.



## ROLL CALL – How Our MPs Performed In 2010

Trans Tasman's Editors have once again run their rule over NZ's MPs and rated their performance in 2010. Roll Call looks at how they've performed in Caucus, Cabinet, Committee, the House and Electorate and the influence they bring to bear in their various forums.

Cabinet Ministers					
Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<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	He is probably NZ's most popular PM ever, as comfortable on the world stage as he is on the streets of home. But questions are being asked - is Key spending too long "on the road?" Maybe, but it's the nature of a country where the 6pm TV soundbite counts. Key has a great nose for the opportunity to pop up and take the limelight and excelled in his leadership in times of crisis - the earthquake, the Pike River disaster. But have we seen all his Govt can deliver? While National look dead certs to win a 2nd term, the question is what more do they have in the cupboard. Key needs an agenda, not just the consensus he is building around personal trust. A brilliant leader, who everyone in the Beehive knows is boss, but who hasn't yet produced the brilliant policy set to go with it.	9	9
<i>English, Bill</i>	Clutha-Southland	Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Finance Minister for Infrastructure	Tax reform and steering the country through the worst recession since the 1930s will be his legacy. A solid performer, he's got a good grip on policy levers with the Tax Working Group softening up the public for tax changes, and now welfare is in the sights of the Welfare Working Group. Ruthlessly spurns requests for spending on new initiatives, which has made him unpopular with lobby groups, and those who want to spend the country's way out of recession. As with Key, people are looking for some indication the Govt has an economic strategy for the future, which goes beyond what has already been done. Next year's Budget will be a defining moment. There's got to be more than the GST/wage adjustment.	8	8.5
<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	Still holds an admirable focus on economic development although recently distracted by being put in charge of earthquake recovery. Not short of ideas but not all of them have worked. Brownlee gives the impression he's still growing into the job, his media management has improved and so has his running of Parliament as Leader of the House. Could have too much on his plate, but he's handling it reasonably well.	8	8
<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	An outstanding Minister. Huge workload includes reforming the justice system and market regulation as well as liquor law reform. Handles himself with good grace, patience and remarkable competence. Cross-party skills mean he has respect in the House and doesn't waste his time with abusive rhetoric. Power is looking more and more like a leader in waiting and the Govt is coming to rely on him in a way similar to Clark's reliance on Cullen.	8.5	9
<i>Ryall, Tony</i>	Bay of Plenty	Minister of Health Minister of State Services	Clever operator with considerable cabinet experience, and it shows. Ryall is quietly changing the public health system through a series of reforms without giving any impression he's upsetting the system - which he promised pre-election he wouldn't do. Undeniable improvements are being made. Must ensure his 'value for money' drive doesn't go too far.	8	8.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Smith, Nick</i>	Nelson	Minister for the Environment Minister for Climate Change Issues Minister for ACC	Another Minister in the Simon Power mould with an ability to handle complex policy issues like the ETS, but without the quiet diplomacy and people skills. Less abrasive this year, however, and has put in a good performance in the House. ACC continues to be a problem and Smith will have to be careful he doesn't let it run wild. Water standards are a big issue he's tackling this year. A good overall performance.	7.5	8
<i>Collins, Judith</i>	Papakura	Minister of Police Minister of Corrections Minister of Veterans' Affairs	Another strong year when she's had to take on Paula Bennett's welfare portfolio and handled the case of former judge Bill Wilson as well. Unswerving support for the police and a hard line against criticism of them has marked her performance, as well as dealing well with the sometimes difficult corrections portfolio. Still improving and easily handles the barbs Labour throws at her in the House.	7	7.5
<i>Tolley, Anne</i>	East Coast	Minister of Education Minister for Tertiary Education Minister Responsible for the Education Review Office	National Standards still face much hostility and Tolley didn't do the spadework needed before they were introduced. Sure, teacher unions are tough but she isn't really up to handling them. Has difficulty dealing with Labour's Trevor Mallard in the House - he's identified her as a Cabinet weak link, and she is. Key has been forced to declare his confidence in her but it would be surprising if she isn't reshuffled either before or right after the next election.	6	5.5
<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	Finlayson is one of the 'finds' of the political year. The foreshore and seabed replacement legislation has been very tricky and he has delivered, gaining the respect of the Maori Party and iwi leaders - even, apparently, those who don't like it. If this goes wrong it won't be Finlayson's fault. Treaty negotiations have been going along at a cracking pace and Finlayson uses a quirky sense of humour to often defuse opposition criticism in Parliament. Key should be well pleased with his Attorney-General.	7	7.5
<i>Carter, David</i>	List	Minister of Agriculture Minister for Bio-Security Minister of Forestry	A better year, and Carter is starting to show an astuteness not evident when he first became a Minister. Handled drought and the kiwifruit crises with a deft touch, doesn't try to play down problems and has been in the right place at the right time. Doesn't shirk responsibility when things go wrong and seems to be sufficiently down to earth to relate well to farmers. Too early to say he's an outstanding Agriculture Minister, but he's getting there.	6	7
<i>McCully, Murray</i>	East Coast Bays	Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister for Sport and Recreation Minister for the Rugby World Cup	Surviving well so far and can claim some of the credit for the success of the Hillary Clinton visit. McCully is turning out to be a quiet achiever and has shed his previous image of a back-room Caucus wheeler and dealer. He doesn't have time, which some are probably thankful for. Now he's the mature diplomat he needs to be in this role and Key can expect him to continue to advance NZ's interests with minimum fuss and no bother. No love lost between him and Tim Groser.	7	8
<i>Groser, Tim</i>	List	Minister of Trade Minister of Conservation Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues (International Negotiations)	It can be safely assumed Groser is doing an excellent job in the trade negotiations area because it's what he does best. Obsessive about this to the point of not really caring whether anyone knows what he's doing, but there isn't much public interest in international trade anyway and it's a bleak place for acclaim. He needs better media management but probably considers it a minor issue. He's in the right place and he won't be moving.	7	7.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<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	He's growing into the job, and doing it a lot better than most thought he would. Defence has been difficult with the White Paper coming out after a delay but he has a firm grip of the realities of the situation. An odd man to deal with and sometimes seems to have the detachment of an academic, but his readiness to interact with the media is to his credit. Doesn't always get his point across with great success but his performance in both his lead portfolios has been good this year.	5.5	6.5
<i>Joyce, Steven</i>	List	Minister of Transport Minister for Communications and Information Technology Associate Minister of Finance Associate Minister for Infrastructure	John Key trusts his judgment and seeks his advice on diverse issues. Pragmatic and sensible, like his leader, but is showing worrying signs of over the top caution and a reluctance to do anything which might upset too many people. His refusal to raise the general drink drive limit was an example - he made the wrong call by delaying for two years while data is gathered. On balance, and considering the progress in roading, he keeps his rating.	7.5	7.5
<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	In danger of being forgotten but her portfolios don't allow for much accolade. Works away quietly, as she did last year, and has been active on the international scene in the disarmament area - probably un-noticed outside Parliament. So far it isn't working, but she's doing the business and represents the country well when she's away.	5	5
<i>Bennett, Paula</i>	Waitakere	Minister of Youth Affairs Minister for Social Development & Employment	She's improved with keeping, as we said she would, but she's still some way off a seriously competent Minister. Enthusiastic, works hard, still has a few rough edges which she thinks keeps her in tune with her Westie voters. Taking a break to attend a prestigious overseas study programme has lowered her profile. Unlikely to be moved out of welfare, she's invested a lot in it.	6.5	6.5
<i>Heatley, Phil</i>	Whangarei	Minister of Fisheries Minister of Housing	Has worked well since his peculiar resignation over expenses, with progress in housing and - at last - legislation to open up aquaculture. Big plans for state housing, and if they work he will make a reputation for himself. Unfortunate tendency to brag and shout in Parliament, a bit of dignity would enhance his style. Should watch Simon Power. A better year, he can claim some wins but needs further progress.	6.5	6.5
<i>Wong, Pansy</i>	Botany	Minister for Ethnic Affairs Minister of Women's Affairs Associate Minister for ACC Associate Minister of Energy & Resources	Not a great year in the House and it ended in disaster when she quit Cabinet for breaking the international travel perk rule. A devastated Wong could leave Parliament if an inquiry finds serial breaches of the rule the allowance can't be used for business purposes - husband Sammy is the culprit, she's paying the price. She's been a valuable networker for National in Auckland's Asian community and they'll miss her for it. Wasn't the brightest spark in Cabinet.	5	2
<i>Coleman, Jonathan</i>	Northcote	Minister of Immigration Minister of Broadcasting Associate Minister of Tourism Associate Minister of Health	Is he accident prone or what? Coleman is actually reasonably competent but he's having a hard time proving it. Reading the wrong speech when he had to introduce a tax Bill was classic colemanitis. This, like last year's Rugby World Cup broadcasting fiasco, gave him a blast of negative publicity which he didn't need. There is much more to him and maybe we will see it next year. Deserves a bit of luck. Exacted higher performance from Immigration after the Mary-Anne Thompson debacle.	5	4.5



Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Wilkinson, Kate</i>	List	Minister of Labour Minister for Food Safety Associate Minister of Immigration Associate Minister for Conservation	Took difficult labour legislation through Parliament and her style has improved, although she's still a bit shrill. Sometimes lets the opposition get to her. Has taken to conservation with genuine commitment, and has the makings of a really good minister. A much better year, even though ACT gazedupped her on extending the 90-day probation law.	4.5	4.5
<b>Ministers Outside Cabinet</b>					
<i>Williamson, Maurice</i>	Pakuranga	Minister Outside Cabinet for Building & Construction Minister of Customs Minister of Statistics Minister for Small Business Minister for Land Information	A good year, and Williamson must be knocking at Cabinet's door. Key would probably let him in - if there was space. Reached a deal with local authorities on leaky homes - not without difficulty - and was able to parade Customs' successes in the war against 'P'. A lot of effort went into the Building and Construction portfolio as well.	5	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	Retiring from politics at the next election, the long-serving Carter will leave with credit for the way Civil Defence handled the Canterbury earthquake. He hasn't always been a star in his various Ministerial roles but he worked well with Rodney Hide on Auckland's local governance. If he did anything for racing and senior citizens, it wasn't noticeable.	3	3
<i>Guy, Nathan</i>	Otaki	Minister of Internal Affairs Minister Responsible for Archives New Zealand Minister Responsible for National Library Associate Minister of Justice Associate Minister of Transport	His portfolios don't generate much publicity but he toiled away with the usually mundane issues they bring to his desk. Press statements, hardly ever used, recorded these efforts. A good start as a Minister who has done his work quietly and efficiently. Likely to be rewarded with more responsibility post-election.	5	5.5
<i>Hide, Rodney</i>	Epsom	Minister of Local Government Minister For Regulatory Reform Associate Minister of Commerce  ACT	A dreadful year. He didn't handle the Heather Roy and David Garrett debacles at all well. Often seems to lack the most basic political management skills, with his party paying the price. Hasn't been helped by the destructive actions of others and it would be difficult to say ACT deserves to survive. But, to his credit, Hide stayed focused on his Ministerial roles throughout these catastrophes and brought in Auckland's new council.	4	4.5
<i>Boscawen, John</i>	List	Minister of Consumer Affairs Associate Minister of Education  ACT	Too soon to rate him as a Minister but he hasn't done anything wrong so far. He wanted the Associate Commerce role, which used to be Hide's, and should be good at it. An intensely focused politician who really needs to lighten up a little. Holding portfolios seems to be limiting his obsession with the ETS, although he still has bursts of outrage about it. If he gets the mental balance right, he will succeed.	4.5	5
<i>Sharples, Pita</i>	Tamaki Makarau	Minister of Maori Affairs Associate Minister of Corrections Associate Minister of Education  Maori Party	He'll need all his wits and mana next year to handle dissident iwi, Hone Harawira and the Govt over the foreshore and seabed replacement legislation. The party itself is threatened by this and Sharples has seemed tired of it at times. But as long as he continues to command respect from all sides he will be an essential wound-healer and bridge-builder.	7	7
<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  Maori Party	Looking very well these days and put huge effort into getting Whanau Ora off the ground. If it works it will be her legacy. This may have distracted her from the big picture problems Hone Harawira and others are creating and next year she will have to refocus. 'Auntie' Tariana still has a lot of clout with her MPs - including Hone. Gets an upgrade for her welfare work and the very strong commitment to it.	7	7.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<b>United Future</b>					
<i>Dunne, Peter</i>	Ohariu	Minister of Revenue Associate Minister of Health	Dunne does the detail work on tax reform and he's had a busy year. Tax changes, international tax law bills and his own income-splitting legislation were on an agenda which didn't leave much time for his party. He will have to worry about it next year - and keeping his seat. High quality Minister, on top of it in the House.	4	5.5
<b>National Back Benchers</b>					
<i>Adams, Amy</i>	Selwyn		Memorable speech after the earthquake, which hit her house, about its impact on Cantabrians. Otherwise a not very memorable year but she's a diligent worker. She has been tipped for promotion in some quarters.	5	5.5
<i>Ardern, Shane</i>	Taranaki-King Country		Speech-making isn't his strong point, which detracts from his performance. Low profile doesn't seem to worry him - he's got a seat for life if he wants to stay for ever.	3.5	4
<i>Auchinvole, Chris</i>	West Coast-Tasman		Said to work hard in his electorate and he had better keep it up - Labour has classified it as winnable. Really needs to do more in the House than get up to support Govt Bills. He's making an effort, just needs to be more 'out there.'	3	3.5
<i>Bakshi, Kanwaljit</i>	List		Still seems rather reticent and never mixes it with the opposition MPs, who mostly leave him alone. A sincere and careful speaker who is worth listening to but doesn't command attention. He probably isn't going to change.	4	4
<i>Bennett, David</i>	Hamilton East		A vigorous supporter of Govt legislation - whatever it is. A bit more energetic this year but he isn't making much of an impression. Needs more than noisy speeches to prove his value.	2.5	3
<i>Blue, Jackie</i>	List		Another quiet year in the House but her medical expertise is valuable on the Health Select Committee. Sane and sensible, leaves the rhetoric to others.	4.5	4.5
<i>Borrows, Chester</i>	Whanganui		Chairs the important Justice Select Committee and does it well. Former police officer's speeches on law and order are worth much more attention than they gain. The Whanganui gang patch ban Bill he took through Parliament is starting to be copied.	6	6
<i>Bridges, Simon</i>	Tauranga		This backbencher is under-employed. Capable and smart, he should get a junior Ministerial slot post-election. Excellent work with his animal cruelty member's Bill which was taken over as Govt legislation, and passed.	4	6
<i>Calder, Cam</i>	List		Clearly fancies himself as one of Parliament's most colourful speakers. Pity it sounds like rubbish. More depth would be a good thing.	4	3
<i>Dean, Jacqui</i>	Waitaki		In danger of sliding into obscurity, if she hasn't already. But she is better than this. Same advice as last year - make more of being an MP.	3	3
<i>Foss, Craig</i>	Tukituki		Being chair of the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee is Cabinet-level responsibility and he carries it well. Good speaker on its complex Bills as well. Another one knocking on the door.	5.5	6

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Gilmore, Aaron</i>	List		We said he should push himself harder, and if he has it isn't showing. Really needs to sharpen up and start being noticed now.	4	3.5
<i>Goodhew, Jo</i>	Rangitata		A good Govt whip, quick on her feet in the House. This has been a better year for her and she has the talent for promotion.	4.5	5
<i>Goudie, Sandra</i>	Coromandel		It is surely time for her to be removed from the chairmanship of the Law and Order Select Committee, at times been a dysfunctional mess. Abrasive Labour MPs haven't helped but she isn't hacking it. Difficult to deal with as well.	4	2.5
<i>Hayes, John</i>	Wairarapa		Former senior diplomat is chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee where his experience counts. Gets involved in peculiar arguments in the House, where he continues to be a strange presence.	3	4
<i>Henare, Tau</i>	List		Rowdy, raucous MP pushes the boundaries of acceptable behaviour in the House but so does his chief antagonist Trevor Mallard. Good value though, he needs to be tough to run the Maori Affairs Select Committee which is going to be tested by the foreshore and seabed replacement legislation.	3.5	4
<i>Hutchison, Paul</i>	Hunua		His niche is the chairmanship of the Health Select Committee and Hutchison has launched two inquiries this year. Too polite to be unpleasant in the House but he doesn't need to be. Former consultant obstetrician is highly regarded in the health sector and respected by his Parliamentary colleagues.	5.5	6
<i>Kaye, Nikki</i>	Auckland Central		Hasn't really followed up on a good first year, but working hard in her electorate, which Labour is determined to win next year. Still one of National's smart new young things but that won't last if she doesn't keep her profile up.	4.5	4
<i>King, Colin</i>	Kaikoura		A slightly enhanced presence this year but he was starting from a low base. Sincere effort though and a diligent deputy chair of the Primary Production Select Committee.	2	3.5
<i>Lee, Melissa</i>	List		If she hadn't lost the Mt Albert by-election in such spectacular fashion she wouldn't have much of a profile at all, and it isn't going to last. A disappointing year - minimum impact. She's not doing herself justice.	4	3.5
<i>Sam Lotu-Liga, Peseta</i>	Maungakiekie		If he has hidden talents they have so far been undetectable. Very ordinary performance which must be a disappointment. National said he was something special when he came in.	4	3
<i>Macindoe, Tim</i>	Hamilton West		Government backbenchers don't get many opportunities to make themselves heard but Macindoe hasn't really taken those that came his way. Say something interesting, Tim.	4	3.5
<i>McClay, Todd</i>	Rotorua		Takes his opportunities and a few others could learn from it. Sensitive, sensible speaker with a deft touch. Could be promotion material.	4.5	5
<i>Parata, Hekia</i>	List		Ran a great campaign in Mana. Lively and energetic list MP, she'll have another crack at it next year. Smiles a lot, doesn't get involved in House rows. Speeches aren't remarkable and she needed a profile boost which the by-election gave her. One of National's darlings now she's cut Labour's majority in Mana to just over 1000.	4	5.5



Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Peachey, Allan</i>	Tamaki		Really gets stuck into Labour, loves winding them up. Turning out to be a policy hard-liner and good value on the backbench. Isn't showing much talent beyond this.	5	5
<i>Quinn, Paul</i>	List		Media-loathing misfit. Rude and arrogant. National should start wondering whether this list MP is a waste of space.	2	1
<i>Roy, Eric</i>	Invercargill		An Associate Speaker who handles the House with patience and good grace, and this often isn't easy. His experience is respected, his demeanour is appreciated.	4.5	5
<i>Shanks, Katrina</i>	List		Another one on the road to obscurity. She showed early promise but hasn't lived up to it. Must do more than ask patsy questions and make the occasional forgettable speech.	3.5	3
<i>Smith, Lockwood</i>	Rodney	Speaker	Went from hero to zero when he tried to put the lid back on Parliamentary travel spending - should have known the politicians would turn it over. An odd lapse which shouldn't stain another very good year as Speaker. Ministers get no mercy at question time. His insistence on high standards has improved behaviour. MPs rarely step over the boundaries he has set.	9.25	8
<i>Tisch, Lindsay</i>	Waikato	Deputy Speaker	Another high quality MP. As Deputy Speaker he complements Smith's handling of the House and his knowledge of Standing Orders is just as good. Doesn't stand for any nonsense and doesn't often get any.	5	7
<i>Tremain, Chris</i>	Napier	Junior Whip	An efficient junior whip. It isn't high profile, but it's vital for the good order of the House and usually leads to promotion.	5.5	6
<i>Upston, Louise</i>	Taupo		More confident - another first-termer who doesn't get much chance to shine but works hard. One to watch, she should improve further.	4	4.5
<i>Wagner, Nicky</i>	List		Unlikely to move off the backbenches but made some thoughtful speeches this year. Doesn't give the impression of having her sights set on higher office, or on anything in particular.	3	3.5
<i>Woodhouse, Michael</i>	List		Time to stop breathing through your nose Michael. It's okay for year one but you're meant to start letting people know why you're there.	4	3
<i>Young, Jonathan</i>	New Plymouth		Another one who needs to get noticed - and Labour wants the New Plymouth seat. Maybe he's focused on this, he doesn't seem to be focused on anything in Parliament.	4	3
<b>ACT</b>					
<i>Hide, Rodney</i>	Epsom	Leader	See Ministers Outside Cabinet - page 4		
<i>Boscawen, John</i>	List	Deputy Leader	See Ministers Outside Cabinet - page 4		
<i>Calvert, Hillary</i>	List		Jumped straight into the foreshore and seabed legislation, not with much skill but she will learn. A high achiever who isn't a loose cannon and should make a competent MP.	N/A	5
<i>Douglas, Roger</i>	List		Said to be a disruptive influence in Caucus. He's pulled his head in as ACT tries to present a united front. His frequent attacks on the Govt's economic policies suffer from sameness. He seems incapable of finding a new angle. Still utterly committed to his old beliefs. Risks losing relevance because it's getting stale.	5	3.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Roy, Heather</i>	List		Had the courage to survive the media slaughterhouse after her lethal dossier of accusations against Hide was leaked. It could have brought her down but she's trying to settle into a normal political life, if anyone in ACT could be said to have one. Her member's Bill abolishing compulsory student union membership will become law. She created havoc but deserves credit for getting back on track.	5	4
<b>Maori</b>					
<i>Sharples, Pita</i>	Tamaki Makarau	Co-Leader	See Ministers Outside Cabinet - Page 4		
<i>Turia, Tariana</i>	Te Tai Hauauru	Co-Leader	See Ministers Outside Cabinet - Page 4		
<i>Flavell, Te Ururoa</i>	Wairiki		Caucus anchorman is a safe pair of hands who never gets rattled. Another good year in Parliament and his presence will be crucial next year as the foreshore and seabed replacement legislation goes through and the Maori Party has to weather iwi discontent. Valuable asset to Parliament and the party.	6	6
<i>Harawira, Hone</i>	Te Tai Tokerau		Causing more trouble than any other MP - for his party and the Govt - with his opposition to the foreshore Bill. But he believes in what he is doing and the others accept it. Rated zero last year because of his appalling behaviour but he has been careful this year and his rehabilitation can begin.	0	2
<i>Katene, Rahui</i>	Te Tai Tonga		Very much in the Flavell mould and helps to balance Harawira's extremism. With Flavell she does the heavy lifting in Parliament and does her best to understand and comment on complex legislation. Another valuable year. She will be tested, as the others will, by the foreshore Bill.	6	6
<b>Labour Front Bench</b>					
<i>Goff, Phil</i>	Mt Roskill	Leader, SIS	Moved out of Helen Clark's shadow and stamped his leadership on the party. New economic and child welfare policies have been rolled out, more are being developed. Dealt swiftly with the Carter crisis and there's no sign of a challenger. Goff is still Labour's best chance. Believes next year will be crunch time for National and voters will be asking themselves what they've really gained from three years of National rule. Election victory is still remote. Goff has shown more confidence this year, stronger speeches. But still sounds a bit robotic - fails to connect. Mana a big disappointment.	5.5	6
<i>King, Annette</i>	Rongotai	Deputy Leader, Social Development	A great support worker for Goff with no leadership aspirations. Rolling out new welfare policies and is keen to get on with it and take on National next year. Media-friendly attitude is an asset and gets on well with caucus colleagues. Will hold the deputy position as long as Goff is leader. She hasn't landed any big punches on Paula Bennett so far. Needs to upset the Minister. Has few fresh ideas.	6.5	6.5
<i>Cunliffe, David</i>	New Lynn	Finance	Much more assertive this year and, like Goff, has moved out of a shadow - Michael Cullen's. A frequent press gallery visitor who pushes his case hard. Cunliffe is a crucial part of the party's economic policy development and will be the main messenger in an election year. Harassed Bill English in Parliament but gets bogged down in fiscal detail and questions are wasted. Needs a better strategy than continually challenging the Govt on what it said last year. Overall, a much better year.	5	5.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Dyson, Ruth</i>	Port Hills	Health	Has a huge dossier on the Gov't's health cuts but she still hasn't managed to rattle Tony Ryall. Like Cunliffe, she can become boringly repetitive and reeling off statistics isn't effective. Needs more grunt in her attacks, and an alternative health policy which will appeal to voters. Next year will test her, she has to make health a political issue which it isn't yet.	4	4.5
<i>Horomia, Parekura</i>	Ikaroa-Rawhiti	Maori Affairs, Fisheries	Like last year, a very modest input. Capable of powerful speeches but they've been few and far between. Rarely takes on the Maori Party and has to lift his game next year. Labour needs its share of the Maori party vote and Goff should remind Horomia about it.	3.5	3
<i>Cosgrove, Clayton</i>	Waimakariri	Law & Order (incl Police & Corrections), SOEs, Associate Finance	Must be frustrated by his inability to get inside Judith Collins' defences. A good debater, lots of aggro but not enough firepower. Clashes with Sandra Goudie on the Law and Order Select Committee, which isn't surprising. Likely to do better when he's got a policy to push.	4.5	4
<i>Hughes, Darren</i>	List	Transport & Infrastructure	Irrepressible MP had a good year. Gives Steven Joyce a run for his money, comes up with innovative ideas and is pushing hard for an decrease in the drink driving blood alcohol level with a member's Bill in the ballot. Intends forcing a vote when the Liquor Law Reform Bill reaches committee stage. Infectious enthusiasm is good for Caucus.	6	6.5
<i>Mahuta, Nanaia</i>	Hauraki-Waikato	Maori Social Development, Energy, Associate Finance	Low visibility, has to improve it. A careful, sensible speaker but she isn't often heard. Like Horomia, she has to be more effective and needs to counter the Maori Party MPs - which she seems reluctant to do. Will face a tough challenge in the election.	4	3.5
<i>Mallard, Trevor</i>	Hutt South	Labour, Education, Rugby World Cup, America's Cup	A powerful presence in the House this year, living up to his reputation as Labour's main strike weapon. Brutal probing of Anne Tolley's understanding of National Standards upsets the Minister. Runs close to trouble and pushes the boundaries but managed to keep his temper under control - just. Blazing rows with Tau Henare brighten up the House. Never backs off.	4.5	5
<i>Parker, David</i>	List	Shadow Attorney General, Economic Development, ACC & Associate Finance	Excellent work on ACC, and Nick Smith isn't easy for anyone to deal with. Intelligent and articulate but often becomes involved with detail which makes him difficult to understand. Hard to fault his performance, but he needs to simplify his approach so those who aren't experts know what he is saying.	6	6.5
<i>Street, Maryan</i>	List	Trade, Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Foreign Affairs	Deeply involved in foreign affairs and needs to come to the surface, at least occasionally, so she is seen to be an opposition MP. Careful, precise, thoughtful but her abilities aren't on display. Street has never been a show pony but she does need to prance now and then.	3	4
<b>Labour Back Benchers</b>					
<i>Ardern, Jacinda</i>	List	Youth Affairs, Associate Justice - Youth Justice	One of the best of the new intake with a firm grip of her portfolios. Selected to take on Nikki Kaye in Auckland Central. It's a big ask.	4.5	5
<i>Barker, Rick</i>	List	Courts, Veterans Affairs	Is rejuvenation beckoning? He isn't showing any signs of going but it might be a good choice. Being an Associate Speaker fills some of his time, hasn't done much with the rest	2.5	2.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Beaumont, Carol</i>	List	Consumer Affairs, Associate Labour	Hard working champion of underdogs, deserved better luck with her member's Bill to control loan sharks. Fierce opponent of employment law changes, good contribution in the House.	4	4
<i>Burns, Brendan</i>	Christchurch Central	Broadcasting, Water Quality	This year was better than his first. Plugged away on broadcasting and water quality. The earthquake showed him what being an electorate MP is all about.	3	4
<i>Chadwick, Steve</i>	List	Junior Whip, Conservation (acting), Arts Culture & Heritage	Junior whip duties shouldn't stop her making a decent speech now and then. Another one who needs to be more assertive in the House.	3	3
<i>Chauvel, Charles</i>	List	Climate Change, Environment, Commerce, Associate Justice	Should be on the front bench, deserves to be there more than some who are. Doesn't get mixed up in rows and rhetoric, knows his issues and commands attention in the House.	5.5	6
<i>Chaudhary, Ashraf</i>	List	Food Safety, Associate Ethnic Affairs, Associate Research & Development	If he survives rejuvenation he will become a veteran list MP and it's difficult to figure out why. Seemed to be more active in the House this year but he's still a mysterious presence.	1	1.5
<i>Curran, Clare</i>	Dunedin South	Communications & IT	Author of many unpublished press statements, some of them incomprehensible. The broadband/IT scene can be complicated but she's got to be able to communicate.	4	3.5
<i>Dalziel, Lianne</i>	Christchurch East	Justice, Commerce, Electoral Reform	Another one who should be on the front bench. One of few MPs who understands commerce Bills. Should try not to get so angry, it can't be good for her.	5	5.5
<i>Davis, Kelvin</i>	List	Tourism, Associate Education, Associate Maori Affairs	Very good speaker who needs to show it more often. Comes across as sincere and committed, definitely promotion material.	4	5
<i>Fafoi, Kris</i>	Mana		Worked like a slave in Mana by-election but the campaign didn't fire the way Labour wanted it to. Wasn't up close and personal the way Hekia Parata was, didn't connect as well as she did. He's got just under a year to prove he can hack it in Mana, which is a tough electorate, and Winnie Laban is a hard act to follow. Fafoi will have to increase his majority in the general election, we'll be watching him. Gets a 4 to start with, which might be generous. We'll see.	N/A	4
<i>Fenton, Darien</i>	List	Transport Safety, Associate Labour	Fenton and Beaumont are a good old fashioned union team fighting for the exploited masses. She's plugged into the movement. Must be good for votes. Worked hard this year.	3	4
<i>Hawkins, George</i>	Manurewa	Local Government	Parliament's most accomplished survivor is leaving, at last. He was better than a lot of people seem to think.	2	3
<i>Hipkins, Chris</i>	Rimutaka	Internal Affairs, Associate Energy, Sport & Recreation	Lively young MP is a junior Trevor Mallard, gets under National's skin. With experience, he could become a real problem. Good asset.	4	4
<i>Hodgson, Pete</i>	Dunedin North	Immigration, Defence	Last year we called him 'a formidable researcher of bad things'. Now Pansy Wong knows why. Retiring from politics at the next election, he's keeping his work rate up. National hate him.	5	6
<i>Huo, Raymond</i>	List	Law Commission, Statistics, Associate. Ethnic Affairs	A student of Bills, in minute detail. Stuningly boring speaker but he does know legislation. Doesn't talk about anything else and could fit in anywhere. Must do a lot of reading.	3	3.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Jones, Shane</i>	List		Occasional outbursts from the backbench, shows there's a fire still burning somewhere. Despite his peccadillos, he's Labour's best hope to shape the party's Maori policy.	4.5	5
<i>Lees-Galloway, Iain</i>	Palmerston North	Land Information, Associate Defence, Associate Health - Drugs & Alcohol	Raised his game this year with some active media work although his associate roles don't give him much room to make an impact. Will have to do more to get an upgrade.	4	4
<i>Mackey, Moana</i>	List	Housing, Research & Development, Science & Technology	Great commitment to Labour's causes, good on housing, knows her subjects and takes it to the Govt. Another one due for promotion.	4	5
<i>Moroney, Sue</i>	List	Women's Affairs, Education - ECE	She's put in the shove we said last year she needed. Hammered the Govt over ECE, good links with the sector, made a real impact.	3	5
<i>Nash, Stuart</i>	List	Revenue, Associate Trade, Forestry	An improvement on last year, has a good grasp of revenue Bills. Has to defer to David Cunliffe when there's anything worthwhile to say, but he's a first-termer. Has potential.	4	4.5
<i>O'Connor, Damien</i>	List	Agriculture, Bio-Security, Rural Affairs	Stronger performance since given agriculture. Labour expects him to win back West Coast-Tasman, if he doesn't his future is limited.	3	4
<i>Pillay, Lynne</i>	List	Disability Issues, Associate Justice - Victims Rights	Calling it quits at the next election. She's never been a star but she worked hard on her issues, one of the nicest MPs in Parliament.	3.5	4
<i>Prasad, Rajen</i>	List	Voluntary & Community Sector, Associate Ethnic Affairs, Associate Social Development - Family & CYF	Can't call him action man but there's definitely signs of movement. Still isn't delivering all of what he has to offer but this year was marked by several impressive speeches.	3	4
<i>Ririnui, Mita</i>	List	Associate Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations	Must be an important iwi networker or why would Labour keep him? Doesn't earn his keep in Parliament, unless he does it very quietly.	2.5	2.5
<i>Robertson, Grant</i>	Wellington Central	State Services, Associate Arts, Culture & Heritage, Associate Foreign Affairs, Tertiary Education, Special Education	Streetwise MP knows weak points and exploits them. Uses the media well to get his points across. Must be on the priority promotion list.	4.5	5
<i>Robertson, Ross</i>	Manukau East	Small Business, Senior Citizens, Racing, Associate Disarmament & Arms Control	Veteran electorate MP. Seems to be a George Hawkins-type institution.	3.5	3.5
<i>Sepuloni, Carmel</i>	List	Civil Defence, Associate Tertiary Education, Associate Social Development	Being selected for Waitakere seems to have woken her up. More visible this year but still needs to score some points. Too quiet.	3	3.5
<i>Shearer, David</i>	Mt Albert	Research Science & Technology, Associate Environment	Parliament is still waiting for this MP to show he was worth the big billing he got in the Mt Albert by-election. So far a big disappointment.	3.5	3
<i>Sio, Su'a William</i>	Mangere	Customs, Pacific Island Affairs, Associate Local Government	Plunged in with some enthusiastic speeches this year, found himself in the deep end sometimes, but gave it a go. Improving.	3	3.5
<i>Twyford, Phil</i>	List	Disarmament & Arms Control, Auckland Issues, Building & Construction, Associate Foreign Affairs - Development Assistance	Auckland issues fanatic still fighting local Govt demons but it's yesterday's story. Needs to focus on some of his other responsibilities, which have been neglected.	4.5	4.5
<b>Greens</b>					
<i>Delahunty, Catherine</i>	List		A better year after a steep learning curve. More focus in her speeches but still needs to target newsworthy issues. Spent a lot of time challenging Pansy Wong over the Minister's claims the gender pay gap has narrowed.	3	3.5

Name	Seat/list	Responsibilities	Comments	2009 Rating	This Year's Rating
<i>Clendon, David</i>	List		Worthy newcomer who speaks in a monotone and seems to be reading everything. This makes what he says seem boring when it should be listened to because he's a committed greenie with good points to make.	N/A	3.5
<i>Graham, Kennedy</i>	List		Still seeking Utopia but isn't going to find it in this Parliament. Excellent, carefully considered speeches have gained him respect. He is making some progress with good member's Bills.	3	4
<i>Hague, Kevin</i>	List		Raised his profile this year but as he was nearly invisible he still isn't really on the radar. Better performance, but it certainly needed to be.	4	3.5
<i>Hughes, Gareth</i>	List		Young MP with obvious political talent. Focused on student issues and put up strong arguments, could become a very good debater, Promising new addition to the Green team.	N/A	3
<i>Kedgley, Sue</i>	List		Leaving politics at the next election. The Greens and Parliament will be the poorer for it. Tireless campaigner against animal cruelty and on food safety issues. Her determination and drive will be missed.	5	5.5
<i>Locke, Keith</i>	List		Much more interaction with the media this year, the left-wing peacenik has stepped up the pace. Frequently quoted for the right reasons this time, and starting to have an impact.	3.5	4
<i>Norman, Russel</i>	List	Co-Leader	With Jeanette Fitzsimons gone there's a new hardness about the Green's co-leader. Much more challenging in the House and determined to see the party increase its vote next year. Tends to become involved in issues like water quality which could detract from the big picture he needs to be putting across to voters. Clever tactician can be expected to ramp up his presence next year.	4	5
<i>Turei, Metiria</i>	List	Co-Leader	Overcoming the uncertainty which seemed to affect her after the difficult transition to co-leadership which saw the departure of Sue Bradford. Can be strong in the House and needs a sharper focus on issues which make people take notice of the Greens.	4	4.5
<b>Independent</b>					
<i>Carter, Chris</i>	Te Atatu		Egregious sense of entitlement brought his downfall. Now sits at the back of the chamber where he always belonged.	3.5	1
<b>Progressive</b>					
<i>Anderton, Jim</i>	Wigram	Agriculture	In the dying throes of his Parliamentary career. Had hoped to win the Christchurch mayoralty, but was defeated by Bob Parker. Destined to fade into obscurity like his party. Has been there too long. Doesn't often speak in Parliament and confines himself to issues he is interested in. Good speech on liquor law reform.	3	2

### Politician Of The Year - Simon Power

• While Power shared his 9 out of 10 rating with his leader John Key, he pips the PM at the post because of his Parliamentary work rate. He's like a lock to Key's role on the wing. He is generating important legislation which will change the country. Power is a towering figure on the front bench, and has carried a huge workload this year accomplishing it with skill and efficiency. Justice and Commerce are portfolios which involve complex law and he has taken more of it through Parliament than any other minister - one third of the Government's legislation during 2010. Power is in charge of reforming the justice system, financial market regulation and liquor laws - separate areas of major responsibility - and he has shown a comprehensive grasp of all they entail. Also deeply involved with the trans-Tasman relationship and the alignment of commerce law with Australia's. Respected across the House for the way he works with other parties, Power gets the nod for outstanding performance carried out with quiet good grace.

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