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Running the Country by Maria Gill

Publisher: New Holland

RRP \$24.99

The author gives a comprehensive, easy-to-understand explanation of New Zealand's government, its many departments and duties. A variety of topics are covered in fascinating detail with the aid of fact boxes, photographs and illustrations.

Clear, concise headings lead into each double-page spread. There's an amazing amount of information in each section dealing with aspects of the history and development of our country's government, constitution, legal system, and the Treaty of Waitangi.

Each double page includes a profile of a past prime minister, captured by well-known cartoonist, Malcolm Evans. Informative timelines edge the bottom of the pages with political facts. Useful web links allow students to quickly find relevant websites for follow-up research.

A short synopsis of all the political parties is a helpful topic. While 'Voting at elections' gives an overview of the election process. Other sections cover the judiciary, citizenship and human rights, local government, law enforcers, the economy, and many other subjects.

Design features include 'What's that?' clips of interesting facts. The text is set-out well with a good-size font and eye-catching packages of information. A glossary and index complete this well-written guide to New Zealand's political system.

New Holland have published a quality book with durable paper, stitched binding, and superb design. It's a valuable resource for families and schools, especially with an election in 2014.

Reviewed by children's author Jean Bennett

Maria Gill:

<http://www.mariagill.co.nz/>

Malcolm Evans:

<http://www.evanscartoons.com/>

