

PM is Yoda - and lose the election, he will

By Mark Schliebs
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- **PM is most like aged Jedi master, our poll finds**
- **Rudd like passionate but tortured Skywalker**
- **Most readers believe the force is with Rudd**

JOHN Howard is the Yoda of Australian politics and voters see Kevin Rudd as his dashing but inexperienced apprentice Luke Skywalker, according to a poll of almost 5000 *NEWS.com.au* readers.

But the political force is stronger with Mr Rudd, with a large majority (57 per cent) believing he will win the next federal election.

Splat!: But which Pulp Fiction characters are they like?

(http://blogs.news.com.au/news/splat/index.php/news/comments/if_john_howard_and_kevin_rudd_were_film_characters/)

Of the 4994 respondents of the poll, carried out by Coredata for *NEWS.com.au*, more than half would have voted for Labor if the federal election were held last month.

Almost a quarter of respondents who voted Liberal in 2004 said they would be switching their vote, with Work Choices and climate change being the biggest drivers. Middle-income couples with children were the most likely group to change their vote.

The survey was taken at the end of last month and will not reflect the effects of this week's revelation that Mr Rudd's advisors told him he was wrong to suggest the economy was running out of steam under the Howard Government.

While two in five respondents said they were not concerned at all about having Labor in power, 35 per cent said it was "a great deal" of concern. Half of the respondents agreed the Labor Leader was "honest", while just a third had the same opinion of Mr Howard.

Nearly 44 per cent of respondents who voted for the Nationals in 2004 agreed that the Coalition will win this year's election.

Respondents were also asked to compare Mr Rudd and Mr Howard with Star Wars characters.

Results showed voters saw Mr Howard as a Yoda-like figure and Mr Rudd as Luke Skywalker, and Bond University lecturer and Star Wars nut Scott Knight said this election could closely resemble the plotline of the films.

"I suppose John Howard's been in the job for so long he has so much authority like Yoda," Professor Knight said.

"I think (respondents see) Kevin Rudd as the chosen one with a chance of a new regime.

"If it follows the Star Wars pattern, the Empire is vanquished by a rebel alliance."

But he said that did not mean respondents thought the Howard Government was evil.

"In a sense, both Yoda and Luke were on the lighter side of the force."

Star Wars aside, when asked who they would rather have a beer or a coffee with, 48 per cent of respondents would sit down with Mr Rudd compared with a third who would sip a beverage with Mr Howard.

Almost 20 per cent said they would rather not drink with either.

The majority of respondents agreed that they saw Mr Howard as being decisive and strong (53.7%), while 48 per cent said the same about Mr Rudd.

Almost 48 per cent of participants believed Mr Rudd had the “best vision for Australia”, compared to 37.6 per cent for Mr Howard.

Overall, one in three respondents rated the economy and interest rates as the crucial issue for their vote in this year’s election, while less than 20 per cent said it was job security.


But industrial relations was the issue most important for nearly a third of all those respondents switching to Labor.

While the majority of respondents said they thought their chosen party would win, Labor voters were surer of themselves than coalition voters.

Almost 84 per cent of Labor voters said they believed Mr Rudd would become the next prime minister, while 56 per cent of coalition supporters thought Mr Howard would retain his position.

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