



Google removes posts from blog critical of New Zealand government **February 5, 2007**

Google removed a number of posts from a blog which rants about the New Zealand Department of Child, Youth and Family Services (CYFS), called CYFSWATCH NEW ZEALAND. The action comes after the New Zealand Government laid a formal complaint, according to Radio New Zealand. The removal of information by Google has been described by observers as censorship.

The blog, hosted by Google's Blogspot, invites readers to send in their stories about how they have been treated by CYFS, and also to provide a description and personal details of the people hired by CYFS.

The blog describes itself as a web site that "...is dedicated to all those people who have been bullied, intimidated, or 'familiarily raped' by the Department of Child, Youth, & Family..."

The Blogger Team made a post saying Google had found, following the complaint, that some blog content may have allegedly breached their Blogspot terms of service. "As a result, we've been forced to remove the infringing posts from your blog."

CYFSWATCH then asked Google under what grounds did they breach the terms of service.

New Zealand Police were called to

investigate the blog for reasons that included the sharing of personal information, from which the blog could put employees of CYFS and their families at risk.



Google logo.

Former New Zealand politician, Don Brash, officially leaves politics **February 5, 2007**



Today Doctor Don Brash, former politician and leader of the New Zealand opposition, National, has formally left politics.

It is unknown to Dr Brash on what he will now do, but has said previously that he will not join a state-owned enterprise while the Labour Party is the Government.

Wikinews has been advised by Dr Brash's executive assistant, Anne Small that before today, he had been packing up his office and clearing "a vast amount of correspondence."

Poll: New Zealand Labour and Greens parties gain support **February 6, 2007**

A recent 3 News poll conducted by TNS has shown that the New Zealand

Labour party and the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand have both gained support, with the Greens controlling the majority.

The party currently holding majority in parliament, Labour, has grown its seat majority in the House to 54, from its current level of 50, according to the poll. Its major political rival, the National party has gained three seats to 51. And the Green party would raise its seats from six to ten. All other political parties do not cross the threshold of support, 5%.

Labour now has 44% support, last year the same poll showed Labour on 42%; National is up one percent to 41%; and the Greens are on eight percent, from seven percent, the highest support the Greens have gained in over two years. The other political parties that would not be able to enter parliament unless they won an electorate seat, would be New Zealand First on 2.8%; Māori party on two percent; and United Future and ACT do not receive very much support at all, with both on 0.8%.

Nine percent of those polled had not yet decided on their party preference.

Because New Zealand First does not have an electorate seat they would not have any seats in the parliament. Māori party would hold four seats because of the electorates it controls. United Future and ACT both hold an electorate each and would not gain any more seats in the House.

The poll also had a preferred Prime Minister (PM) section, with Helen Clark, the current PM, with non-changing 35%. John Key, the new leader of the National party, has jumped from eight percent to 24% in the poll. Former National leader, Don Brash's highest support was 25%. 84% said Helen Clark was a capable leader, with only 54% saying John Key would be a capable leader. 42% said Helen Clark was out of touch with the public but only 22% said John Key was out of touch. Ms Clark said: "We've got a big year ahead of us in government, and a lot of important policies. I'm looking forward to it." John Key said: "Over the next 18 months I've got a big job to convince the people of New Zealand that I'm ready to assume the mantle of prime minister."

According to 3 News, the rise in support for Greens and Labour is due to global warming. Both parties have put policies regarding climate change as very important.

Since the poll was conducted between January 24 and February 1, it does not take into account Mr Key's recent State of the Nation speech.

Another poll conducted by UMR, showed a majority of support for Labour on 43%, but a decrease in support for the Greens. National was on 41%. New Zealand First, ACT and the Māori party rose in support and United Future declined in support.

The poll has a margin of error of 3.1% and was conducted on 1,000 eligible voters.

New stars found in Southern Cross January 30, 2007

New stars have been recently discovered in the Southern Cross, or Crux, by scientists in the United States. This discovery could affect the

flags of New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Brazil, although the new star is located very close to the westernmost star and invisible to the naked eye.

The American scientists found the new stars in the Southern Cross by using the Chandra X-ray Observatory, a space satellite run by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) which uses x-rays.

When the scientist team, led by David Cohen of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, were using the Chandra telescope, they, to their surprise, saw two x-ray glows, each representing stars, where they expected to see one. The new star appears to be orbiting Beta Crucis, the westernmost star in the Southern Cross, once every 2,000 years. Doctor Nick Lomb, an astronomer at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Australia, said that the reason the star had not been found before was because the glare from Beta Crucis is too great and "It would be like looking for a glow worm next to a floodlight." Before the recent discovery, it was already known that Beta Crucis had a partner, which is invisible to the human-eye.

Mr Cohen said that they found it by accident, as they were really trying to get information about the x-rays emitted by Beta Crucis. "We were interested in how the highly supersonic stellar winds of hot, luminous stars produce X-rays."

The star found at the bottom of the Southern Cross, Alpha Crucis "Acrux", also has a partner star, which is also invisible to the human-eye. This invisible partner is not featured on any flags.

Dr Lomb said the apparent separation between each star is like looking at two headlights from 100 kilometres away, even though the two stars are actually 60 billion kilometres away

from each other.

Dr Lomb said that if Australia was to put all eight stars in the Southern Cross onto the Australia flag then "the flag would have to be huge, probably the size of Sydney." Astronomer Alan Gilmore from University of Canterbury's Mount John observatory, also agreed that flags should not be altered because it is not about how many stars there are in the Southern Cross, but the magnitude of the stars. Mr Gilmore said: "What you see by eye is what you see on the flag. If you wanted to add more stars, there's no end of stars you can put on if you go down in order of brightness. It would get very confusing."

Mr Gilmore has said that in 20,000 years that Southern Cross will be different anyway, because the top star, Gamma Crucis is 90 light years away from Earth, while Alpha Crucis, Beta Crucis and Delta Crucis are all around 350 light years away and they are all moving in different directions. And Dr Lomb said that Alpha, Beta and Delta Crucis will die in a few million years.

These findings were presented to the American Astronomical Society, Seattle, Washington, by an undergraduate of Mr Cohen's team, Michael Kuhn.



New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, Brazil, Papua New Guinea flags, and the Crux.

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