The New Zealand print edition would like volunteers to help continue a weekly service.

Dunedin Subway manager sharing drink, lays theft charges May 8, 2007

friend in distress. After being sacked, her work. she was also charged with the theft of At 12.00 p.m. (NZST) the Otago two NZ\$4.00 drinks by the New University Young Labour branch Zealand Police.

of Subway. "They are allowed endless Ashley poured a drink and sat down with her," have easily been resolved internally." Bill Clark, from the Autonomous Before the incident, Jackie Lang had a Workers Union, said.

action that a company has done in surprised the case wasn't handled relation to the offence that he has had internally. "It's a human thing to do to to deal with, a view shared with Ms offer a drink as comfort. If Subway Lang. Ms Lang said, "I shared my doesn't like it, they have internal drink with my friend. I was only trying procedures to deal with that," she said. to comfort her. Isn't it what most Prior to the protest, Young Labour people would do? I mean, I wasn't trying to do anything wrong. I did what I thought any person would do in the situation."

Ms. Lang was suspended for two weeks following the incident after management was shown video footage

on March 19. After being suspended employee. sacks New Zealand worker for she filed a personal grievance case, at Ms. Lang will appear in Dunedin which point the franchise owners went District Court later this month. to the police. She was subsequently arrested and put in jail for two hours 20 days after being suspended. The A worker at a Dunedin, New Zealand video shows that Ms. Lang took a Subway has been sacked from her full- break following her friend coming into time job for "serious misconduct". Her the workplace. She then shares her manager sacked her when she shared drink, gets a free refill and leaves it some of her free Diet Coke with a with her friend while she continued

organised a protest, starting at the Jackie Lang, the employee, was university and finishing at the George entitled to a free drink while she was Street Subway. President of the working at the George Street franchise university's Young Labour branch, Murchison amounts of soft drink if they work disappointed that any employer would there. Her friend came in all upset and treat their workers like this, especially distressed, so Jackie took a break, over a matter this trivial, which could

clean employment history and no Mr. Clark said it was the most vicious criminal record, which is why she is prominent blogger, David

> announced a nationwide boycott of Subway, though promoting a focus on Internet in general. Dunedin.



A Subway in Munich at Rindermarkt. Credit: Maksym Mozul.

Exclusive interview with Farrar May 10, 2007

Freelance journalist writing Wikinews, Gabriel Pollard, with help from Brian Anderton, has interviewed New Zealand-based blogger, David Farrar on blogging, web 2.0, and the

The franchise co-owner, Rob Nicol, David Farrar is most known for his has refused to comment on the matter "fairly popular" blog, Kiwiblog, where stating it is a matter between herself, he posts on various topics, including her business partner, the police and the politics and technology. He is the vice-

Zealand and legislation.

various issues using personal Internet account with ihug in enjoy doing it." August of that year.

PM Jim Bolger and former PM Jenny starve." Shipley in the Media Services Unit of Ministerial Services.

Apple computers, "[I]" have a Mac!"

Farrar was involved with introducing public e-mail for ministers, and the first Prime Minister website.

company.

Kiwiblog, sparked by now defunct Farrar is a huge supporter currently receives over blogs get well over 100,000 visitors. "There's then probably a dozen or so other bloggers who get into the tens of thousands."

"Gordon [King] would post wonderful polemics challenging the conventional thinking and reporting, and after a few

New Zealand, and has been involved also had views and could try sharing dead if they show strong innovation, in helping to split Telecom New them with the world. So in July 2003 I Farrar says. anti-spam made my first post, and enjoyed it ever since."

David Farrar first started using the Farrar admits to not having a because of multiple user generated "best invention ever," Internet, in deliberate strategy for promoting content, February 1996 after having owned a himself and his blog, he just found controlled content from one source." BBC Micro microcomputer since that doing more posts in a day and The focus on the community at large is 1982. On the Internet he debated posting what he was interested in got also a major factor of their success. Usenet the visitors that were interested in the newsgroups. Kiwiblog now serves for same things. "Oh and most important this purpose. He then got his own of all is to have a sense of humour and

If Farrar wasn't blogging, he says he Zealand will be connected to the Farrar also has political ties, which would be "Earning money! I spend far Internet via fibre optics. can be seen in some of his blog posts. too long blogging when I should be For eight years, Farrar worked for working on more business. However it various Prime Ministers (PM) and is doing well enough that I can divide Opposition leaders for the National my time up between my business, Party, working with the likes of former InternetNZ and blogging and not

Farrar has a few tips for those politicians who have started a blog, or Until Farrar landed himself a job in are looking at starting one up, "Very parliament, he had been using mainly few are successful because [they] treat finally it as a one way communication tool converted to Microsoft in 1997 after where they just post press releases or being the only person in Parliament to travel diaries. Rodney Hide is the best example of doing it the right way. John Key is video blogging and responding to comments through future videos, which is a different way to interact." But still warns that most In 2004, after leaving politics, Farrar readers of blog prefer "honest opinion" set up his polling and research instead of reading what the politicians want them to read.

blog NZ Pundit by Gordon King, Wikipedia and says that he uses it 300,000 multiples times a day. He says that he visitors a month. He suspects that was "very proud" when the Wikipedia Russell Brown, and the Spareroom community regarded him as notable enough to have his own entry.

> Wikipedia. There's lots more NZ automatic e-mail. However, if certain content to get onto there."

Sites like YouTube, which Farrar uses daily, show that they can leave big

president of the Internet Society of months of reading him I realized that I brand names like Google Video for

Farrar says the success to websites such as Wikipedia and YouTube is "...rather than

When asked where he sees the Internet in decades from now, his simple response was, "I wish I knew." But he does predict every house in New

One scenario Farrar drew was, "...being able to see a map of your local area on your phone, and not just get told where the nearest toilets or bookstore is, but also if any of your friends are nearby."

David Farrar would just like to say thanks for the opportunity of being interviewed on Wikinews.

Immediate life insurance website launched, first in world May 15, 2007

The first website in the world allowing consumers to buy life insurance online instantly has been launched today, targeting specifically New Zealanders.

The website, run by life insurance company Pinnacle Life, allows New Zealanders in many countries in the world to buy life insurance online without the need for a medical examination. Once the application has been approved, which is immediately, the consumer can receive "I wish I had more time to edit a \$500,000 life insurance policy via an conditions have been highlighted, then person to person contact is required to finalise the process.

of the new website, says, "We're entertainer, waiting days for a policy to be Clarke's and we do it immediately."

"The revolutionary website gives people and paper. This is a global test compost. case eagerly watched by the insurance industry around the world," Mr Saul said.

questions are asked on personal Called Wanda. information and if the applicant has had any previous illnesses or diseases.

The countries where New Zealand citizens are allowed to apply are UK, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA.

Landfill named after comedian John Cleese May 21, 2007

In an unofficial move by contractor, Roy Harding, a rubbish tip has been named after comedian John Cleese, dubbed "Mt. Cleese" in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

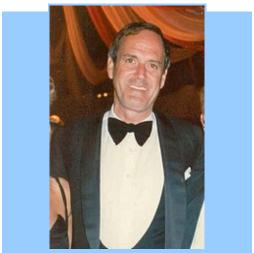
The naming came after Mr Cleese visited Palmerston North last year and described it as a great place to go to commit suicide, claiming it was the "suicide capital of New Zealand". He also stated that they were glad to leave after their performance at the Regent on Broadway was over. Mr Harding says it is just to get back at Mr Cleese.

after city councillors said they thought Zealand, Prime Minister Helen Clark with two narrow yellow stripes that it was good idea. "People just smile has said. and leave it there," Chris Pepper, waste and water manager, said.

Ed Saul, senior partner and architect John Clarke (aka Fred Dagg), military service by regular, territorial suggested that giving consumers a quicker and easier Awapuni Landfill be named after Mr Force, including command, leadership way to buy life insurance. Instead of Cleese after the comments arose in a and service submitting an application form and podcast on his website. However, Mr environment, approved and issued, we do it online different, choosing the name, "John says Clark Cleese Memorial Tip...All manner of crap happily recycled."

buying process whilst eliminating the as a waste minimisation centre, is Empire Medal (Military Division) and previously obligatory involvement of being prepared for a large delivery of the lower levels of the Military

John Cleese is most famous for his parts in Monty Python and Fawlty "Since the change to a totally New Towers television shows as well as Zealand honours system in 1996, When applying online, a few typical various movies including A Fish awards at these levels have not been



John Cleese, photographed here at the 1989 Oscars. Credit: Alan Light.

New Zealand's Head of State approves new medal May 23, 2007

Zealand Distinguished

The Distinguished Service Decoration The first awards will be announced on

the and reserve members of the Defence or in support suggestion was slightly operations, both at home and abroad,

Defence Minister Phil Goff said that until 1995 this type of service was consumers complete control over the The slightly bare tip, now being used recognised by awards of the British Division of the Order of the British Empire.

available."

Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Jerry Mateparae, says the award is an important addition to the country's honour system and will be highly regarded like the Queen's Service Medal.

He says more than 700 personnel are on operations or deployment and that "the DSD is an important addition to the New Zealand Honours system", and will enjoy precedence comparable to that of The Queen's Service Medal (QSM) and the recently instituted New Zealand Antarctic Medal (NZAM).

The new medal will be made of Sterling Silver. The obverse design is a representation of eight blades of a Kotiate (lobed club) in a circle with a Royal Crown in the centre. The front four blades are in frosted silver, the rear blades are polished silver. The New Zealand Defence Force personnel reverse bears the inscription "For now have a new honour; the New Distinguished Service" in English and Service Maori. The ribbon is dark blue and Decoration (DSD) has been approved red, the colours of the British Official signage is now being ordered by the Queen Elizabeth II of New Distinguished Service Order ribbon, signify achievement.

is designed to recognise distinguished June 4th's Queen's Birthday honours

the initials "D.S.D." after their name.



David Baguley, Director Honours Secretariat shows the Chief of Defence Lieutenant Force General Jerry distinguished Mateparae the new service decoration.

Exclusive video interview with New Zealand Opposition leader, John Key May 23, 2007



Wikinews' Pollard Gabriel questions to New Zealand's Leader of the Opposition, and leader of the National Party, John Key. answered the questions in the form of Zealand: Republic by Alan Cook and a video blog.

Mr. Key discusses how and why he participates in video blogging, and the details of his video blogging activities, and other related activities such as using Flickr to post images.

Key has video blogs (or 'vlogs') on his website, dating back to 23 March of this year; other videos on the site reach back to 30 January. His most recent blogs have been about climate change As a way to help New Zealand make

list. Recipients will be entitled to use Other members of the NZ National the international confusion over New under, to 56. There are 64 subscribers.

Exclusive interview with New Zealand republican, Lewis Holden May 25, 2007

Wikinewsie Gabriel Zealand's constitution from economist Lewis Holden.1

In New Zealand, Queen Elizabeth II is the de jure head-of-state, holding the title Queen of New Zealand, despite having very little actual political influence. Surveys sometimes conducted shows that one in three New Zealanders generally support a republic in New Zealand. Holden, living in Auckland, New Zealand, says that it is a way for New Zealanders to show that New Zealand is truly an independent country, standing on and Despite being a strong supporter of a emphasising our own strong tradition republic, he believes that neither of democracy and politics. "I believe a monarchists, nor republicans are the republic is important to mark New better Zealand's place on the map."

Key In 1997, after reading the book New Barry Wheelan, Holden became a republican, three years after he first heard about it in a speech by former New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger.

> 23-year-old Holden decided to start his fifth website, Holden Republic, mainly due to his interests in republicanism the Internet in general, and being a debater at heart.

policy and the 2007 national budget, its mark on the map, Holden says that

Party also 'vlog', bringing the total Zealand needs to be cleared up. "Some number of videos for YouTube user think we're part of Australia, some NZNats, which the party operates think we're a colony of Britain and others just don't know we exist." He also cites that there is confusion over our Governor-General (currently being served by Anand Satynand). He gives Greenland as an example of a country with a governor-general, but is under direct rule from Denmark. He also Pollard says that people often think that as a interviewed Lewis Holden, the chair result of New Zealand becoming a of the Republican Movement and a republic, the flag will have to change, noted blogger who writes about New but says that this is also not true, and a needs to be clarified, "My own republican's perspective. [He is not to personal view is that change should be confused with New Zealand only be by referendum(s), perhaps with different designs put to the New Zealand public – as to when that happens, before or after we become a republic, I don't know." Fiji's flag still retains the Union Jack, despite being a republic since 1987, and Hawaii retaining the Union Jack as well despite being a state of the U.S..

> The issue isn't that the Queen is doing a bad job, it's that she's doing the wrong job - the position of Sovereign has become symbolically out of step with New Zealand's aspirations for itself.

> patriot, "monarchists republicans are disloyal to the Queen, say monarchists republicans disloyal to New Zealand." He does believe that both have New Zealand's future at heart, but have different views and conclusions about it. He does say that he has often been labelled as a "traitor", and admits once that he was threatened with sedition charges, but "It never would have flown."

> Although he is not sure whether or not his blog has actually helped his cause, "I'd like to think so, but I can't really say for sure." But he does know that several other blogs such as Kiwiblog,

Republic blog, Holden says, was a dropped 5.6% to 42.21%. way for him to articulate the case of New Zealand becoming a republic.

the Republican Movement, a member ending her eight year reign as of Common Cause, and is now the preferred Prime Minister. chairman. During his course involvement with the organisation, he has helped with research and analysis. When he was elected to be the chair of the organisation, he pondered about shutting down the blog, but his readers urged him keep going.

"Common Cause is a group through KiwiSaver, Commonwealth groups can work together to share personal tax cuts. information and ideas."

Lewis Holden says he is, despite not election will most likely be held in the being a big petrol head, a Holden fan; second half of 2008. of course.

New Zealand newspaper poll projects majority for National **Party** May 26, 2007

A New Zealand Herald-DigiPoll survey has put the Opposition New Zealand National party so far ahead of the governing New Zealand Labour party that it would form a majority Government if a general election were held today.

The poll, taken in the week after the budget shows 50.9 percent of likely voters would give their party vote to National. Labour is more than 17 points behind, on 33.6 percent.

Translated into seats under New Zealand's MMP electoral system, this would allow National to govern independently with 64 seats in New Zealand's 120 seat Parliament with a two seat overhang.

NZ Monarchy and Queen and Country In the preferred Prime Minister stakes, have now joined the debate over the new National leader John Key has possibility of New Zealand becoming jumped 9.3% to 45.5%, ahead of the a republic. Creating the Holden incumbent Helen Clark who has

The poll follows a recent TV3 TNS poll which puts Mr Key ahead of Miss In 2003, Holden became involved with Clark as preferred Prime Minister,

> The New Zealand Herald-DigiPoll survey, polled 600 voters between May 18 and 24 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 per cent. The survey was started one day after the 2007 Budget announcement, which announced further details a retirement savings republican scheme, but did not announce any

> > The next New Zealand general

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