

compared with budget, due largely to not match the experience of visiting a deficit in the building revaluation of the gallery.

Mr Crosby said visiting art galleries did not make any difference to Cr

the gallery was acknowledged by council.

could be offensive to people of "sell your soul" in the satirical Hell Pizza ads, cause serious or widespread

NZ to give \$3.7m in

Prime Minister Helen Clark's foreign minister, yesterday announced funding to help people in Africa, India and Nepal. The agency NZAID would contribute \$3.7 million to the World Food Programme in Africa and \$500,000 to the Crescent's Disaster Relief

Top caddy gives \$1

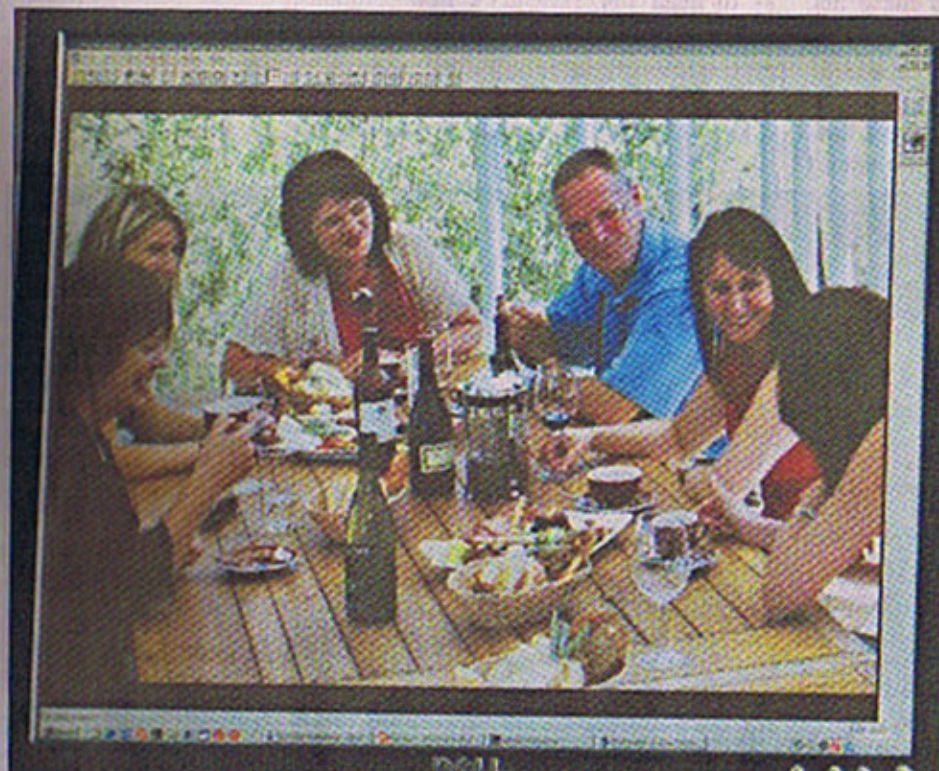
Steve Williams, caddy to Tiger Woods since 1999, has handed a cheque to the Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland. The money will fund a million cancer ward at the hospital, which treats nearly 70 per cent of children in the country but hospital facilities are well below standard.

Halt illegally logged

The Greens want import of timber from New Zealand halted. Green co-leader Fergus Rock released the party's forest policy, aimed to protect New Zealand's forests from cheap, illegally logged timber. He said the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had estimated the cost of over-logging the local industry at \$266 million. New Zealand also needed to value its engineered forests and save higher value species including kiwi. It was needed to reduce the

NZ leads trial on po

New Zealand researchers are leading a trial around the world on a similar range of drugs fighting The "polypill" — containing statins and antihypertensives — has been shown to be reducing deaths from car



IT'S COOL: Jodie Thorne wants to start up a new club in town called Girls Geek Dinner group for women in the IT profession.



PICTURE / JIMMY JOE 061008.JJO480P

Geeky girls wanted to chew-over bytes

by Fiona Jarden
journalism student

FEMALES in the information technology (IT) profession will have strength in numbers if the internationally popular Girl Geek Dinner group gets started in Tauranga.

The group, which is already in Auckland and Wellington, originated from London with the aim of getting more people,

particularly females, into the IT profession. Members meet every couple of months to listen to guest speakers and talk technology over food and drinks.

Now local woman Jodie Thorne wants to get a group started so women in Tauranga don't miss out on the fun.

"I've had some really positive interest from a number of people over the last day or so and I am starting to get quite excited," Mrs Thorne

said. Running her own web-design business from home, Mrs Thorne said it was difficult to meet other people from the profession.

She's positive there are others in the same situation, including those who work for Tauranga's smaller IT companies.

"It would be good to get people out of their little groups and meet people from the wider industry.

"It's a great way to throw

some ideas around. It can also be a support thing — talking to other women in your position, and others who have gone to the top of their game that we can aspire to."

It's still early days, but Mrs Thorne said she has high hopes. "I'm still trying to see how much interest we can get, both from potential speakers, sponsors and members."

Founder of the Auckland and Wellington Girl Geek Group, Amanda Jackson, said

the further the group spread nationally, the more the IT profession would benefit. "The aim is to get more people into IT because there is a shortage of people going into it both at university and as a career. It's open to everybody. It doesn't matter if they're men."

She said there were currently 170 members nationally.

Go to www.wickedeye.co.nz/girlgeekdinners/

