



STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 25 YEARS

At 68, Corran Perry could have retired a good three years ago – but he chooses not to.

Having just celebrated 25 years with the council, the man who specialises in sportsground maintenance and tractor driving has no immediate plans to retire.

“As long as there’s work there, you do it,” he says. “I still enjoy turning up to work, it just becomes harder getting out of bed in the morning!”

That response is typical of the down-to-earth employee – he is always keen to look after the place we love.

Corran battles through all conditions each day to ensure the district’s reserves, sportsfields and parks are in good shape.

When he started, he used to mow from Wharewaka to Nukuhau. Now his coverage has expanded – from Waitahanui to Kinloch.

He’s been through some heavy machinery over the years, and is on to his fifth tractor. “They all wear out, but I’m worn out now – I’m getting like my tractors,” he laughs.

Corran first came to the Taupō District in the 1950s, visiting the family bach at Hatepe as a youngster. He began driving tractors while crop farming in Wairarapa and then moved to Taupō in 1991.

“I’ve been on tractors the whole time,” he said. “It’s something I’ve done all my life.”

Both his tractors and his mowers have increased in size – the mowers have gone from 2.5 metres to up to 5.4 metres across.

His work has evolved too. In the beginning it was all about mowing – these days he does top dressing, spraying and renovation work.

“It’s always challenging,” he said. “No paddock is ever the same; there are always different conditions, different factors that come into play.”



NOMINATE A SPECIAL YOUNG PERSON FOR AWARDS



Do you know an impressive young person who has achieved great things this year?

This is your chance to help see their efforts recognised.

The Taupō District Youth Awards are now open for nominations and young people in years seven to 13 can be nominated in one of five categories.

These are arts, academic, sports, innovation and resilience. The categories are split into three age groups: years 7-8, years 9-11 and years 12-13. This year there are two sports awards – one for a young person who has excelled in an individual sport and one for someone who has excelled in a team sport.

A panel of judges will select a winner and runner-up for each of these age groups.

There is an award for leadership for each age group and an award for overall all-rounder, with the winners of these chosen from the other five categories.

Parents, friends, teachers, coaches and club or organisation leaders can nominate young people they think excel in any of these areas.

Nominations are open to any student living in the Taupō District, even if they attend school outside the district.

Visit www.taupo.govt.nz to nominate a young person for an award.



DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Working with the community is one of the rewarding things we do here at the council – and it can help make fantastic things happen!

Recently Safe Turangi was named as a finalist in the 2016 New Zealand Events Awards for its amazing Turangi Christmas in the Park event, which was part of the 50th jubilee celebrations for the town.

It’s up for Best Community Event of the Year alongside some huge events, and we are so proud to have been a part of it! Audio Visual People are also up for an award, along with Kellogg’s Nutri-Grain and IRONMAN New Zealand.

Safe Turangi led the charge with the event, and with our help and that of other groups and organisations, they delivered a Christmas

event to remember.

Democracy and community engagement manager Tina Jakes said community partnerships are critical, not just for creating events, but building capacity and leadership in communities, services and organisations.

“We think it’s really important for agencies, groups and organisations to talk to each other and maximise the benefits of having those relationships,” she said.

“By working together and forming partnerships, many Taupō District organisations and communities are doing great things. We love to see the community leading the charge on the changes they want to see, build on their strengths and areas they want to improve.”

BE CAREFUL WITH HOT ASHES THIS WINTER

A fire is a great way to keep warm in winter, but we need to be responsible when disposing of ashes to make sure we stay safe.

Last week a fire started at Broadlands Road Resource Recovery Park after hot ashes were disposed of at the landfill. The fire took about half an hour to extinguish, and we were extremely lucky landfill staff were able to detect it quickly.

Infrastructure manager Denis Lewis said this sort of fire could be dangerous if it got out of hand. “It could start burning down into the rubbish below, and that could lead to having to shut down the landfill

at significant costs,” he said.

Hot ashes put out with the rubbish also pose a risk to the contractors collecting it, he said.

The best way to dispose of ashes is by making sure they have completely cooled first.

“Put them in a metal container away from the house where they can’t blow away,” Denis said. “If you leave them for a couple of days you’ll know there is no heat left and you can dispose of them safely.”

Stay warm but stay safe this winter!

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

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