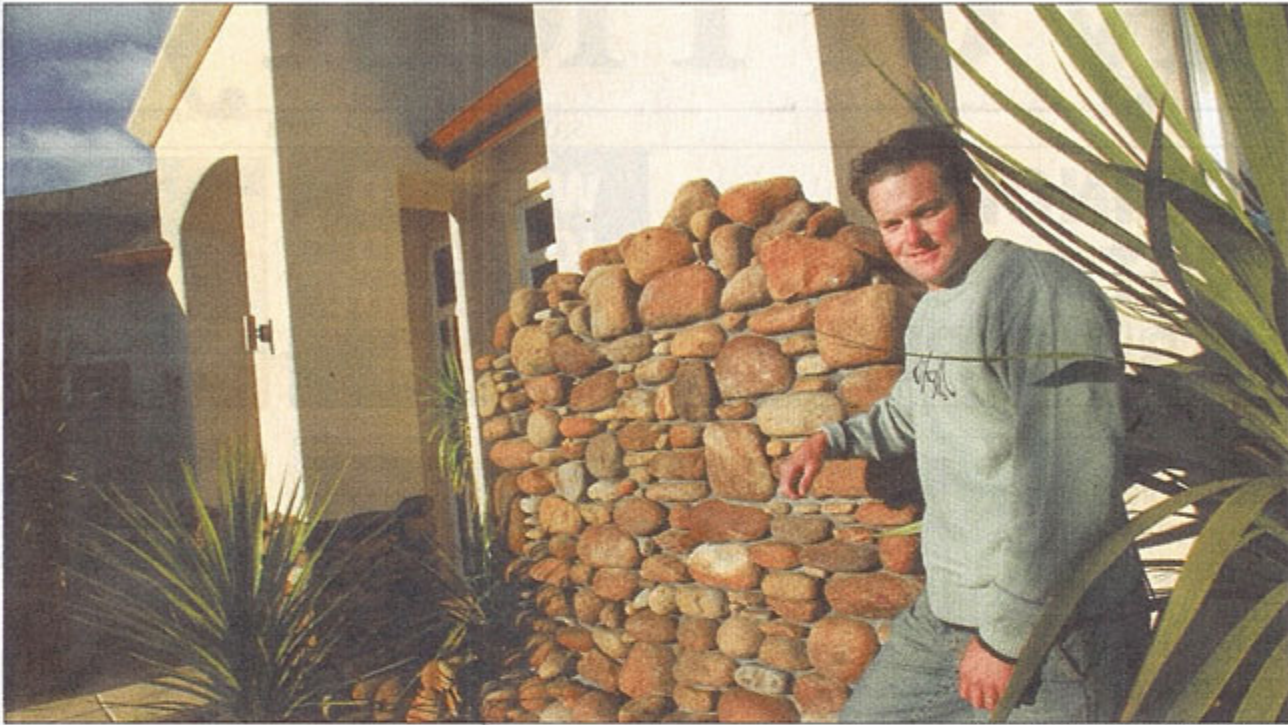


News



AT HOME: Todd Grey at his award-winning home in Santa Cruz Dr, Papamoa.

PICTURE: MARK McKEOWN 260604MMO8BOF

Bay man strikes gold with own home

By GRAHAM SKELLERN

TODD Grey's first inclination was to follow the owners' instructions and design but when it comes to building his own house he's prepared to splash out.

The 31-year-old local builder experimented with several innovative features in his Palm Springs home and earned a gold award in the 14th Tauranga Registered Master Builders house of the year competition.

A builder for 13 years, Mr Grey took out the Harris Tate Builders Own Home category.

He always fancied a rustic touch to his modern 230 sq m plaster house in Santa Cruz Dr, Papamoa. He brought in old railway sleepers to help landscape the garden and river boulders to

form the fireplace and outside columns.

In the centre of his galley-styled kitchen is a 900mm freestanding oven and hobs. His coup de grace is the doorless bathroom off the master bedroom. Only the dark stained cedar shutters stand between the large corner spa bath and the bedroom.

Mr Grey made sure all his rooms merged on to a central deck so they could capture all-day sun. The judges said the house was built perfectly to feature the corner site yet provide privacy and outdoor living.

He was one of the big winners at the PlaceMakers gala dinner in the Baypark Events Centre last night, after picking up a second prize the Lifestyle Mico Bathrooms award.

Tauranga Master Builders will be sending 10 golden winners to the national competition where they will be judged again into the top 100 finalists.

The house of the year competition this year is being judged on a stricter points system to reflect workmanship, design, functionality and style.

Six of the categories missed being represented in the national competition because the highest award was silver.

The \$180,000-\$250,000 category finished up with four silvers and two bronzes but a gold was awarded to Chartwell Homes for its home in traditional style using Linea weatherboards in Osprey Drive, Welcome Bay.

Peter Blackie of Blackie Construction was awarded a gold

in this category for a 300 sq m home on the Devonport Rd cliff overlooking the harbour it is affectionately called "The Bach".

The other gold winners who carry on to the national competition are:

■ Pete Roberston of Mainframe Builders, Gary Walmsley of Renovation Masters and Miles Everton of Everton Builders in PlaceMakers renovation over \$200,000 category.

■ Belco's Mike Bell, a national winner last year, in new homes \$400,000 to \$550,000 for his house in Harbour View Rd, Omokoroa.

■ Dave Fawcett of David Reid Homes and Peter and Raewyn Galvin of Signature Homes in the James Hardie Show Home category.

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