

The Cairns Post

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007 • \$1.10

www.news.com.au/cairnspost

Leo laughs off a rotten state of affairs

HE may not work with the kind of smells that hapless toilet plumber Kenny did in the hit movie of the same name but Cairns garbo Leo Farrelly says they come close.

"My wife says I'm not allowed inside until I take off my boots and then it's straight into the shower," said the Kewarra Beach father-of-one, who last month notched up his 15th year collecting waste for JJ Richards and Sons.

"I can't just sit down and have a beer after work like everyone else."

Mr Farrelly, 42, described by his boss Guy Anderson as "a likeable happy-go-lucky bloke who gets compliments from his customers all the time" said not many people had the stomach to last as long as he had in the garbage business.

"I've never had a weak stomach but other drivers haven't lasted because of the smell," he said.

"Especially fish bins, just the thought of them can get some people dry-retching."

Dirty nappies were another big stinker to unload, as were the bins full of "ripe" food scraps that had been sitting in the sun all day.

The hours could also be a bit hard to handle, although Mr Farrelly said he and his family had got used to working around his 2am starts and early bed times.



Smelly, fishy business: Leo Farrelly can still smile after 15 years collecting waste for JJ Richards.

Picture: MARC McDORMACK