

Motueka lodge revered

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A luxury Motueka holiday destination has been acknowledged among the top 10 ecolodges in Australia and New Zealand.

Stonefly Lodge, built on the banks of the Motueka river, was given the accolade by British magazine *Australia and New Zealand*.

Owner John Kerr said he had stayed at many of the other entrants in the top 10, and to be mentioned in the same breath as those was a huge thrill.

"We're pretty tickled about it," he said.

The lodge had been designed from the ground up as a sustainable tourist destination, with wool insulation in the walls, and top-of-the-line LED lighting throughout.

"I don't know of any other lodge that runs [multiple] energy sources: fire for heat, wind for alternative energy, rain for hydro, sun for solar power. We're completely off the grid, we don't waste a thing," Mr Kerr said.

Appliances were sourced from overseas, and the fridges were so efficient they used less energy in a day than a four-slice toaster would in an hour.



High praise: Stonefly Lodge in the Motueka Valley which has been named one of the top 10 ecolodges in Australia and New Zealand.

A Qualmark assessor was so impressed with the lodge, he said it should be the benchmark against which other destinations should be judged.

The lodge was popular with visitors from the United States and Australia, and Mr Kerr was hoping the favourable listing would help with attracting tourists from Britain and Europe.

Most visitors were anglers or those looking to enjoy some of

the bushwalks of the area, he said.

The lodge had only been open since November 2009, but Mr Kerr said it had already attracted its share of loyal customers.

"For the guests staying at the moment, this is their fourth visit and they've already booked their fifth," he said.

Some customers had booked for the Rugby World Cup period way back in early 2009, he said.