



Environmentally sound: Stonefly Lodge in the Motueka Valley has been recognised for its conservation values

Photo: SUPPLIED

Motueka River lodge wins award

STONEFLY Lodge on the banks of the Motueka River has gained a Qualmark Enviro Gold Award.

It is completely self-contained and does not require power, water or waste water management from other sources. Owners John and Kate Kerr said they were proud to receive recognition from Qualmark after three years of hard work building the lodge, with environmental and energy conservation as the principal focus.

The new award, which follows the lodge receiving the Qualmark five-star rating for guest and hosted accommodation, was the icing on the cake, said Mr Kerr.

"It's very rewarding to be living in a building with such a low environmental footprint," he said.

Power is supplied on site by a micro hydro generator, a wind generator and photo voltaic solar panels.

No electricity was used to heat

the lodge and its total power consumption was less than that of an average New Zealand household, he said.

Plantation timber from the property is used in a log burner, which heats water to pump through the concrete floor, keeping it at a constant temperature.

The four-guestroom lodge, built with timber and stone from the property, has wool insulation.

All waste water is treated on site

and the lodge has a permaculture garden.

The Kerrs, who came from Australia, said the lodge had been eight years in the planning.

It opened in November and was set up to cater for fly fishing guests but so far half have been non-fishing guests using it as a base to access activities in the region's national parks.

It is also available for exclusive use and special functions.