

Green and glam!

Energy-saving lightbulbs and recycling bins are not enough to cut it in the world of 'green' accommodation. **Philippa Jacks** discovers some innovative eco resorts in the Antipodes who are scaling new heights in environmental awareness...

Above Locally-sourced food is the order of the day at Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa

Below centre
Stonefly Lodge
is surrounded
by beautiful
National Parks

Bottom The
guest rooms at
Stonefly Lodge
are warm and
well-appointed

4 STONEFLY LODGE

NELSON, NEW ZEALAND

Many eco lodges use solar panels to generate 'clean' electricity and minimise the use of fossil fuels, but few choose to disconnect from the national grid entirely. At Stonefly Lodge, energy is generated not only by solar panels but also a wind turbine and a hydro turbine driven by water from an onsite spring.

"Most guests are fascinated that we can run on batteries with energy from just nature," says owner John Kerr. "It's such a nice feeling to know that on a rainy day, the hydro system is working well; on a sunny day the solar panels take over as the main provider of energy; and during a storm the wind turbine is storing energy into the battery banks."

Extra-thick insulation of the walls and floors mean the lodge needs little heating, and high-tech LED lights use a tiny fraction of the energy of a normal light bulb. Overall, Stonefly Lodge uses less than half the energy of a small New Zealand home. It uses natural stone and wood taken almost exclusively from the lodge's own 150 acres of land. It has four guest rooms, a library, an open-plan kitchen and dining area and a sun-room which 'traps' heat from the sun.

The lodge is renowned for its fly-fishing tours, but other activities include guided walks, horse-riding, and white-water-rafting in the nearby Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi National Parks.

Rates are from A\$250 (£120) per person per night, with breakfast and three-course dinner included.

www.stoneflylodge.co.nz

