

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Pitches Store is committed to helping protect and sustain the environment for future generations. We believe in protecting the beautiful village of Ophir and the surrounding area which is why environmental sustainability and well-being considerations are important in the way we plan, develop and operate the business.

As a result, we have implemented the following sustainability policy.

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Conservation

- We were committed to authenticity in the restoration of our beautiful stone building, to generate a sustainable revenue to ensure their future preservation and protection
- All the restoration has been undertaken in close consultation with NZ Historic Places Trust and highly respected architects and engineers
- Experiences are shared with our guests - the history of the buildings and region, as well as the restoration, is shared with guests by way of books and photographic albums.
- Sustainable materials were used for our building – Pitches Store building restoration has been built from materials sympathetic to the design and structure of the old buildings. Reused, stones found on property, repurposed iron, fittings etc

Energy

- We use energy and water-efficient washing machines - our washing machine and commercial dishwasher have a high consumer rating for water and energy usage
- We have installed quality insulation in our historic stone buildings – Luckily, Kanuf Insulation NZ retrofitted all properties in Ophir with Earthwool® insulation, a higher quality product that is more environmentally friendly than other traditional glasswool products on the market. The windows were all retro-fitted with double-glazing
- We installed a new fuel-efficient diesel boiler to heat the water, radiators and underfloor of bathrooms – the very thick external walls help to ensure that rooms retain heat. In vulnerable areas in winter, wall radiators are switched to ‘freeze-guard’ option when rooms are unoccupied. The whole system works off thermostats
- The plumbing is all lagged reducing energy wastage
- We aim to minimise the carbon footprint by buying locally - when impractical, we buy from suppliers as close to home as possible

Waste

- We feed our food scraps to a local chicken and pig owners - reduces our waste
- We recycle - plastics, paper, cardboard, glass and metal locally
- We aim to use sustainable business practices - we only print out e-mails when necessary. We use both sides of paper.
- We buy in bulk - we use refillable and recyclable dispensers for toiletries, liquid soap and commercial cleaning products
- We often buy second-hand - we have bought antique china, artifacts and furniture, whilst also repairing old equipment for continued use.
- We manage our septic tank waste - we use eco-friendly cleaning products, clothes washing liquids and toilet paper. They are biodegradable and approved for septic tank systems
- We have a state-of-the-art septic tank system - we have installed a biocycle system, with UV Filter treatment and disposal field in the back garden

Water

- We conserve water use in the garden – through handwatering and our septic tank drip field helps to irrigate the lawn.
- We mulch all garden beds to retain moisture in the soil
- We use water wisely - we have new water efficient dual-flush toilets and new efficient shower heads
- We request guests be sparing with water - our Compendium advises guests of our towel/linen policy: only changing towels when requested
- We maintain our equipment to reduce water loss - we have agreed a regular programme for our plumbing maintenance with a local plumber

Community

- We support local trades people - in developing and restoring the property we used local trades people: builders, electricians, plumbers, architects, painters and artisans (wood and metal)
- We support local businesses - appliances, electrical goods, soft furnishings, carpet, paint and hardware all bought locally
- We care about our local history - guests are offered the chance to learn the 'story' of the property and wider region in a special guest book and in conversation; we have shared our story with heritage groups and lifestyle magazines
- Colleen enjoys being part of the Ophir community and am a member of the Rail Trail Operators Group and the Ophir Welfare Committee
- Colleen is actively involved in the Region, she is a trustee on the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust
- Pitches Store supports fundraising events for the community hall, the golf club and the playcentre. The Sticks and Stones antibullying initiative is also supported by the business.
- Pitches Store works closely with others in the community - we co-operate and complement other accommodation and catering suppliers in and around the Ophir and Omakau areas - referring guests to restaurants, pubs and cafes in the townships - and along the Rail Trail. We aim to share and exchange ideas with other local hospitality providers and tourism operators
- We aim to beautify our surroundings and have designed our garden to be a restful and useful space planted with natives, herbs, vegetables and fruit for the restaurant and flowers suitable to the environment