



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA June 2017

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Hi All,

Shortest day of the year fast approaching, and we really are now in winter hunting mode.

Those of you have used the range recently will have noted just how icy and cold it can get up there after a run of frosts.

That said local hunters have been making the most of the fine days and there have been numerous reports of success, particularly on Tahr and chamois.

I think the fact that hunters are specifically targeting these species has a lot to do with that, and with the better gear and information available these days, it's not so daunting a prospect to hunt them for the first time with a good chance of success.

I expect a few chamois heads will turn up at the head measuring this month as I have heard of at least a dozen bucks being taken in the last two months alone.

As to the Tahr there is always a flurry of activity around their rut tying in with the opening of the Wilderness Tahr ballot blocks.

It appears the culling of female Tahr is having some effect in at least the Western areas, as all the parties I have spoken to saw more bulls than nanny's. While the majority of the bulls are of a young age, most parties at least saw a few big ones in some inaccessible position.

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Next Club Meeting

Tuesday 27th June
7.30 pm

Head Measuring and
Photo entry evening

Fish & Game Rooms
Champion Road

Firearms News

Below a Press Release from Hon Paula Bennett regarding the firearms select committee report on issues relating to the illegal possession of firearms. Dated 14 June 2017

Media Statement

Government response to firearms select committee report Police Minister Paula Bennett has today responded to the Law and Order Select Committee report on issues relating to the illegal possession of firearms.

The Select Committee's terms of reference were to focus on how widespread firearms possession is amongst criminals - including gangs, how those people who don't have a firearms licence come into possession of firearms and what changes, if any, would restrict the flow of firearms to criminals, gangs and people who don't hold a licence.

"The committee made 20 recommendations. After careful consideration I've accepted seven, rejected 12, and recommended one proceed with changes," Mrs Bennett says.

"We needed to strike the right balance between public safety and the rights of legal firearms owners. Although the report was well intended, I believe many of the recommendations would not decrease the flow of firearms to criminals and gangs but would unduly impact on legally licenced firearms users.

"I appointed two independent firearms experts to advise me. I've listened to their advice, advice from Police, read the recommendations from the select committee and I've taken on board feedback from the public.

"After careful consideration I have added two more recommendations to my response. One proposes the introduction of the power to suspend licences pending decision on revocation. This will give Police an alternative to cancelling a licence, for example in situations where someone has been charged with family violence, or where there are security issues that need to be resolved.

"I'm also proposing a Ministerial direction to the Police to require consultation with the firearms community when considering changes to the Arms Act and the interpretation of it.

"Nobody wants firearms getting into the hands of violent gang members but we also don't want over the top rules and restrictions to be placed on hunters and shooters who manage their firearms responsibly."

"My response to the report has been tabled in Parliament. We will now begin a policy process around the recommendations we are progressing which will involve consultation, looking at costs and any regulatory impacts before coming back to Cabinet for approval later this year," Mrs Bennett says.

Summary of the Government Response

Sale and supply of firearms and ammunition

1. A firearms licence required to possess ammunition. Reject
2. A dealer's licence required to sell ammunition. Reject
3. Dealers required to keep records of ammunition sales. Reject
4. Registration process for websites facilitating trading in firearms, parts, or ammunition. Amend recommendation - Do not introduce registration but clarify 'mail order' process applies to online sales in Arms Amendment Bill
5. Permit to procure extended to cover all sales or transfers of firearms (i.e. include A category firearms). Reject - but improve efficiency in current licensing and permitting processes. Mail order applies to online sales

Definition of military-style semi-automatics

6. Investigate the creation of a category of restricted semi-automatic rifle and shotgun. Reject Effectiveness of licensing, training, and registering firearms
7. Implement firearm prohibition orders. Accept - include in the Arms (Firearm Prohibition Orders and Firearms Licences) Amendment Bill
8. Codify the 'fit and proper' criteria in the Arms Act. Reject
9. Implement a stand-down period after licence revocation. Accept – include a 12 month stand down period in the Arms (Firearm Prohibition Orders and Firearms Licences) Amendment Bill
10. Clarify that gang members or prospects must not be considered 'fit and proper' to possess firearms. Accept - include in the Arms (Firearm Prohibition Orders and Firearms Licences) Amendment Bill
11. Require Police to record serial numbers of all firearms upon renewal of licence or inspection of premises. Reject - voluntary process to continue Criminal offending with firearms
12. Review the penalties in the Arms Act. Accept - progress in Arms Amendment Bill
13. Treat dealer offending as aggravated at sentencing. Reject
14. Determine appropriate security standards for A category licences. Accept - Police/firearms community advisory forum already commenced this process
15. Secure storage confirmed before licence or endorsement received. Reject
16. Allow Police to enter premises to inspect security of A category firearms. Reject
17. Failure to comply with storage regulations to result in mandatory revocation. Reject - but

note new suspension of licence

Reducing the number of grey firearms

18. Clarify and publicise the extent of amnesty provisions in the Arms Act 1983. Accept - to progress in Arms Amendment Bill

19. Police publicise amnesty provisions. Reject

20. Check that firearms brought in on visitors permit are exported or transferred legally. Accept (administrative)

Additional Government Recommendations

1. Provide the power to suspend licences. Include in the Arms (Firearm Prohibition Orders and Firearms Licences) Amendment Bill

2. Police to improve its consultative processes with the firearms community. Propose to give a Ministerial Directive to this end.

MAKE YOURSELF VISIBLE

The 2017 Nelson NZDA Range Standing Orders state that,

“Persons advancing in front of the firing line should wear Hi-Viz to aid identification.”

There is a good reason for this.....it is obvious that in certain light and especially at the 200m stop it is easy to lose sight of a person there from the shooting tables.

It is very noticeable that elsewhere now many activities and work use Hi-Viz vests (cyclists, truckies, wharfies, airport staff, etc.) simply so that others can see where they are and reduce risk of accidents.

The photos below were taken at the range recently, all from the firing line. The first two (Figures 1 and 2) were not staged in any way. It was people going about their usual. It is both amazing and concerning how invisible a person can be at even 100m in certain light conditions. These pictures were taken just as the range opened at about 0915 hrs.



Figure 1: Person in dark green clothing at 100m stop affixing target at about 0930 hours. He is virtually invisible but in centre of picture.



Figure 2: Person at 100m stop at same time as Figure 1 above.

The second two pictures (Figures 3 and 4 below) are staged. The ‘model was asked to stand at the 200m stop and wear camo jacket and Hi-Viz orange road worker type vest for comparison. These pictures were taken around noon when it was much lighter and brighter. The difference is plain and it is clear that the clothing that blends into the background the most is dark and green or camo.



Figure 3: Person in jeans and camo top at 200m mark at noon in bright light



Figure 4: Person in jeans and Hi-Viz orange vest at 200m mark at noon in bright light

Hi-Viz vests are NOT expensive! All our local safety stores sell them from around \$10-20

Home » Workwear » High Visibility Vests » Day Night Vest - Zipped - Orange



Day Night Vest - Zipped - Orange

\$8.74

GST excluded: \$7.60

Product Code: VesHiVisO
Availability: In Stock

Available Options

* Vest Size:

--- Please Select --- ▼

Packers Creek Range Shoot

21 May 2017

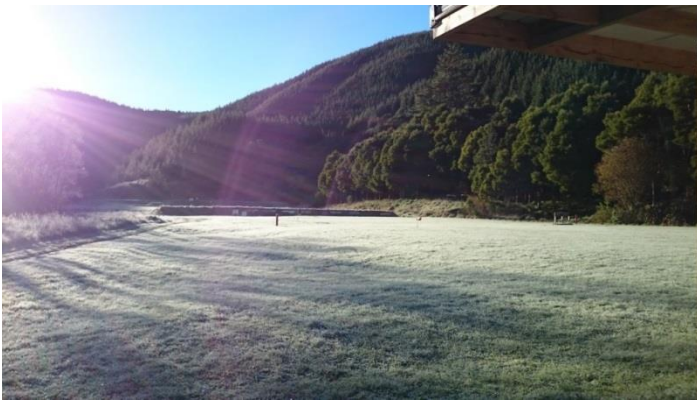
Jack Frost greeted us on Sunday morning with a nice white dusting over the grounds. 8 people turned up for the first winter shoot, with 2 ladies, 2 juniors and a couple of the regular old farts as well!

We shot a combination of targets – Rabbits, Possums, Deer, Chamois silhouettes and standard targets. Firing 20 shots with rim fire rifles at 50m and 10 shots with centrefire rifles at 100m, both done prone.

Good day had all round, looking forward to seeing some new faces at the next one on Sunday 18th June.

Scores were:

Name	Rabbit/Targets	Possum/Deer	Chamois	Total
Malanie Ching (L)	79	93	75	247
Ben Scoltock (jnr)	62	76	86	224
Brodie Parkins (jnr)	81	91	80	252
Graeme Ching	86	92	47	225
James Bartlett	73	96	59	228
Heather Scoltock (L)	76	96	52	224
Reece Parkins	93	96	91	280
Harry Scoltock	72	77	87	236



Range News

The next organized shoot, is on Sunday 16th of July.

Remember opening at 9.00am only on club shoot days.

For those of you who forget. Packers Creek Range is open every weekend unless otherwise advised, with locked gate being opened at 9.00am and 10.30am to let you through. And exit at 10.30am and noon. You do have to be there on time, as gate is not continuously manned.

Pleas for some volunteer help. Graeme Smith has asked if someone who is a qualified gas fitter could help with a repair on our gas fire at the Range club house, and hooking up a gas stove on a temporary basis to be used over the world Bench rest event later in the year. Graeme's contact details; Phone.. 5447138..... emaillvhvbr@gmail.com.....

Club Nights

Next Event;

Tuesday 27th of June; Annual Head Measuring And Photographic Entry Night.

Usual venue; Fish & Game Rooms Champion Road, Richmond. 7.30pm.

July Tuesday 25th,

Eric Hall with footage and talk on a very successful Sika trip he enjoyed this year.

Club Cups & Competition Trophies.

If you are holding any trophy from last year comps, can you please return to Warren Plum.

Either bring along to club night or drop into Warren next time you are passing. Thanks.

Nelson Branch NZDA AGM 2017

Venue

Fish & Game Rooms, Champion Road, Richmond. Tuesday 30th May 2017

Apologies

David Hobson, Lester Bowden, John Noakes, Harry Scoltock

Present

Warren Plum, Graeme Ching, Graeme Smith, Bill O'Leary, Neil Cliffe, Mike Marren, Bevan Walker, Eric Hall, Evan Brown, Geoff Parsons, Bob Geddes, Immo Neumann, Paul Andrews
Adrian Douglass, Zane Mirfin.

Moved; acceptance. W Plum/E Hall.....

Warren read minutes for 2016 year

Matters Arising; None

Accepted as read W Plum/G Couper

No bereavements noted.

Presidents Report

Greg Couper spoke on Range, access issues and hopeful that recent progress will come to fruition.

Graeme Smith gave an update on World Bench Rest actions. All major works required now completed, bookings of functions confirmed and numbers likely to exceed budget figure of 75. NZ team has been selected. Will be seeking help from membership later in year via newsletter.

Patron

Lester Bowden put in apology as away traveling.

Financials

As completed by Accountants Crowe Horwath, again, with big thanks to Rob Williams. Additional steps with Audit under charities act, we need to declare as Tier 3 rather than tier 4 if we wish to claim depreciation which requires additional steps. So in that regard we are having audited by Simon Danson of NMA- Audit.

Financials presented; and accepted subject to audit. Total equity grew from \$275,731 to \$307,964. After allowing for \$5000 donation to National office building funds a surplus of \$3227. \$11397 last year. Main reason for reduction in income is loss of income from Services no longer using the range.

Accepted; Warren Plum / Graeme Smith

Red Deer Lodge

No report, suggested have a look at usage and how appropriate current tariffs are later in year.

Committee and Positions

Move to committee and nominations.

President

Nominations called for President. Greg Couper agreed to stand again as current president. No other nominations so elected unopposed. W Plum / R Wells

Secretary

Warren Plum agreed to stand again and elected unopposed .Graeme Smith / Eric Hall

Treasurer

Agreed to request Rob Williams and Crowe Horwath to continue in roll. Also expressed, our appreciation for the efforts they make on our behalf.

Patron

Agreed to request Lester Bowden continues in this role.
Warren Plum / Graeme Ching

Committee

Four resignations over the year from previous committee
Greg Monahan, Richard Waite, Kevin Wilson and Dean Russ.
All other committee members re-elected no further nominations from the floor.

So committee will be as follows.

Greg Couper, Warren Plum, Graeme Ching, Graeme Smith, Neil Cliffe, Immo Neumann, Bill O'leary, Rob Shuttleworth, John Noakes, Richard Wells.

Other positions will be put in place by new committee

Newsletter

Thanks to Karen Crook for putting together for us having taken over from Greig Caigou.

General Business

Graeme Smith gave an update on other shooting facilities in local area and the completion of the new indoor small bore range at Saxtons field. Believed to be possibly the best such facility in the country and testament to the concerted efforts of the local small bore community. Invited anyone attending to view the premises. We will hold next committee meeting there Thursday 15th June.

Red Deer Lodge, agreed would seek to book a weekend early December for working bee.
Eric Hall volunteered to help with a club night for July, with video footage of hunting Sika deer this year.

General Firearm legislation discussed.

Meeting closed at 8.29pm.

W Plum Secretary 30.5.17

Political Piece

Being an election year our club agreed if approached, it would share any political parties policies on the Outdoors and our interests they might provide. This of course does not mean we necessarily support or endorse any party or its policies and leave that to our members. Please find below the first of these articles.

Help Put a Hunter into Parliament

And I don't mean we should cull MPs, although....!

My name is David Haynes, I live in Wakapuaka north of Nelson and am a passionate hunter, angler, tramper and conservationist. With my good mate, Alan Simmons, I formed the NZ Outdoors Party, hoping to re-ignite the passions and values of the Outdoors Recreation Party set up by Stuart and Zane Mirfin. The issues are pretty much the same but the it's pretty clear things haven't got any better. We have Five Guiding Principles to take our outdoor issues into Parliament:

1. OUR MARINE FISHERIES

Recreational anglers not trawlers enjoying and managing our inshore fisheries for abundance.

2. OUR FRESHWATER

Our rivers and lakes should be clean, full and unmodified for the people to enjoy.

3. OUR LAND

Our public land and its game animals are valuable resources to be properly funded and protected.

4. OUR SAY

Recreational users of our land, water and seas must have a greater say in its protection, management and access.

5. OUR FUTURE

We want a Futures Commission to help us decide our capacity for growth of our population, economy and infrastructure within environmental limits.

Our seas, our rivers, our lakes, our beaches, our land all belong to the people of New Zealand. Our access and enjoyment of our natural environment is a given; it's part of our heritage, our culture, our way of life and it's why tourists come here. Our unique outdoor environment has provided food, recreation and social benefit for generations and it should continue to do so, forever, without question, without compromise.

In order to stand at the next General Election we must have at least 500 signed and paid up members (subs are a mere \$5 for three years) by 28 JUNE 2017. If we don't we can't stand for another three years. We need your help. If you believe in our principles then please join us. You don't have to vote for us (although we hope you will) but we would like to be able to show Parliament that hunting is a fundamental part of the Kiwi lifestyle and has a voice.

Please go to our web site, www.outdoorsparty.co.nz and click on the JOIN US button.

Game Animal Council Seeks Funding from Recreational Hunters

The Outdoors Party has great respect for the NZ Deerstalkers Association and the Game Animal Council, the values of these organisations form the foundations of our policies on hunting. We follow them closely and would like to report on an interesting issue of import to all recreational hunters.

The recent consultation document, jointly produced by Department of Conservation and the Game Animal Council (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/pagefiles/167103/gac-export-levy-consultation-document.pdf>), included the following statement (pp13).

“The Council is committed to exploring other sources of revenue once it is fully operational, including from the recreational hunting sector (my emphasis). It expects to review the game trophy export levy after the Council has been able to establish other revenue streams.”

As GAC was given minimal funding when established, the intention under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 was that it would be funded from GAC levying a trophy export levy – every trophy head that left the country would trigger a levy to be collected by Customs and Excise. GAC's annual operating expenditure is around \$1.6M a year so DoC and GAC set a figure of \$300 per trophy, based on 5,300 exports per annum.

Given that the majority of such trophy heads come from private trophy hunting estates their response to this levy was akin to “why should we pay all the costs when most of GAC's work benefits recreational hunters on the public estate?” A reasonable question and one which may have resulted in the DoC/GAC stated intention to charge recreational hunters. Under the GAC Act there appear to be only two mandated methods that the GAC can raise funds for its own operation:

1. Levies on trophy exports
2. Charging for hunting Herds of Special Interest

Inevitably the fears of a recreational hunting licence have been raised on hunting forums. The almost universal response to this has been negative “what are we paying for?” and “we've never paid before, so why now?” being typical reactions. The Outdoors Party agrees with this sentiment – if recreational hunting on the public estate continues as-is, why would we pay when we have no control and precious little input into WARO, aerial 1080, culling, etc and when our game animals are legislated as “pests” under the National Parks Act 1980, (s)4.2b “to be exterminated.”

As Legasea, the advocacy arm of the NZ Sports Fishing Council says “no regulation without representation”. So, what if we flipped the current situation where DoC decide the fate of our national game herd, consulting with GAC as an advisory body only and instead had the Game Animal Council managing the national game herd consulting with DoC as an advisory body only? And what if the Game Animal Council board was elected by those recreational hunting licence holders, just like Fish & Game? And what if the licence was \$100 per annum yielding \$20M per annum to fund game herd protection and management? Your feedback on this idea would be most appreciated – my email and phone number is below.

The Outdoors Party supports DoC, the good work it does and wants to see its status and funding elevated to reflect the taonga of our public estate, gazetted and stewardship alike. But when it knowingly damages our hunting (aerial 1080, unilateral WARO concessions in the Ruahines, Tararuas and Rimutakas and St James, etc), there is always the opportunity to improve the management model, especially after decades of arguing, reasoned debate, collaboration, forums, discussions and every other means of persuading DoC that game animals are not pests and should be managed sustainably for the recreational hunter first and foremost.

David Haynes

Co-Leader

NZ Outdoors Party

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<https://www.facebook.com/nzoutdoorsparty/>

2017 Committee

Greg Couper **President:** terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz

Lester Bowden **Patron**

Warren Plum **Secretary:** ph. 547 9143 plumstone@xtra.co.nz

John Noakes

Bill O'Leary

Neil Cliffe

Graeme Ching

Graeme Smith

Immo Neumann

Rob Shuttleworth

Richard Wells

Range: Graeme Ching <graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz>

Newsletter: Any items for publication please forward to the secretary

Membership: Graeme Smith ph. 544 7138 LVHVBR@gmail.com

Hunting: John Noakes ph. 0274464413 noakesjc@gmail.com

New Members: Warren Plum ph. 547 9143 plumstone@xtra.co.nz

Red Deer Lodge

Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti

Contact the Calders: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Use the website at www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Saying you're a member

Minutes: June Committee Meeting

NELSON NZDA MEETING MINUTES 15th June 2017

Held at new indoor shooting range at Saxtons fields 7.30pm

Apologies. John Noakes, Bill O'leary, Neil Cliffe

Present Warren Plum, Graeme Smith, Richard Wells, Graeme Ching, Alistair Ching, Don Harris, Immo Neumann

Last Minutes accepted. Moved; Warren Plum/Immo Neumann

Inward Mail.

David Haynes from Outdoor party had approached club about possibility of bringing information to our membership. Nelson Marlborough Audit had provided information that had to be understood by committee members. DOC had written to advise that from their studies the Beech forests had a high likely hood of heavy beech seeding again this year which meant more 1080 again in Kahurangi .Simon Wyatt of Marlborough branch had offered to run a club night for us.

Outward Mail

Charities service updating trustee details to allow annual return to be completed.Accountant and new auditor relevant information relating to financials and what we need to supply for Charities Service returns.

Financial

Payments made. 02 account. Balance \$4034.73. Had refunded G Smith \$10499.01 for personal funds he had already injected into the World Bench Rest event.

00 a/c Balance \$88732.86, still to move \$50k to investment a/c as Bank requires additional info re signatories, identification etc. Paid Mainland extinguishers \$96.00 for Fire and alarm inspections at Red Deer lodge. And refunded W Plum \$23.14 for costs related to printing etc for AGM. Paid Waimea print \$104.00 for newsletters, and Direct debit \$222.46 To Contact for Power at Red Deer lodge. Had been advised of costs for Insurance renewal with AON. Agreed to continue with existing policy at existing levels. This will amount to \$5646.19 plus GST. Followed up DOC Lodge payment that had been made to DOC support centre in Dunedin, but had not been forwarded to financial centre in Wellington. Now resolved.

Read out to committee all information from Auditor around questions of financial control an process, answers and committee responsibility. Agreed to and confirmed documents had been signed by secretary and President and returned to Nelson Marlborough Audit.. Approved W Plum / G Couper

Range

Clarified question re Murchison range. There is a red sign on gate saying closed. this is just the same as at Packers creek, and needs to be flipped over when using facility . Shooters normal responsibilities, eg: after visibly checking range to ensure all clear of reasons not to

use range like stock or people working on site.

Organized Shoots

Sunday 18th of June and July 16th. Will send out email reminding members that on these shoot days, gate will only be opened at 9.00am.

Range License Update

Greg Couper to contact Blair and invite him to a meeting,

World Bench Rest

58 confirmed entries and more coming in.

Gate Duty

Warren will send out request again for volunteers coming month.

Range Officer Course

Richard asked when and if Bill can run another.

Suggested blocking of drive up past the club house to shooting stations for the winter as getting quite wet and grass won't get chance to recover by World bench rest event.

Request to be put in newsletter for voluntary help if possible from a Gas fitter. To fix our gas fire at range and hook up a gas stove for duration of world bench rest event. Contact G Smith about this.

Membership

Resignations; David Bone and Greig Caigou.

New members; Eric Simmons, Mike Grant and daughters, David Haynes.

Moved and accepted Warren Plum/Greg Couper

Newsletter

Looking for articles. Next issue out this coming week.

Agreed we would put in newsletter item from the NZ Outdoors Party to bring their message to membership. Would make clear in newsletter we would welcome thoughts on outdoors policy from all political parties in an election year, but by printing we are not necessarily endorsing any particular party or policies.

Health And Safety

Richard and Brian still working on template. No recent issues to report. Have installed signs at range re hearing protection and wearing high viz , and put copies of standing orders in range officers hut above sign in book. Agreed would put Range etiquette 10 golden rules in upcoming newsletter.

Red Deer Lodge

No report

Training

Last event for hunts course being an overnight hunt occurring this weekend.

Club Nights

June 27th. Annual head measuring and photo entry night.

July 25th Eric Hall evening and footage of recent successful Sika deer hunt

August September still to clarify but possible talk on one of these by Marlborough hunter Simon Wyatt on bush stalking Red Deer, and (circle of sound)

Conference

Still to receive had books, but will distribute electronic version etc. as soon as they come to hand to Greg and Richard. Still time to discuss remits at next committee meeting.

Discussed, Greig Caigous comments about presentation of National trophies and Rakaia branch concerns and request for more information about electronic version newsletter replacing hard copy.

AGM

Held 30th of May, minutes to be published in June newsletter.

General Business concluded. Meeting closed 8.45pm.

Committee members inspected the new small bore range building and were much impressed. A great facility that will serve Nelson shooters well into the future and the team who got behind this and completed are to be commended.

Warren Plum. Secretary 18.6.17

Websites of Interest

National Deerstalkers' Website

<http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/>

Like the NZDA National Heritage Trust Facebook page for great historical deerstalking photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/nzdaheritagetrust?ref=bookmarks>

Department of Conservation Information

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

DOC maps. You can select a Topo view and to have DOC hunting areas highlighted

<http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=dto>

DOC hunting permits can be applied for at:

<https://huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz/huntingpermits/start>

Game Animal Council

<http://www.nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz>

Walking Access

<http://www.wams.co.nz/>

Walking Access Maps

http://www.wams.org.nz/wams_desktop/index.aspx

Walking Access Mobile Maps

http://www.wams.org.nz/wams_mobile/index.html

Kea Sightings

www.keaconservation.co.nz

South Island Kokako Sightings

www.southislandkokako.org

Wasps

<https://www.merchento.com/vespex.html>