



CANDIDATE PROFILES

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
2024 ELECTION

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Listed in this booklet are profiles as supplied by the candidates for the 2024 election for this Fish & Game region. In some cases the Returning Officer may have applied minor grammatical or wording edits to ensure consistency or adherence to the 250 word limit is maintained.

A separate interest statement is listed below each candidate profile, the details of which have been provided by the candidates.

The Returning Officer accepts no responsibility for the content or accuracy of the content in the statements as supplied by the candidates.

Below each candidate name is the sub-region they have selected to represent. Refer to the voting paper for an explanation of how that affects the compilation of the voting results for this region.

ANNAN Grant Thomas

Southern Waikato



I am married with an adult son and daughter. As well as being a self-employed builder and cabinetmaker I enjoy being a taxidermist as a hobby. I am a passionate waterfowl and upland game bird hunter and enjoy fishing for the quality trout in our local waters and enjoy stream restoration work.

I am:

- Currently vice chairman of Auckland / Waikato Fish & Game Council.
- Life member of the Te Awamutu Fish & Game (52 yr membership and past chairman)
- Currently the Ward 6 councillor and past chairman and currently secretary.
- An active ranger.
- Actively supporting game bird research & duck banding within our region.
- Co – organiser of the Lake Arapuni trout fishing contest.
- Co – organiser for “take a kid fishing “in Te Awamutu.
- Extremely humbled and honoured to receive an Auckland / Waikato Fish & Game Council merit certificate for outstanding service to the council, wildlife and conservation.

My beliefs include:

- Opposing the privatisation-commercialism of our resource.
- Fish & Game regions maintaining their autonomy.
- Encouraging landowners and resource users into habitat restoration.
- Keeping access open for licence holders to hunt and fish our resource.

I get to meet and listen to the various points of view of both licence holders and landowners across a wide range of people in my many roles in Fish & Game.

I can be contacted on a/h (07) 871 3727.

Candidate Interest Statement

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have no conflicts of interest with Fish & Game NZ at the date of my nomination and I do not believe that any conflicts of interest are likely to arise in the future.

ANNANDALE Chris
Central Waikato



I am 70 years of age and have been hunting and fishing for most of my life. I have held a shooting licence every year for the last 55 years.

I have worked for the Department of Conservation for 37 years as a field ranger and compliance officer, the last 15 years predominately in wetlands, lakes and rivers around the greater Waikato region.

With my past work history and recreational interests in both hunting and fishing, and while I am still fit and healthy, I believe I have something to offer as a councillor for Fish and Game Waikato.

Candidate Interest Statement

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BARKER Matt
Auckland North

I am a keen gamebird hunter and occasional trout fisherman. I live between Puhoi and Helensville in Rodney District. I am a member of Waitemata Fish and Game, and EPCM Fish and Game Associations serving on the committee of the latter as vice-president. I maintain a pond on the Williamson Wetland and have thoroughly enjoyed turning a baked clay, muddy puddle in 2015, into a rich habitat for both game birds and native wildlife. At the Williamson Block I serve as chairman on the committee and as trapping co-ordinator. I used to maintain a maimai on Lake Waikare but noted the declining habitat quality and birdlife. I'm very keen to see a reversal of the trend in degraded waterways and gamebird habitat and will pursue the improvement of habitat maintenance and creation on a local and regional level. I believe that with cleaner waterways, better breeding habitat, a co-ordinated and expanded predator trapping programme, hunter education, and more diverse and sympathetic farming practice, our game bird resource will flourish and be able to maintain a population, even in adverse climatic conditions. I was a lecturer at AUT University for 23 years and now work for Westlake Boys High School. I welcome the use of research to better inform our decisions. I see the role of representing the region's licence holders as an honour and very important one, to push local government and farming groups to support the ongoing health of our lakes, rivers and wetlands for future generations to enjoy.

Candidate Interest Statement

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BROWN Aaron
Central Waikato

Hi, I am Aaron Brown, 42, a regional manager for a local security company. I live with my partner of 10 years, her 14-year-old son, and our 2-year-old daughter.

I have had a lifelong passion for hunting and since the early 2000's this has included gamebird hunting.

Although new to advocacy and this type of role I believe the introduction of new people with fresh ideas and approaches to problems can and will be beneficial.

If elected, I would hope to bring a commitment to conservation and outdoor recreation. I understand the crucial requirement to balance sustainable resource management and preserve the rights of outdoor enthusiasts.

Policy and Intentions: If elected, I intend to advocate for policies that ensure the long-term health of New Zealand's game bird habitats and our ability as hunters to enjoy them.

I will commit to promoting sustainable management and evidence or science-based management of fish and game resources to ensure their sustainability for future generations. Ensuring fair access to hunting and fishing opportunities for all New Zealanders.

I also believe in expanding educational initiatives to foster a new generation of responsible hunters and anglers, and increasing public awareness of the unique opportunities New Zealanders have to feed their families with ethically sourced wild game.

Candidate Interest Statement

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CLARK Tony
Northern Waikato

Tony has just finished his first term as a councillor on the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council. Over the last 3 years he has had an insight into the challenges that Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game face internally as well as externally.

Tony is a 57 year old experienced duck shooter and fisherman, he first started duck shooting with his grandfather as an 8 year old. He is enthusiastic about young shooters starting out and listening to the voice of the duck shooters and taking their concerns to council. I'm passionate about restoring natural habitat to increase bird population and look forward to the next three years on council making some positive changes in the right direction.

Candidate Interest Statement

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COCKS David
Auckland South



Electrical service technician and keen game bird hunter for 57 years and conservationist.

- Joined the Acclimatisation Society 50 years ago.
- Have been a member of EPCM Fish and Game Association 40 years. Am current vice chairman and a life member.
- Active in club activities with special attention to habitat.
- Current Auckland/Waikato F&G Council member past 30 years. Current vice chairman.
- Current member of the Cocks Wetland Association.
- Member of the Blythen Wetland Association.
- Past member of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust.
- Have been Instrumental in re-creation of more than 630 hectares of wetland for recreational hunting, fishing and wildlife - Blythen, Wetland, North and Central Shepherd Wetlands, Cocks Wetlands, Dean, McKenzie and Cathcart Wetland
- Raised many thousands of dollars from trusts to fund wetland development.
- Project manager for the Williamson Wetland development.
- Working with Tainui and the maraes around Lake Waikare with fencing, planting and restoration of the Urupa.

Areas of Interest and Concern;

- Oppose commercialism – privatisation of our sport
- Support continued research into mallards.
- Ensure the continued creation, retention and improvement of wildlife habitat and your sport.
- See that council continues to look toward the future so as to ensure that the control of all wildlife remains in the hands of the licenced hunters and fishers.
- I expect there will be lot more challenges over the next 3 years and I seek your continued support in the upcoming elections.

Thank you (Call to discuss your concerns 027 457 2345)

Candidate Interest Statement

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DELL Paul
Northern Waikato

My name is Paul Dell, and I am seeking election to the Auckland / Waikato Fish and Game Council.

I am an active gamebird hunter heavily involved in hunting and habitat activities spanning the north Waikato and areas north of Auckland.

I currently hold responsibility for special projects on behalf of the North Whangamarino Wetland Assn. where my membership and I have worked alongside F&G and local Iwi during the recent botulism outbreaks. Also placing a spotlight on additional projects there to improve habitat, access, and water-based issues for our members in our local area.

I have previous organisational governance experience having been a board member of the fly-fishing cancer charity – Reel Recovery for the last 8 years. I also historically have held freshwater club roles previously at AFAC and North Shore flyfishing clubs. So I know many of the issues confronting both gamebird and angling communities alike.

In my working life I am a data consultant, so technical reports and the likes do not faze me. I will look to simplify the complex and drive a pragmatic way forward for this council to the benefit of us all as users of this important resource.

My approach will be looking to bring together groups with common perspectives to unify an approach to our most pressing issue – water. Without it we do not have the single resource that enables us to all enjoy and sustain our sport.

Candidate Interest Statement

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DICKEY Ethan
Northern Waikato

I am a passionate waterfowler hunting every opportunity I can. I enjoy teaching new waterfowlers the art and importance of hunting.

My reasons for nominating to be a candidate are:

- I feel the public need to have a say in the season lengths, bird bags etc.
- I'd like to see what decisions are made regarding the seasons and bird bags be made more public before changes are made.

Candidate Interest Statement

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DICKEY Geoff
Northern Waikato



Hi all, my name is Geoff Dickey and I am 51 years of age. I am married to my wife Nicola and have 3 boys all that have grown up as outdoor hunters and gatherers. My late uncle and cousin were the ones who introduced me into the hunting and fishing scene at a young age, with some great memories. I in turn would like to create these memories for future generations to come and find there is nothing more rewarding than introducing the young and new to the great outdoors NZ has to offer. I have been actively involved in Fish & Game wetlands for over 20 years now and seen ways to improve these and go forward. One of my passions is pest control to create better breeding areas and results. This is my second term of hopefully standing as councillor, our first term has seen great movement in showing licence holders what is going on in meetings and where their funds are spent to encourage and keep hunting and fishing going. We still have more work to do and I am confident we are moving in the right way. I am standing again this year for council elections to hopefully be able to offer assistance and support in the field, to also listen to the hunters wishes and be able to contribute back to a great tradition for years to come to all Fish and Game licence holders.

Candidate Interest Statement

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JUBY Nigel

Central Waikato



I own a small business and a drystock farm in the Waikato. I have a good understanding of the issues facing hunters, anglers and also the landowners that provide habitat and access.

As current chair of the Auckland/Waikato Region, I am proud of the work that Fish and Game does but realise that there is a lot more to do. Duck numbers are lower than we would like. Our season is one of the shortest in NZ and our limit is low. In spite of this, we have significantly more hunters than any other region. Council and staff have worked hard over many years to stabilise and increase duck numbers and the current council has reinforced the message by making duck populations a high priority.

For anglers, public access to good fishing water is important. We have created new access to the Whakapapa river by purchasing a property on Stone Jug Road. We plan to expand our efforts and have tasked staff with creating one new, legal access point annually. Briefly, council priorities for the next 12 months are to increase;

- Duck numbers
- Access
- Revenue
- Communication with licence holders
- Water quality

Nationally, I have a strong network and was a member of the Future Finance Working Group - tasked with finding a sustainable financial pathway for the entire organisation.

If you agree with these priorities, I would appreciate your vote - and the opportunity to work hard to make our region better for both hunters and anglers.

Candidate Interest Statement

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KENT Oliver
Auckland South

With a deep-rooted passion for freshwater fishing, hunting, and sustainable management, I am excited to announce my candidacy for Fish and Game councillor. My journey has been shaped by a lifelong passion for freshwater fishing. Professionally, I bring more than 10 years' experience in the environmental management field, with a strong focus on water resources. This has equipped me with a robust understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the position of a Fish and Game councillor.

I am dedicated to promoting sustainable practices that balance ecological health with recreational opportunities. My approach is grounded in a collaborative mindset, valuing the input of communities, stakeholders, and experts.

Outside of my professional life, I am an avid angler, which has deepened my appreciation for the delicate balance of our natural environments. This personal connection fuels my commitment to ensuring that future generations can fish and hunt in New Zealand.

With a solid background in environmental management and a passion for freshwater fishing, I believe I am well-suited for the role of Fish and Game councillor. I am committed to being a strong advocate for anglers and hunters who cherish the opportunity to fish, hunt, and experience the natural beauty of our country. It is an honour to have the chance to contribute to our community's efforts, and I am eager to collaborate in achieving our shared goals for a thriving natural environment.

Thank you for your support.

Candidate Interest Statement

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SAPICH Anton
Auckland North



I'm 30 years old and live in Henderson Valley, Auckland. I'm a stand holder in the Blythen Wetland, where I'll spend a lot of time during the waterfowl season, as well as in the Kaipara area.

I have been a passionate gamebird hunter since I was eight years old. This enthusiasm has expanded over time to encompass not only the harvesting of gamebirds but also the creation of habitat through planting campaigns, safe nesting grounds, and predator control measures, all of which contribute to the preservation of our resource. I've had the chance to introduce new hunters to this way of life and have witnessed the effects of increased bird populations in these regions.

Our region's gamebird habitat is gradually disappearing due to development, thus in my opinion, the only ways to keep gamebird populations and hunting possibilities stable are habitat conservation, wetland development, and predator control initiatives.

I also believe that legislation governing season lengths and bird limits need to be changed. Licence holders are limited in the number of times they can get out and enjoy spending time with family and friends in the field, and over time, this is causing their love of waterfowl hunting/conservation to slowly dissipate. I believe that a 6-week season with lower limits after opening weekend will have no greater effect on bird populations than the current season regulations, but will encourage licence holders to work harder to rehabilitate areas for them to hunt, resulting in more habitat in the long run.

Candidate Interest Statement

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SMITH Shane
Hauraki/Coromandel



I am 45 years of age married with 3 daughters.

We are all fishermen and gamebird hunters in the Auckland/Waikato Region.

I grew up with my father teaching me the fundamentals of this and now I am teaching my daughters.

I have previously completed 3 terms on council and 1 term as vice president.

I would like to stand for council and with your help be elected back onto council.

To continue the great work being done and to add to this.

My goals are to grow the relationships with stakeholders and farmers who are a great asset to New Zealand and also doing some great things for the environment.

Also giving us access to rivers, farmland and wetlands, preserving wetlands and building.

Me and my kids are huge participants in duck banding and many other Fish and Game projects and love the opportunities it creates.

Please vote for Shane Smith.

Candidate Interest Statement

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WILLIAMSON Euan Hauraki/Coromandel



Qualified engineer and keen gamebird hunter, deer stalker and fisherman.

I am;

- Current Auckland/Waikato councillor
- Chairman of the Central Shepherd Wetland Association
- Engineer for the Williamson Wetland development
- Member of the Deer Stalker Association
- Have been instrumental in raising money for wetland development outside of F&G funds, amounting to many thousands of dollars.
- Have been heavily involved in wetland development for over 32 years. In that time have been instrumental in re-creation of more than 420 hectares of wetlands for recreational hunting, fishing and wildlife.
- Was awarded a merit certificate by Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council for my work in wetland development.
- Have been working with Tainui with fencing and planting around Lake Waikare.

Other Areas of Interest;

- Fully support continued research into mallards.
- Listen to what licence holders want.
- Continue to fight for access rights to hunting and fishing for all New Zealanders.
- Regional autonomy – not run from Wellington
- Local hunters and anglers continue to manage their sport.
- Support for youth in our sport.
- Oppose commercialism – privatisation of our sport, retain birth right of New Zealanders to hunt and fish.
- Habitat enhancement, creation, restoration etc.
- Work with other groups to make things happen.
- I support more birds in the sky, fish in our waters and licence holders in our sport young and old.

Thank you for your support – 021 903501

Candidate Interest Statement

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