



CANDIDATE PROFILES

EASTERN
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 effects the compilation of the voting results for this region.



BAIRD Alan WJ
Central Lakes

Having previously served on the council for the Eastern Region between 2015-2021, I am re-standing as I believe there is still work to be done to build stronger working relationships, mutual understanding and respect between game bird hunters, environmental groups, Eastern Fish & Game staff and councillors.

Both trout fishing and game bird hunting install a love and respect for the environment and I believe that the knowledge base of local shooters and anglers are crucial to the future of this New Zealand tradition. Therefore, we need to involve those people in the decisions being made on their behalf at council level.

Through life and business experience I know that clear communication between all parties concerned is essential and I am willing to listen to the ideas and concerns of all licence holders, to do my research and present their point of view to the council and report back to hunters and anglers on council decisions.

I have been fortunate enough to shoot throughout most of the Bay of Plenty and I am proud to now share this passion with my grandchildren, just as my father did with me over 60 years ago.

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.

COUTTS Kevin Central Lakes



I have lived in Rotorua since 1986 and have held a fishing licence every year since. I have held a gamebird licence since 1993.

I served on the Eastern Region Council from 1993 – 2001 and due to only 12 candidates standing was appointed in 2021 until this date.

This year the Eastern Council voted to reduce the number of councillors from 12 to 8. I am standing for the Rotorua Lakes sub region.

I retired 5 years ago after being fully employed since I was 16. Being retired I have the time and I'll add the energy and passion to serve you as a councillor.

Our way of life, be it gamebird hunting or fishing is heading for difficult times. We have seen this last season access Lake Okataina being heavily regulated to the extent licence holders simply can't be bothered going there. Coming up, you are going to need councillors who are willing to fight for the rights of licence holders. Those who know me are well aware I will fight tooth and nail for the lawful rights of our hunters and anglers. Some say I shoot from the hip at times and I suppose that is true but those shots are always for a reason and always in the interests of licence holders.

I'd ask you to use your votes carefully. I'm not a yes man and will ruffle feathers. I have during the past term. I'll go in boots and all for your interests.

Candidate Interest Statement

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DICKSON Gordon

Western Bay



Semi-retired quantity surveyor, construction mediator, arbitrator, NEBOSH health and safety consultant.

Environmentalist/conservationist.

Inaugural Bay of Plenty Conservation Board chairperson.

Initial Eastern Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Fish & Game Council liaison role.

Vehicle types - almost without exception four wheel drives
Toyota, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Lada [yeah right] Suzuki.

4wd African expeditionary overland driver guide/mechanic.

Do most of own mechanical. Have parts left over
sometimes too!

Duck, swan, pheasants, "wabbits", hares, opossums, goats,
stoats, wild sheep, deer, pigs, hunting in Bay of Plenty
Otago and Southland. Pigs Queensland, reindeer Norway.

Clay bird shooting Whakatane, Otago & Victoria Australia.

Fishing fresh and salt all over New Zealand since 4 years of
age. Australia & Africa.

Trout, perch, eels [minor commercial eeling] salmon.

Fly and threadline fishing.

Concerned about public including our children's access
issues too. For example to Lake Okataina, Tuhoe
Rainforest Park.

Formed a Maori liaison committee whilst on the BOP
Conservation Board and keen to see its progress.

Department of Conservation renaming advocate to
"ConservationNZ".

"ConsevationNZ" needs more money from concession
holders and the government give its percentage of our
land and water mass. The DOC estate brings in the tourist
but doesn't get the money.

No more unauthorised overseas fishing and hunting
guides.

Stricter control over overseas sportsman bringing in their
own unclean fishing gear.

More teach a kid fishing days.

Any more candidate information required please email
gjd748@uclive.ac.nz

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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.

FERRIS Murray

East Coast



I am a serving Eastern Region councillor and past chairman. I believe passionately in Fish and Game and with the organisational review which is incomplete to date, there are still hurdles to jump, and I would like to see that process through.

I am proud of our achievements in Eastern, we always operate within budget and we have a stunning team of dedicated specialist staff supporting the council.

I have fished and hunted for over 60 years, and believe that putting back into the resource is important. I'm time rich so while I still can, I'm up for another term as your councillor.

I get actively involved in the field alongside the staff doing banding and opening day trout fishing surveys. They have shared a wealth of knowledge in the process. I have also been an honorary ranger for about 20 years, I'm retiring this year.

I have good health and a pretty good grasp of reality, I also have a great BS meter and consider that a very useful tool.

We in Eastern have a great balance of serving councillors, we work well together and democracy is always the winner, just the way it should be.

I do have more to offer, but more importantly, if you believe I have more to offer I would greatly appreciate your support for another term on council.

I am happy to take calls on 027 677 2466 if you feel you would like to know more about me.

Thanking you in advance.

Candidate Interest Statement

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JARVIE Mike

Western Bay



I am a semi retired Services co-ordinator based in Tauranga and live in Papamoa with my wife Lucy.

I was taught to fish by my father as a youngster living in Christchurch. I have continued my interest to this day (although limited during my 20+ years service in the RNZN).

Moving to the Bay of Plenty in 2002, I renewed my freshwater angling passion and venture out as time permits. My main interest is trout fishing and I was president of the Tauranga Anglers Club for four years.

My enthusiasm to offer back to Fish & Game NZ - for the great work they have achieved and resources which have been provided to the New Zealand public, lead me to become an honorary ranger in 2004 and an Eastern Region councillor during the 2021 - 2024 term.

I offer my experience of 50+ years chasing trout & salmon across NZ, plus my understanding of angler & gamebird hunter's expectations from contacts as a F&G ranger and more recently; the requirement for good governance and decision making as an Eastern Region councillor.

I see a need to act against exclusive capture of hunting and fishing resources for private gain and the need to ensure that such access remains available to all NZ anglers and hunters.

I believe that game bird hunting & freshwater fishing are part of the "Kiwi" way of life, they should be available to all on an equal basis and be maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Candidate Interest Statement

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LYONS Lindsay
Western Bay



As a passionate trout fisher and game bird hunter, I have purchased licences for both consecutively for the past 66 years. I have been involved with F&G as a volunteer for the past 34 years, serving on the Eastern Council for 24 years and on the NZ Council for 12 years (six of those years as the elected chairman).

I was involved in forming Ducks Unlimited NZ in the 1970s, and during my 35 years as a professional trout fishing guide, I instigated the NZ Walking Access Committee to provide access for all hunters and fishermen.

During my time as NZ Council chairman, I recognised the need for NZF&G to streamline their finances so initiated the Ministerial Governance Review into F&G in an endeavour to keep our ever-increasing licence fees down. Times are tough and many people are not able to afford licence fees increasing every year, especially our younger generation, who quite frankly, are the future of F&G.

F&G currently faces multiple threats: diminishing water quality, diminishing wetlands, increasing loss of access to our lakes and streams and the possibility of bird flu. We must address these threats head on and quickly. Continued legal access to all our Rotorua lakes is a priority. Attempts by anyone to change or close off what is legally enshrined within any settlement agreements regarding continued access for ALL New Zealanders must be highlighted and challenged. Left unchallenged, the subsequent domino effect will impact on many other lakes, streams, and waterways across NZ.

Candidate Interest Statement

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MCIVER Alec

Central Lakes



PHONE: 027 282 0770 - EMAIL: mciveralec@icloud.com

Residing in Rotorua, I have lived in the central North Island my whole life. I was brought up on a farm at Atiamuri. I trained and completed my fitter/turner mechanical engineering apprenticeship in Tokoroa.

I have been in business in this trade for 20 years and have trained 5 apprentices in this time.

Hunting (big game and game fowl) and fishing is a big part of my life. My wife Wai and I are both keen trout fishers, water/upland game hunters amongst other hunting/fishing related activities.

I enjoy fly fishing and jigging for trout in local rivers and lakes around Rotorua.

Water and upland game fowl hunting is an activity I look forward to every year in the Eastern BOP, where I am also passionate about wetland habitat preservation and game bird management.

ASSOCIATED EXPERIENCE

- Game Animal Council inaugural member (2 terms)
- Rotorua Branch, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) member since 1998
- Endowment member
- Rotorua branch president 2002-2008
- Rotorua branch party hunt coordinator 2001-2008
- Rotorua branch range officer
- NZDA national president 2007-2012
- Rotorua branch HUNTS warranted instructor 2012-2018
- Rotorua branch committee member 2022 – current day
- Firearms licensing vetting officer for the NZ Police (Rotorua)
- Engineering trade training assessor with Competenz (now Te Pūkenga)
- Bay of Plenty Pig Hunting Club life member

OTHER INTERESTS

Family, water and upland game bird shooting, fresh & saltwater fishing, diving, sports, pest control, motorcross (have competed in NZ, America & Australia).

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NICOL Scott
Western Bay

I am seeking re-election after serving for the past three years on the Eastern Council. During my time on the council, I have gained valuable experience in governance and learned what being a councillor entails. I believe I bring a fresh, young perspective to the council and am eager to continue learning from my fellow councillors and the dedicated staff who work tirelessly to keep Fish & Game operating effectively.

I am 31 years old and was raised in Katikati, where my family fostered a strong passion for the outdoors. I currently work as an environmental consultant in Tauranga, and I have a background in science and geology, which gives me an understanding of the natural processes that shape our environment. Having fished and explored the Eastern Region, I have a deep appreciation for our unique landscapes.

I understand that the future of fishing depends on water quality and the health of the ecosystems surrounding our rivers. It is crucial that we ensure sustainable land and water use, and I will be a strong advocate for this sustainability. I am committed to supporting farmers in transitioning sensitive areas into spaces that use native solutions to improve river quality while maintaining productivity.

Re-election would allow me the opportunity to continue giving back to the community and play an active role in an area I am passionate about. Your vote will help keep a progressive, open-minded, young New Zealander on the council, providing a voice for all Fish & Game licence holders.

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OAKLEY Debbie

Central Lakes



My husband and I are kiwifruit orchardists living in Te Puke. We took up fly fishing in the 80's and have continued to enjoy this challenge together in both fresh water and salt water destinations in NZ and around the world. I am also a keen shooter, bird hunting and sporting clay shooting for fun.

My expertise in governance, finance and management, along with my understanding of both fishing and hunting see me in a strong position to remain on the governance team to guide Fish and Game through the process of modernising our organisation to ensure it is enduring.

Governance/Leadership Roles

Current

- Councillor for Eastern Region F&G since 2019
- Fish and Game Eastern executive member
- Eastern Regions appointee on NZ Council since December 2020
- Fish and Game NZC executive member
- Seeka Growers Council director
- Independent director of Deep Creek Fruits NZ LP - 2024

Previous

- 37 years finance experience in Westpac and Rabobank with 20 years in branch manager and senior rural manager roles - to 2014
- Completed Zespri Industry Governance Programme including a selection of Institute of Directors courses - 2017
- Chair of Seeka Growers Ltd 2016-2021
- Member of NZ Kiwifruit Growers Forum (NZKGI) 2015-2020
- NZKGI executive member
- Member of Industry Advisory Council (IAC) as representative for NZKGI Forum
- Facilitator for BOP Rural Support Trust and regional leader for 2018
- Treasurer of Rotorua Anglers Assn (late 1980's)
- Treasurer of other voluntary clubs at various times

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SCEATS Mark

East Coast

I am a 71 year-old retired barrister born in Gisborne.

I have held a game/fishing licence for the last 55 years.

I am a first term councillor and now chairman.

My election as chairman in my first term recognises my synergistic skills by my fellow councillors.

I have been active and will continue to be active in resolving the current restricted access to Lake Okataina.

I have been active in making representations to the Minister to have the illegal restriction of access to this most important fishing lake resolved and I will continue to do so in the interests of all but in particular for our fishing licence holders.

I am also keen to see better management of the trout fishery east of Raukumara's, a fishery, I believe has been neglected for many years.

As a long time game bird hunter I believe game bird licence holders are getting a raw deal in the Eastern Region with the very short length of the season.

The policy that determines the length of the season has existed for many years needs to be reviewed so that hunters get a minimum of six weeks hunting every year.

I believe I have the time and the many skills needed to assist in the transformation of Fish and Game into the present environment.

I am happy for anybody to contact me (0276723287) to discuss any of my comments above.

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SIMMONS Alan

Central Lakes



Alan Simmons lives in Turangi and for the last 45 years has worked as a full-time fishing and hunting guide but since covid came along has retired to a quieter life.

He has had a lifetime involved in the outdoors and over the years has been close to many of the major outdoor issues which he is still passionate about.

Alan has sat on a number of national body executives, boards, NGO and management groups and is active in promoting fishing and hunting as healthy outdoor activities. He has written four books and had countless articles published worldwide as well as numerous TV shows in the 90's. Has hunted and fished worldwide in many remote parts of the world.

Alan sat on the transitional Eastern Fish & Game Council and the NZ Council to establish them in 1991 and went on to spend 13 years variously on NZ Council, Eastern and the Hawkes Bay Councils deciding to pass the reins over to the next generation; however the recent review of Fish and Game has prompted him to get involved again now having the time, experience and energy to contribute.

Alan has a passion to keep Fish and Game as a user says user pays organisation and will be keeping an eye on any moves by government to take control.

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SWIFT Pat
Central Lakes



Hello,

I am a 62-year-old husband and father. I have been living in Ngongotaha, Rotorua for the past 30 years.

My working career has primarily been in the retail and wholesale areas of sports and fishing tackle. I currently have a wholesale fly business selling to retail tackle shops throughout New Zealand.

Most of my fishing is on the Rotorua lakes from my boat, jigging, spinning and fly fishing.

Trout fishing for me is both a de-stress and a stimulant. I have never fished a day without learning something new.

Although I have much to learn about governance in this position, I do believe all New Zealand fishing licence holders need to be able to access and share quality water ways that fishing and hunting and food resources provide for all. I hope those who know me would say I would be your advocate and be able to communicate an "angler's/hunters" point of view.

Thank you for your consideration.

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