



# CANDIDATE PROFILES

HAWKE'S BAY  
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.



**BATES Bruce**  
Napier

I have been a Fish and Game councillor for a number of terms, serving as the New Zealand Council representative in the past and as the chairman of the Hawkes Bay Council in the last two terms. I am a passionate hunter and angler and strongly believe that the future of our sports depends on educating youth and giving them the opportunity to participate. I have been a driving force behind the development of the education centre based at our game farm in Greenmeadows and wish to continue the work to make the centre self-funding and integrated into the education system.

In the next term I would like to see

- A closer relationship with the national body to reduce costs and increase efficiency
- Continued monitoring from our field officers to show angler's how our fisheries are recovering
- An emphasis on wetland development and increased hunter opportunities
- Reducing the barriers to entry into our sports by people of all ages
- Increasing licence holders involvement with Fish and Game

**Candidate Interest Statement**

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have a potential conflict of interest with Fish and Game NZ at the date of my nomination as I occasionally employ fishing guides in one of my businesses.

## **BOWCOCK** Gary Napier



I am a passionate gamebird hunter and enjoy fishing I am an honorary ranger 40 years, a member of the Wairoa & District Angling Club (Inc) and have been a H B Fish & Game Council member for the last 2 terms

I am married with 2 adult children and 6 grandchildren and have lived in Taradale for 30 years. I am semi-retired from working in the vertebrate pest control industry. I am a certified pest detention dog handler for DOC.

### **The reasons I am standing for council are:**

1. I want to find ways to increase public access into the back country rivers and forestry blocks.
2. Encourage the full use of the new outdoor education facility at HB game farm and I have helped staff with taking school children through the curriculums. Please come and have a look.
3. I offer up maimais to new father and son/daughter shooters each year.
4. I do encourage licence holders and land owners to participate in habitat and environment enhancement.
5. I have seen increasing numbers of upland game into our local rivers with the expanded pest control. I will encourage it to get back up to what it was before Cyclone Gabriel as these species are ground nesting and are actively predated on by cats and mustelids.
6. By building and enhancing relationships between land owners, farmers, iwi, public, stakeholders and other interested groups we will make our environment better for our children.

### **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.



**COLES Peter**  
Hastings

I am a 73 year old retired barrister, married and residing in Havelock North. I am a committee member of the Hastings Anglers Club. I moved to Hawkes Bay from the Manawatu in 2017 but I have regularly fished rivers in the Hawkes Bay region since the early 1970's.

For many years up until my retirement I provided legal advice to the Wellington F&G office based in Palmerston North. This included legal opinions, preparation for and conduct of F&G prosecutions in the Courts covered by the Wellington Region. I also conducted training sessions on compliance and enforcement issues for F&G staff and honorary rangers.

I have served on boards and committees on a number of sports organisations (cricket, rugby, squash, tennis) and have a good working knowledge of the administrative requirements and obligations involved in being a council member.

I am a very keen and active freshwater fisherman with an associated interest in conservation issues which I have pursued on a voluntary basis here in the Hawkes Bay. Being retired I have the time to properly commit to the requirements of council membership if elected.

**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.



**DULEY** Greg  
Napier

Each time the F&G elections come round I hope it's time I can stand down from both the regional and national F&G Councils as there's nothing earth shattering on the horizon and I can leave the job of managing fishing and hunting to some new blood. This is not the case. We had the Government's review of Fish and Game NZ recently and we are still working through what we can actually implement of the reviews worthwhile recommendations (not all were ...) Unfortunately most of these require legislative change which the previous Government reneged on but we are now working through these with the new Government and hopefully we can achieve some worthwhile changes - many of these we've wanted to do for a long time - while still maintaining the principle of user pays and says fishing and hunting management we have enjoyed in NZ for many years since the formation of the Acclimatisation Societies and now Fish and Game.

Our national CEO Corina and her staff are doing an excellent job of promoting and protecting our ability to pursue our hunting and fishing passion into the future, ably assisted by both our local HB and national F&G Councils who are both currently in a very good place. We have opportunities now to get some real wins and it is essential we have the right team of both staff and governors to do the job. These elections are your chance to influence who's on that team!

### **Candidate Interest Statement**

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have a potential conflict of interest with Fish and Game NZ at the date of my nomination as one of my employees currently designs and produces the Fish and Game magazines in conjunction with Fish and Game staff. This occurred after the previous supplier exited the contract early. How long this arrangement will continue we don't know, as F&G nationally is reviewing the future of the magazine.

**EVANS Steve**  
Napier



I began fishing at the age of seven and since moving to Hawke's Bay in 2005 have been fortunate enough to enjoy the regions wealth of rivers as well as straying down south and overseas from time to time.

As a committee member of Hastings Anglers Club for many years, I have actively been involved in introducing newcomers to fly-fishing, particularly young people and women, and would hope to continue to play a local part in reversing global declining licence sales and angler participation if elected.

Maintaining and improving the health of and access to our lowland 'front-country' rivers is also a priority for me as they provide the easily reached waters for new anglers to build up their skills and seasoned anglers to do a quick fish after work.

I also got Hawke's Bay back on the map for the annual fly fishing festival movie tour last year and doubled the number of showings for 2024, ensuring the region's anglers get together annually to dream of far flung fishing destinations.

My previous governance experience includes being on the national board of the Human Resources Institute of New Zealand, chairing a Parent Teacher Association & a current director of two businesses.

**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.

## **GOODCHILD** Karl Napier



My name is Karl Goodchild. Here's a little bit about me.

I have run my own business since 2006 and sit on a local school board since 2020 so have a very good understanding of finances and boards and have undertaken NZTA training for boards.

I'm a keen fisherman on the fly and spin as is my wife and 2 boys. I have fished and rafted many local rivers and enjoy being out on the rivers whenever I'm able.

I'm standing for this election for the Fish and Game board as I believe that we need more fishing access points on the local rivers and the points that are available are often overgrown with vegetation and blackberry. Some access points such as along Waitara Road are closed off by gates and roads have been washed away since the cyclone. A lot of the fishing areas are in a poor state, this needs to be rectified. The cost of fishing licences is increasing but we see little value if many access points are closed.

Also, I'm very concerned about declining numbers of licence holders and feel we need to encourage more people/families to take up this great sport as we are blessed with fantastic waterways.

If elected I hope that I can add my knowledge and skills to help progress Fish and Game Hawkes Bay.

### **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.



## JONES Dan

Napier



My name is Dan Jones. I am 61 years old and live in Clive, Hawkes Bay. I have been a lifelong fisherman, shooter and hunter over much of New Zealand, but mostly in the Manawatu, Hawkes Bay and central North Island areas.

Having had some of the finest opportunity to hunt, shoot and fish, I would like to give something back and help to maintain and enhance access to waterways and land, and with it the game resource, through appointment to the Fish and Game Council.

I see a major threat to the pursuit and enjoyment of these pursuits by the average guy and girl from beauracracy. Too many times I see what is called 'acting in our interests' turn out to be a desktop exercise from the towny PC brigade, in following their agenda to get some unobtainable Utopia, ending up in another restriction to enjoyment of the outdoors.

There is plenty of room in New Zealand for all to enjoy as they please; we just have to be sensible and realise we are all different. Sustainable taking of game is necessary to manage populations and habitat. The voice of the Fish and Game Council is vital to keeping the opportunity alive for responsible sportspeople in New Zealand.

When I remember the first fish I caught, I also remember the colours of the river, the smell of the bush, and how proud my dad was for me. I want that for others.

### **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.



## MELVILLE Henry

Hastings

Hi, I'm Henry – a passionate, and active fly fisherman, gamebird and big game hunter. I live in Havelock North and run a sheet metal manufacturing business in Napier.

Born and bred in Hawke's Bay, this was the area I cut my teeth in the outdoors, but I am also lucky to have hunted and fished most regions in NZ, having spent 6 years studying and working in Otago and Canterbury.

I enjoy getting into the outdoors to escape our fast-paced lifestyles, harvest wild game meat and push myself physically.

I am a current Hawkes Bay councillor going for my second term. I will continue to represent keen anglers and hunter's minds and help ensure we all get to experience the same great outdoor resources we are privileged to have. I also acknowledge we are in a developing world and need to find WIN-WIN solutions for all stakeholders to happily co-exist going forward.

I will continue to give a fresh and modern perspective while always having the interests of keen anglers and hunters at mind.

### **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.

**MOELLER** David  
Hastings



*No profile provided.*

**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.

**MORGAN Glenn**  
Napier



Hello.

I am applying to be considered for election to the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.

Having spent most of my life so far living in the Hawkes Bay I have spent many years both game bird hunting and fly fishing although the latter is my true passion.

I think that the many anglers in the region need a voice to communicate issues that they have with the governing bodies. I would like to be able to be that voice.

Just about every weekend I am out on the local fisheries here in the Hawkes Bay and communicate with many anglers. In my opinion anglers in the region are underrepresented on the current council.

It is our right of all current licence holders to have issues and opinions to be heard and be able to enjoy the recourses that they are paying to enjoy. Not to mention the huge mental health and wellbeing benefits that come along with that.

**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.



## **NIBLETT** Jeff Hastings

I have been on the Hawke's Bay F&G Council for the last 15 years. Over these years I have gained valuable insight into the issues that have plagued F&G. Following the NZC's audit of HB FGC, which cleared councillors of all alleged wrongdoings, and the subsequent review of F&G, which recommended major organisational changes, we are approaching a particularly crucial time. We have been advised to make significant changes and if we're not proactive, we could lose the right to manage fish and game in NZ.

I would like to continue for a final term as I see the next year as being the most crucial for F&G.

I would like to see Fish and Game focus on our licence holders. It is my opinion that F&G is becoming disconnected with its stakeholders. We need to focus on increasing participation. We must grow support for our sport.

To achieve this aim it is essential that councillors create good policy for our staff to manage and enhance the resources in the interests of licence holders.

As a councillor, I offer:

- My passion as an avid fisher and hunter.
- Benefits of my knowledge of gamebirds. I am a veterinarian who has worked as a gamebird consultant.
- My practical expertise and knowledge of managing gamebirds, through habitat enhancement, predator control and an understanding of the behaviour of individuals within populations.
- My experience as a councillor of 15 years.

We must maintain and enhance sustainable fishing and hunting in the interests of licence holders.

### **Candidate Interest Statement**

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have the following potential conflicts of interest with Fish and Game NZ at the date of my nomination:

- I am a director of NZ Gamebirds Ltd which supplies pheasants, ducks, and partridge to licence holders throughout New Zealand that want to enhance their gamebird populations.
- I am also a director of Flying Pheasant NZ Ltd which operates a pheasant preserve on Poronui.
- I am a board member of the NZGCA.
- I own a 20 Ha property in Sherenden, Hawkes Bay.

**SAYERS** Rob  
Hastings



*No profile provided.*

#### **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.

**SLAVIN Blair**  
Central Hawke's Bay



Hi, my name is Blair Slavin. As a long time fisher and hunter with a young family who are mad keen on the outdoors, I believe in doing my part in securing and improving the future of our outdoor pursuits. Being a current councillor, serving my first term, I have seen some of the frustrations we are experiencing both locally and nationally. I believe that we need to do better with the licence fees we get and improve our engagement with our licence holders, land owners and regional council.

I have no conflicts of interest and want to work within a council that has the best interests of current and future licence holders at heart. As a current councillor I am under no illusion as to how frustrating the Fish and Game system can be but I do believe that we are making progress in the HB region and would like to continue to be a part of that.

Many thanks.

**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.

## SLAVIN Callum

Central Hawke's Bay



My name is Callum Slavin, I live in the CHB ward spending my time chasing ducks, pheasants and not catching many fish. I have been a F&G councillor for one term and since being on the council, I believe we have spent too much time on national politics and not enough time on Hawkes Bay fishers & hunters. In the last year we have re-focused the HB Council on our local issues and improving licence holders opportunities to go hunting and fishing.

With our ranges and river systems, I believe we live in the best place for hunting and fishing and we need to concentrate on making it better and accessible for all.

I personally believe we need to value our rural land holders who often provide access and opportunities for hunters and fishers but feel they have no voice.

We also need to get value for our licences. The majority of Fish & Game Council's agenda of increasing the cost of license fees seems counterintuitive to making it inclusive and affordable to all hunters & fishers.

Thank you for taking the time to vote.

### **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.



**STRUTHERS** Lloyd  
Hastings



I recently retired after close to 30 years with the Department of Corrections as an instructor and then corrections officer both senior (i.e. supervisory positions). Prior to that I worked in farming and horticulture with tertiary qualification in the latter. I've trout fished most of my life competed in fly fishing competitions nationally and internationally, I hunt (for deer) and generally enjoy the back country in various formats.

If elected I wish F&G to be a strong advocate for licence holders notably at local body level, i.e. active in the consent process (the Resource Management Act), to create opportunities for licence holders notably in improved access and environmental enhancement.

**Candidate Interest Statement**

This candidate has opted not to disclose whether they have conflicts of interest with Fish & Game NZ.





