



CANDIDATE PROFILES

NELSON/MARLBOROUGH
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.

BAIGENT Owen
Waimea/Buller



My name is Owen Baigent, I am a keen hunter and fisherman and mentor to young like-minded youth and adults.

As an incumbent councillor of 18 years and chairman for 12 years, I am offering my services again as an experienced governance councillor, for the advocacy of all licence holders, be they hunters or fisher people.

I believe in governance for licence holders by licence holders and look forward for your vote, to enable me to continue in this role.

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.

BORENSTEIN Felix

Wairau North



Although I'm originally from the big, sunburnt place across the ditch, I've lived in New Zealand for the past 21 years. I love the country, the people and the fishing – so much so I officially became a Kiwi citizen 11 years ago.

If home is where the heart is, then I'm home. I don't know who came up with that line but it pretty much sums it up for me.

I originally came to New Zealand to open Owen River Lodge, which I sold last year. This means I have even more time to focus on the needs of our precious freshwater fishery.

You won't get me excited about the usual trans-Tasman rivalries but mention the preservation of our New Zealand fishery and you've got my undivided attention. I'm passionate about protecting waterways, fish stocks and unimpeded access to rivers and that's why I'm committed to supporting the aims of Fish & Game New Zealand.

Great fishing needs great water and don't I know it. I also want to do everything I can to ensure future generations of anglers can have the benefit of the outstanding fishery we currently enjoy in this country.

I have been a Nelson/Marlborough Fish & Game councillor for the past 3 years and hope to bring commercial acumen, drive, determination and dedication to furthering Fish & Game New Zealand's vital work as a Nelson/Marlborough regional councillor.

Candidate Interest Statement

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

- I am a life member of the New Zealand Fishing Guides Association and am an executive member of that organisation.
- I also have a small consulting business primarily assisting overseas fisheries and fishing lodges with their sustainability and operations.



GAME Nev Blenheim

I am the 5th generation to grow up in Marlborough. An avid game bird hunter and fisherman for close to 50 years.

Living in Marlborough all my life, I have seen major changes of land use which ultimately has huge impacts on gamebirds and fish. Drainage of wetlands, water use from our rivers, impacts of urbanisation, cycle/walk ways and areas once publicly shared alongside hunting and fishing becoming river reserves with no access.

There is no doubt the issues facing Fish and Game and all of us who enjoy these pastimes are huge. Witnessing the declining habitat of fish and gamebirds, increasing pressure on water resources leading to decreasing licence sales, driving less voices and less consultation resulting in even more access issues for us all.

For real improvements, all parties must understand each other's concerns and work together. More consultation between Fish and Game and regulators before decisions are executed down the path of no access for hunting and fishing.

As a shareholder/owner of Hunting and Fishing, I feel I am ideally placed to get feedback from licence holders about their concerns and a voice for them at council level.

A passion of mine is getting the younger generation involved. Over the last 15 to 20 years with my own children and their friends has built great relationships. Seeing their appreciation of the outdoors along with future proofing what we all enjoy for our future generations is worth standing up for.

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 in that Hunting & Fishing is an advertiser/sponsor and licence agent of F&G.

GARDINER Guy

Blenheim



I have been a committed angler and game-bird hunter in our region since the early 1980s and am re-standing as a councillor to help govern and navigate our interests as hunters and anglers through changing and challenging waters as well as having some unfinished business.

The main long-term issue we face is declining participation due to urbanisation, social and demographic changes so there is less connection with the outdoors. This impacts our ability to advocate and support gamebird hunting and fishing at a local and a national level and it already affects us in Nelson-Marlborough.

A major issue in that regard is encroachment on traditional (mahinga kai) hunting wetlands with walk-cycle ways as well as council restrictions that aren't risk assessed. I have attempted to partner with local groups and liaise with MDC to foster hunting and fishing access as is safe and legal.

A powerful ally to build relationships with are our local Manawhenua as Maori whanau are 3 times more likely to hunt and value customary harvest and a greater connection with outdoors so are synergistic with our own world view.

To improve participation, we should make trout angling and especially catching trout accessible to engage younger families and children. Wild brown trout are difficult to catch so we need to provide fish-out opportunities so urban families can benefit from connection with the outdoors, healthy eating and active families. "The tug is the drug" and getting children "off screens and by the river" certainly resonate.

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.

HALL Julian

Motueka/Golden Bay



I am 53 years old and live in Takaka, Golden Bay, where together with my wife, we run our family business focused on investment and food export. We also run a few beef cattle.

I am an active duck hunter who began hunting with my father when I was five years old. We hunted at Parapara Inlet in Golden Bay where his father hunted. Now, I still hunt in the same place with my two teenage sons.

To our family not only is duck hunting about spending time together, and passing on memories from generation to generation, it's also about putting food on the table and enough in the freezer to get us through until next season.

I believe daily limits need to be reviewed, to permit a higher take in localised areas where game bird populations can be concentrated.

I would also like to review licence fees as I believe current full season fees are too high for many young people. If we want to encourage the next generation to follow us, the fees need to be acceptable.

I feel in an environment of ever-increasing green activism, our hunting and fishing way of life is potentially threatened. I am prepared to stand up to that threat and face it.

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.

KING Nick
Wairau South



Nelson born and raised. 34 years as a recreational angler and guide. Honorary ranger, one term co-opted councillor. Willing to do another term in service to the anglers of the top of the south. Broad range of experience to add to the council.

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 am a fishing guide and as such angling is my vocation as well as my vacation.

MCDONALD Wayne

Wairau North



I am a 52 year old engineer/project manager, residing at Rarangi Beach here in Marlborough with my wife for the last 8 years.

I have been an avid game and bird shooter and a freshwater fisherman for many years in the Canterbury region, and now enjoy the many great hunting and fishing opportunities here in Marlborough.

I'm a strong believer in maintaining the sustainability of our hunting and fishing areas in NZ for our fellow hunters and fishermen, both environmentally and economically, that we may enjoy the fruits of our passion for this way of life far into the future and also keeping it practical and affordable!

By being appointed to the Fish & Game Council I aim to make a positive impact.

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.



O'LEARY Bill

Motueka/Golden Bay

I am Nelson based with sixty plus years of fishing and game bird hunting, most of which has been in the Nelson Marlborough region.

My professional background is in teaching with experience in outdoor education and the development of training programs for new hunters .

My involvement with Fish and Game has included service as an honorary ranger, several terms on the regional council and a term on the New Zealand council.

My special interests are in attracting new recruits to hunting and fishing and retaining them. Crucial to this is that hunting and fishing are accepted as valid recreational activities by the New Zealand public and government agencies.

To these ends I have represented our interests on statutory bodies, recreational councils and in the media for the past twenty five years.

If elected I would bring to the council experience in governance and advocacy at regional and national levels within Fish and Game.

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.

SARGEANT Kylie
Nelson



I am a passionate female angler, a New Zealand citizen, and the proud co-owner of a property that borders a beautiful trout stream in the Nelson Marlborough region.

I have been a fisher since 2005, gained my fly fishers international Certified Casting Instructor (CCI) certification in 2013 (the only female in New Zealand to hold this certification), taught many people to fish and now enjoy travelling the world to fish, both for fresh and salt water species. While I consider this travel a luxury, it is also a reminder that our New Zealand fishery is pristine and we need to continue to work to ensure we as a country and anglers protect and preserve this privilege right here at home. The privilege that it is accessible for all. Of course, with privilege comes responsibility to protect, preserve and restore as required so that this precious resource and the opportunities it presents continues for future generations.

I look forward to being a Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game councillor to help advocate for the people, educate, promote, and protect our Kiwi way of fishing.

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.



TROLOVE Jonathan
Waimea/Buller

My name is Jono Trolove. I have decided to throw my hat into the ring to stand as a Fish and Game councillor in the Nelson Marlborough region.

I am 58 years old with enough time on my hands to do justice to the role.

I have purchased both a sports fishing and game bird hunting licence each year for as long as I can remember, I am passionate about both.

I have a varied commercial and rural background that covers a lot of the South Island, I have served on various local committees and boards in the past.

I have an interest in the political side of Fish and Game fearing that the tide of opinion is turning against hunting and fishing as recreational pursuits.

Traditional outdoor pursuits are often lost in the noise of social media and alternative sports its essential we recruit the next generation.

I have a strong affinity with farmers and landowners who generously allow access to their properties, we would be very limited relying on the public estate.

I think it essential Fish and Game maintain a close mutually beneficial relationship with these generous people.

I believe fishing access is for New Zealanders first and tourism second.

I am keen to be involved with the environmental side of Fish and Game, if we are good environmental custodians we will maintain our social licence to operate.

Finally, if elected I hope to get out there more often.

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.

WILLIS Jean

Nelson



Jean is a long-time resident of Nelson, passionate about the conservation and sustainable management of New Zealand's freshwater fisheries and wetlands.

He is a:

- Honorary ranger
- Life member of the Nelson Trout Fishing Club
- Secretary of the Nelson Trout Fishing Club
- West Coast Fish and Game councillor from 2009 to 2015
- West Coast appointee to the National Fish and Game Council
- Councillor for Marlborough Nelson from 2015 to present

For the past 25 years Fish and Game has been the most effective conservation organisation in the country. I am proud to be part of that, committed to preserving New Zealand's waterways, wetlands, and wildlife habitats.

Very supportive to fostering a love for the outdoors in young people, promoting education programs that teach sustainable hunting, fishing, and conservation.

Very aware of issues and threats to Fish and Game, such as intensive agriculture, hydro development, water abstraction, pollution, access, habitat protection, and recently the challenge to trout and salmon as not being "native".

Very conscious of the cost of licences, and the need to give hunters and anglers value for money.

Will continue to advocate for anglers and hunters to ensure the best outcomes for their sport.

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.





