



CANDIDATE PROFILES

NORTH CANTERBURY
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.



BARRON Dave

I am seeking re-election to continue strengthening governance and improving the operational efficiency of the NC Fish & Game Council. Over the past three years on the council, I have enjoyed working alongside dedicated individuals to make meaningful progress, and I am eager to continue this work. My goal is to enhance communication with stakeholders and boost engagement across the board.

As a 56-year-old avid hunter and fisherman, I am deeply passionate about exploring our great country. Growing up next to the Rakaia River, I developed a love for salmon fishing, fly fishing, and hunting. These experiences instilled in me a commitment to preserving these activities not just for my children but for all future generations. We face important challenges, including access to hunting and fishing grounds, growing demands on water usage, and maintaining the health of our rivers.

As a business owner with over three decades of senior management experience, I bring a wealth of expertise. I am eager to continue contributing to the enhancement of Fish & Game policies and processes, supporting staff in their efforts to secure access and restore water quality in our rivers and waterways to levels that satisfy both anglers and shooters.

This includes improving fish screens and water intakes in our local waterways, increasing sports fish and game bird populations, enhancing wetlands, providing guidance on sustainable farming practices, and advocating for cleaner water. By addressing these challenges, we can ensure that future generations enjoy the same opportunities we cherish today.

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.

BRANKIN Chris



I have served on NC F&G since 2017, first as the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu statutory advisor, and then as a co-opted member of council.

I grew up in the Malvern area and now live in Christchurch with my young family. I am a passionate gamebird hunter and love trout fishing in our high-country lakes. I can't wait to share these experiences with my children.

I am proud of the direction the council is taking, with a focus on strengthening the processes we use to make decisions, and an emphasis on grounding those decisions in data and science, and ethics.

I believe our organisation is at a point of evolution. Society is changing, as is public perception of the pastimes we hold dear. Changes are coming for the legislative levers we rely on to advocate for the habitats our birds and fish need to thrive. To maximise our licence holder's resources and protect our sports I want to continue to drive development of strategies that set a pathway for sustainable hunting and fishing and build relationships with key partners to ensure our values are understood by those responsible for managing the habitats we need.

My hope is that Fish & Game continues to be a strong advocate for our licence holders and our species, by demonstrating our value as partners, celebrating the benefits of hunting and fishing, and consistently reaffirming our place as a key strand in the fabric of the kiwi way of life.

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.

CLEGHORN Barry



I have retired from farming and moved to a lifestyle block west of Rangiora.

I have had extensive involvement with Fish and Game in the past:

- Six years on the Nelson/Marlborough Council, three years as chairman,
- Three years on the North Canterbury Council while farming in Cheviot.
- I have also served as a ranger in both regions.
- I have done the annual shoveler trend count north of the Hurunui for the past 15 years.
- I had been involved with goose culls assisting staff and helped with fish recovery from the Amuri Irrigation Scheme before the scheme was piped underground.

I am very concerned at the direction the current council is heading to reduce most of daily bag limits and the science behind these proposed changes for gamebird hunters.

I understand that the Minister will have a responsibility to consolidate the number of councils in the South Island.

I feel I have a lot to offer and am very approachable. I am an occasional fisherman, having bagged a couple of salmon and a few trout, but my addiction is gamebird hunting. Life could be worse – lol.

Barry Cleghorn. B.Agr.Sc

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.

COLL Dave



I have been a keen angler and gamebird hunter since being introduced to the sport over 50 years ago as a boy living on the West Coast. I am a keen fly fisher with a passion for fishing back country rivers. I am also a keen deer hunter.

I was a member of the inaugural West Coast Fish and Game Council from 1991 to 1996 and was their appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, a position I held for 5 years until I moved to Christchurch.

As a current member of the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council I have a passionate interest in the management of our sports fish and gamebird resource focussing on sustainable management of the habitat. In November 2020 I was again appointed to the NZ Fish and Game Council by North Canterbury and have served in that role including being a member of the NZC executive committee until the present time.

After a career as a civil engineer, I retired in 2022 and have been able to devote more time and energy to serving on both the regional and national bodies.

Understanding the importance of good governance, I believe that I can continue to make a valuable contribution to your council based on previous experience and understanding of the legal framework around Fish and Game NZ.

Candidate Interest Statement

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COSTER Niall (Neil)

I have been a lifelong spin and fly fisher.

As part of my degree in zoology I studied fish and fisheries gaining a strong appreciation of the variables affecting trout and salmon populations and the kind of healthy environments in which all species flourish.

Most of my fishing has been in the estuarine waters, rivers and canals of the South Island. My experience also extends to Australia and Alaska.

I belong to the Canterbury Anglers Club and the New Zealand Handloaders Association. I have some past experience in game bird shooting.

I support good relationships with NIWA, the Cawthorn Institute, Department of Conservation as well as ECan and Ngai Tahu and other organisations that can further better water management and healthy waterways.

I acknowledge the efforts farmers are making including forming catchment groups, fertigation, regenerative farming, biodiversity developments, specialty breeding and pasture improvement in order to reduce nitrogen application and urine leaching. We need to work alongside farmers.

In the future it would be most worthwhile to see local dedicated 'Put and Take' pond for all anglers - this is in addition to the successful Lake Rotokohatu.

I look forward to taking steps to supporting the increasing number of women gaining confidence and enjoyment in their development of fly fishing skills.

In seeking re-election your vote will mean strong strategic action towards healthier waterways, restoring our trout and salmon numbers and more fun for you in our fisheries and game bird areas!

Candidate Interest Statement

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FERIGO Jhan

I am an avid trout and salmon angler who has been involved in the sport since the age of 4. Now at 19 years old, I am studying a double degree in law and commerce majoring in management. Alongside my studies, I go fishing any chance I get.

Admittedly I lack the knowledge and experience that others have but as the advertisement for candidacy states, Fish & Game needs varying outlooks. I see this election as an opportunity to train members of the younger generation to secure Fish & Games' future.

I regularly hear from my father and others how amazing our region's angling used to be. My hope is that one day the fishery will get back to the state it used to be in the "golden days". I don't have first-hand knowledge on which direction to take to achieve this but I am passionate and willing to learn from others. As of now my future children's chance of quality fishing in our region is diminishing at an alarming rate. I believe a sustainable outlook is crucial to ensure future generations have access to the amazing fishing and hunting New Zealand is known for. The fish populations aren't what they used to be and water quality plays a big part in that.

I have experience managing a fishing Facebook group I created which has 21,000 members so I am able to assist in spreading news and information.

Candidate Interest Statement

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HANSEN Emil

I first came to New Zealand from Denmark when I was 18 years of age and this country's abundant hunting & fishing resources have kept me here ever since.

I now find myself as an extremely passionate hunter and angler based in Canterbury with a sincere desire to give back and help guide these very sports towards a healthy and sustainable future.

Being active in the field, I am very up to date with the present state of our fishing and gamebird resources and opportunities, and are well poised to help Fish & Game make informed and pragmatic decisions around the likes of season lengths, bag limits, and access issues etc. that effect our local region.

Admittedly, I don't possess much experience of being on boards and governing bodies but do feel my youthful enthusiasm coupled with an extensive knowledge of successful wildlife management programs undertaken in Europe, would make me a valuable councillor for North Canterbury Fish & Game.

Vote for me if you want an open-minded and enthusiastic councillor sitting at the table.

Candidate Interest Statement

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MOODY Nick



I stand for Kiwi anglers and hunters first. I stand for protecting public access, fish, gamebirds and their habitat.

I'm a third generation Canterbury freshwater angler. I was an honorary ranger for Fish & Game North Canterbury and I understand how the organisation works. Now I'm asking for your vote to support it as a councillor.

Through my career I've developed solid skills in fishery management and conservation. I was a national fishery manager, overseeing the work of rangers and scientists. Currently I'm the general manager of a thriving coastal park with many game birds and fish.

I am 42 and my passion for rivers and fish has been lifelong. I grew up on the banks of the Styx River near the mouth of the Waimakariri River. As a young man I fished the river almost every day after school and I went to Lincoln University to learn how to protect rivers and fish. At the age of 16, I became a founding member of the Styx River Living Laboratory Trust. Today, I am still a trustee, and we're now delivering a 4.2 million-dollar river restoration project.

As a keen fisherman, I'm a member and speaker at several local fishing clubs, and I also write fishing articles and run learn to fish courses. I was lucky to grow up fishing the rivers and lakes of Canterbury, and now I need your support to protect them for future generations.

Candidate Interest Statement

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MUIR Chris



We all enjoy our valuable access to fish and game and it will be my mission, as a Fish and Game councillor, to ensure our continued enjoyment of fishing and game hunting. Critical to the success of councillors is listening to our fish and game licence holders and general community.

New Zealand is a unique and beautiful place with great options for the public to explore and hunt. The plentiful rivers and valleys with fish and wild game is an asset worth protecting, as are our rights to enjoy our game hunting and fishing.

I grew up in the South Island and appreciate how accessible fishing and hunting options are. My first fish I caught was a truly exciting event for an 11 year old. I still enjoy the thrill of fishing, and now game hunting, and share it with my family.

My career in building, as well as creating and growing technology businesses has equipped me with a down to earth approach and creativity when dealing with issues and decisions, whilst also giving me the skills and attitude to deeply investigate options for the best outcome.

I will do my absolute best to keep our amazing NZ habitat accessible, the fish and game wild and plentiful. I will bring energy and contribute to the related data and policy processes, and councillor responsibilities to ensure our fishing and hunting values are upheld.

Candidate Interest Statement

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MUSSON Phillip



I am a 46-year-old current councillor. Fourth-generation salmon, trout and game bird hunter. I have a young family who are just as passionate. I am a dairy farmer on the family farm in Springston with over 26 years of experience running this business.

In 2016 I received the Working with Nature Award in recognition of outstanding efforts to improve freshwater habitat from NC F&G. In 2017 I was approached and asked to be co-opted onto the North Canterbury Council. I stood in 2019 and was elected. I have represented NC on the national sub-committee for Sea Run Salmon Committee. I have filled in where required at the national council meetings and currently on the Health & Safety Committee.

I am open and honest in my opinions and feel myself to be evidence-based and solution orientated. I have been involved with salmon rescue and volunteer egg harvesting at Montrose. I worked with DOC and Living Waters on waterway restoration.

This council needs to continue with its agenda to obtain better funding for this region. Over this last term, we have worked on major funding inequity between our region and others throughout NZ with some success.

I would continue to work hard to achieve a high standard for our priorities which include habitat protection and enhancement, engaging stakeholders which still need a lot of work, improving the financial position, protecting of the trout and salmon fishery and our game bird hunting opportunities.

Candidate Interest Statement

The company I own holds shares in Fonterra.

STRONG Alan John



I am an active angler and game bird hunter. Having grown up around Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere and the Selwyn River, I have experienced firsthand the pressures that have degraded our precious environment. Some difficult decisions are needed to ensure our grandchildren will have the same opportunities to fish and hunt in our fantastic outdoors.

As the current chair of the council (2 terms), I am proud of the progress and difficult decisions the council has made. In consultation with anglers and hunters, we have changed how we approach many aspects of our work. Among notable achievements, we have:

- Completed a large habitat restoration project to improve the productivity of the Glenariffe system in the Canterbury high country. This project involved working with landowners, farmers, ECan, and other agencies.
- In conjunction with EDS seeking clarification of whom is responsible for the WCO (water conservation order) on the Rakaia River. This work is nationally significant!
- Developing game bird and trout management plans and monitoring the salmon management plan for effectiveness.
- Advocated for improved governance of Fish and Game nationally and equitable funding for North Canterbury Fish and Game.

Fish and Game must effectively secure the future viability of our fisheries and game bird habitats. However, despite the progress we have made with the transformation of this region back to a **“jewel in the crown”** of Fish and Game, further work is needed therefore I am seeking your support for re-election.

Candidate Interest Statement

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TANNOCK Andy



- Founder of Hunting & Fishing New Zealand
- Chair of Game Bird Habitat Trust
- Foundation trustee of Hunters for Conservation
- Held freshwater fishing licences since age 6
- Held gamebird hunting licences since age 16
- 20+ years served as a Fish & Game councillor

On leaving school I trained as a field officer with Wellington Acclimatisation Society, moving on to manage the Westland Region. The business side of the outdoors then lured me into opening the first Hunting & Fishing New Zealand store. I subsequently franchised the concept, and 38 years on with 40 stores, the time was right to exit and prioritise being 'out there doing it'. I may be better known for my input into waterfowl hunting, but I'm also a keen freshwater angler who's worked in trout hatcheries, with drift diving teams, monitored spawning streams and been involved with water quality issues.

My appreciation of Lake Ellesmere culminated in 2021 when my wife Michelle and I purchased a lakeside property. Wanting more than just a family and friend hunting base, we sought a location from where we could participate in habitat restoration and wildlife conservation within the lake and its surrounds. If elected, my input will reflect the passion and respect I have for the wider fish and game resource in North Canterbury. Strong leadership is critical at a time when the valued introduced species critical to our angling and hunting heritage come under greater pressure. Not to mention threats arising from the Wildlife and Conservation Act reviews!

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