



CANDIDATE PROFILES

WELLINGTON
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.



BELL Kieran
Northern

I am a 31 year old sheep and beef farmer from Taihape and live with my partner Esther and my son Theo. I have been waterfowl hunting with family and friends since I was 10 years old and fly fishing for 3 years. Living in the upper Wellington region we are blessed with amazing rivers right on our doorstep, which has opened a completely new world for me and opportunities that we have for the great outdoors. What I may lack in life experience, I make up with enthusiasm. I spend hundreds of hours walking up rivers over the fishing season and spend time on my own property fencing off waterways, retiring wetlands and planting native trees for waterfowl habitat. With my agricultural background I hope to keep relationships strong between farmers and recreational hunters/anglers. With a country that relies heavily on the primary sector, it is important to me that farmers get recognised for their efforts in environmental improvement whilst still being economically viable. What we have in New Zealand is pretty special, a true outdoorsman's paradise. A position on the Fish & Game Council will enable me to be the voice of the next generation of hunters and anglers.

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.



BROWN Steve
Northern

First of all, I need to disclose that I am a fishing addict! I am a 40 year veteran of the Manawatu Fly Fishing Club and have represented NZ nine times in the Silver Flies team, twice as their captain.

I have previously served nine years on the Wellington F&G Council from the late 1990s and have other governance experience as a member of the Manawatu Master Builders executive, including being president for three years.

I am standing for a second term for the Wellington F&G Council to finish the work we started reviewing the sports fish management plan on liberalising fishing regulations. I still believe we are bogged down with rules rather than focusing on the bigger picture of how to manage the fishery sustainably to enable fishing for all. Making the rules around trout fishing complicated does nothing to encourage new people into fishing, nor does it save the fishery. We are making some great progress and I would like to continue to contribute my knowledge to this process and see this work through to its completion. Ultimately, I want to make fishing easier for all.

We also need to maintain a focus on protecting our rivers and fisheries for future anglers. It is us, the anglers that will continue to fight for freshwater and the more of us involved, the more politically powerful we will become.

Thank you for your support!

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 married to Rachel Keedwell, Chair, Horizons Regional Council.

COOK Jim
Northern



I am a keen angler and hunter and wish to continue to represent the best interests of hunters and anglers in the Wellington region.

Having been a councillor for the last four terms, I think it's important we have some continuity and experience amongst the elected governors for the next period of change that will strongly influence the future shape and direction of Fish & Game.

I am determined to maintain the best things of the Fish & Game system moving forward – that being representation of licence holders' interests while providing access to the resource – while also making improvements to how to achieve that. The system is unique in the world, based on 'user pays - user says' principles, and has provided an invaluable independent advocate to maintain the fishing and hunting resource, which has benefited all other species.

I feel I have a unique situation in that I'm out in the field every day, working amongst farmers every day, so have a pretty good handle on what's happening with our game bird populations, and habitat retention (and loss) in the region. This unique perspective also allows me to get general feedback of a wide range of attitudes and ideals towards Fish & Game – from both licence holders and the wider rural community.

I'm confident that I can have good input into helping define best outcomes for hunters and anglers from any changes to Fish & Game and I do this from a position of experience and continued strong advocacy.

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.



DEWAR Paul
Southern

If you are reading this profile, you are a Fish & Game licence holder who like me is passionate about your fishing or game bird hunting and deciding who to vote for in the upcoming elections.

As a dedicated fisherman and occasional hunter, I am again putting my name forward as a F&G councillor, I am semi-retired so have time available to give something back.

I am a self-employed businessman with considerable governance experience having been involved in several organisations, including chairman of a not-for-profit charity, board member and president of Sports Fly-Fishing NZ 15 plus years, captain of the NZ fly-fishing team for several years and currently a member of the technical board for the world sports fly-fishing body FIPS Mouche.

I have been chairman of the Wellington F&G Region for the last three years and have led the amalgamation between the Wellington and Taranaki Regions. This has enabled us to make savings in the cost of management and administration, so we have more funds and resources available for front line work to benefit you our licence holders. This work is not finished, with things like combining and simplifying regulations yet to be done.

Water condition and quantity in rivers, lakes and wetlands remains a high priority, along with access to the resource for game bird hunters and fishermen. These are things that we must improve and preserve for future generations and things I want to put more time and effort into.

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.



FRANCIS Malcolm

Southern

On arriving in New Zealand in late 1968 I discovered that this country offered people the opportunity of experiencing the best trout fishing in the world. I brought my first NZ trout fishing licences in 1970 and headed out onto the Wairau River at Spring Creek in Marlborough and caught my first trout. I have been hooked on trout fishing ever since.

I am seeking your support to be elected to the Wellington Fish and Game Council. I will promote the importance of working with both the GWRC and local councils to establish more family friendly 'managed fishing lakes' so that our young generation can enjoy the same opportunity as I had as a young boy growing up and gaining the passion for the sport of fishing.

One of my concerns is the impact of climate change and its impact on smaller streams where we are experiencing a decline in trout numbers during our 'drift dive surveys,' we need to be more proactive in how the natural habitat is being managed. One only needs to walk along the Waikanae River to see the buildup of gravel within the riverbed and the loss of deep pools which has an impact on both the native fish and trout migrations.

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.



HANCOCK Ben

Southern

While backcountry fly fishing is my main vice, I am an occasional gamebird shooter too. I was fishing before I could walk, with my father taking me out in a backpack carrier. I was raised on and still remain involved with my family's hill country sheep and beef farm in the South Wairarapa.

Care for the land, environment and rural communities has been consistent throughout my personal and professional life. My broad holistic perspective is built on community governance roles, an ecological academic career and employment across primary industries – especially where the environmental and economic pressures meet.

I have a PhD in ecology and ecosystem services. Previously, I have worked on threatened species conservation with the Department of Conservation and my international research included research on hunting impacts on gamebirds in the USA.

My governance experience began with community environmental and conservation roles and local rugby club governance. This has been elevated with leadership development opportunities such as the Nuffield Scholarship and completing Director of Institutes financials and governance essentials qualifications.

I have a collaborative style that I expanded with my Nuffield research report that explored finding consensus or pathways forward on polarised issues to ensure all parties are brought along and give ownership to those involved.

I have a broad and relevant expertise to create genuinely sustainable and enduring solutions – that are principled, accurate and informed.

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.

HASLETT Steve

Northern



Fish and Game remains at an interesting, even critical point. Although not all its recommendations have Fish and Game NZ Council (NZC) support, implementation of many remaining changes in the April 2021 Ministerial Review is complicated by history, internal structures and the need for legislation. We need to clarify further what structure and financial model offers the best future. There has been considerable work done at both national and regional level, but more is needed.

Wellington and Taranaki are so far the only regions working toward amalgamation, which I support. I also support cost-based accounting for allocation between and within regions, rather than the present system based on historical expenditure.

I have been a Wellington regional councillor since 2021 and the region's appointee to the NZC since January 2023. I live in Palmerston North. I fly fish regularly. I don't hunt, have no guns and don't hold a current firearms licence, but I recognise game hunting and angling are both integral parts of Fish and Game.

I am one of the three member NZC Research Subcommittee, which now has greater focus on research related to strategy and the environment for fish and game. I am an emeritus professor of statistics at Massey University. I have 40+ years' experience providing support of projects including ecology, zoology, botany, marine and freshwater biology, economics and accounting. I have broad experience in university, government and club administration and on committees.

What I offer is my experience and a voice for well informed, evidence-based decisions.

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.

INGLIS Terry

Eastern



I am an avid game bird hunter and part time fisherman based in the amazing outdoor playground that is the Wairarapa.

Having grown up enjoying these fantastic pastimes for over 4 decades, I felt it was time to put back some time and effort to ensure that today's and future generations get to experience and enjoy what I have been privileged to do.

I am passionate about protecting and developing our game bird population, spending many hours on predator and pest control in and around their habitats. This has also allowed the native bird population on those properties to thrive.

I have been involved with the Fish and Game duck banding program, assisting with banding and recording in the Wairarapa, Manawatu and southern Hawkes Bay area over the previous 2 years. This has been enjoyable and has also given me a little more insight as to the fantastic work carried out by your regional F&G team.

Being approachable, open to learning and given your support I am looking forward to representing you and your favourite outdoor pursuit/s on the Wellington Region Fish and Game Council.

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.

MCGREGOR Andrew
Northern



I am a current Wellington Fish and Game councillor in my second three-year term. I am a very passionate waterfowl hunter having been introduced to the sport from a young age. Over thirty gamebird seasons later my love of the sport, the birds I hunt and their habitat is as strong as ever and I now get to enjoy taking my children along and introducing them to the sport I love.

Most of my gamebird hunting is done on public land and maintaining public access for gamebird hunting throughout our region is very important to me. I am keen to continue to be a part of the dedicated team at Wellington Fish and Game working on behalf of licence holders for continued access to public land and water ways.

I enjoy trout fishing throughout the summer months particularly in the backcountry rivers and streams. I also enjoy taking my kids out on our local rivers and get a great deal of satisfaction out of teaching them how to fish.

Over the years I have been fortunate enough to have had access on many private farms for both gamebird hunting and trout fishing. Some of these land owners have spent considerable time and money on gamebird habitat enhancement. I think communication and maintaining good relationships between Fish and Game and farmers is important for the future of our sport.

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 an employee of Manawatu Hunting and Fishing.
- I am a Lake Wairarapa stand holder.



MCINTYRE Richard

Southern

My name is Richard McIntyre and together with my wife and two children I share milk 450 cows and lease a 180ha dry stock farm in the Horowhenua.

I am a proud farmer, a passionate game bird hunter and an occasional freshwater angler (I own a fly rod, but I'm not very coordinated with it). I have held a gamebird licence ever since I could hold a shotgun.

I have just completed my second term as a Wellington Region Fish and Game councillor and seek your support for another term. I believe that this next term will be critical in ensuring that the Ministerial Review is implemented in a way that retains licence holder representation while ensuring good governance.

Like many farmers, I am an environmentalist and a conservationist. I firmly believe that Fish and Game's goals of improved water quality, habitat protection/restoration and greater access can be better achieved through working with farmers, rather than in conflict with them. I'm pleased with the progress that has been made in this area over the last few years.

Having completed a nutrient management course at Massey University, I have a good understanding of nutrient management and the Overseer nutrient modelling program.

My experience in governance and representation includes roles as chair of the New Zealand Dairy Industry Awards Trust, Federated Farmers Dairy Council chair and board member. I have also completed the Fonterra Governance Development Programme.

Thank you for your support.

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:

- Federated Farmers Dairy Council chair and board member – responsible for the policy portfolios of: animal welfare, rural policing, firearms, immigration and employment, domestic commerce and competition, wild animal management.
- I am currently a candidate to be a farmer elected director of DairyNZ.

PASSEY Aaron
Eastern



My name is Aaron Passey. I am a 42 year old farmer from Dannevirke, and I am seeking re-election to the Wellington Fish & Game Council. There are a lot of issues to be dealt with by Fish & Game at present and I believe a strong, stable council will help steer the Wellington Region on the best possible path moving forward. A large number of farmer's fish and shoot and it is imperative that the rural licence holders are fairly represented on the council.

I feel Wellington Fish & Game needs to continue to build on improving its relationships with rural landowners, and continue to build on promoting wetland habitat creation on private land. Fish & Game has expertise in this area and knowledge of funding opportunities and it could prove to be a big win for both sides.

Access to public land for water fowling is coming under more and more pressure and it is vital that Wellington Fish & Game continue to fight to maintain existing access and provide new access. Fish & Game need to be sitting at the table with all the governing bodies for public land and water bodies, continuing to fight for our current use rights and highlighting the environmental work we do.

I hope to be able to continue with what I have achieved over the last 3 years and build on it for a brighter future for the Wellington Region.

Candidate Interest Statement

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

TAYLOR Damon
Eastern



I am 47 years old and I have been actively involved in freshwater angling since the age of 15. I enjoy all parts of the sport, including fresh and saltwater fly-fishing, fly tying, rod building, and competitive sport fly fishing, and have at times been an upland game and waterfowl hunter. Due to a career in the military, I have lived and fished all over New Zealand, however, Wellington region is now my home. As a result I now spend a lot of time fishing the rivers and streams of the region. I am interested in promoting, protecting, and enhancing some of the great freshwater fisheries that exist within this region, as well as finding ways to attract new anglers in the sport of fly fishing. If elected, I would bring a strong background in planning, critical thinking, project management, and governance to the Wellington Fish and Game Council, as well as bringing a new perspective to the council – having never sat on in it before. My main motivation for running for council is to be able to give back in a meaningful way to a sport that has provided me with so much over the last several decades.

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.

YANKO Jennifer
Northern



As a keen hunter and angler, I would like to put myself forward for election to the Wellington Fish & Game Council for a second term.

Over the last three years, our council have faced many decisions that will effect Fish and Game long term. My re-election will mean support for the next generation of councillors, knowledge of projects already underway and a familiar face to get the voice of licence holders heard.

I am an advocate for breaching the divide between hunters and non-hunters by promoting the benefits of wetland restoration, and better advertising the work undertaken by our incredible regional team. I believe our hunting opportunities should be viewed as a by-product of effective wetland management, pest control and habitat enhancement.

Hunters and anglers are true conservationists and by showing we care for our habitat we can ensure our hunting and fishing is accepted by the wider community and continues for years to come.

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.

