

Central Link

He karere tā te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Whakaahurangi News from the Stratford District Council

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

"Taking one financial burden away from families and allowing the focus to be solely on the benefit of sports, was a huge plus."
- Fund recipient

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is now open

Apply to the Rural Travel Fund and get your junior sports teams to local competitions.

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund helps to pay for travel to local sporting competitions for rural teams of tamariki and rangatahi aged between 5 and 18 years.

The support's not available for individual players, but it can be a real help to schools and sporting clubs who want to give their junior teams the opportunity to travel and play in regular competitions.

- For eligibility criteria and an application form, visit Stratford.govt.nz/RTF
- Applications close on **Friday 17 October 2025** for summer sports. The fund will open again in 2026.



In Council Chambers

Key outcomes from council meetings held on Tuesday, 26 August.

Water Services Delivery Plan adopted for submission to DIA

Elected Members formally adopted the Water Services Delivery Plan to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) for review and approval.

Approval by the DIA is the final step in the Local Water Done Well reforms process. If we're successful, Council can then deliver on the plan to establish an in-house stand-alone business unit as the future delivery model for water, wastewater and stormwater services in Stratford district. To view the plan visit:

Yoursay.Stratford.govt.nz/Local-Water-Done-Well

Victoria Park Reserve Management Plan

Council's Policy & Services Committee heard submissions about Victoria Park's green space beside the Stratford Bike Park.

Thanks to everyone who made a submission and spoke.

There was a range of views on what should be done with the green space. The top three were to keep it as a green space (46% of submissions), use it for an extension of the bike park (20%), or a water-play splash area (12%).

After deliberating, Elected Members approved the Reserve Management Plan (RMP), choosing to keep the green space as it is now.

The final RMP will be adopted at the Council's next meeting on 9 September.



RSVP now for Stratford's free International Day of Older Persons celebrations!

International Day of Older Persons is on 1 October. It's a time to celebrate the contribution of our 65+ community members, raise awareness of the challenges they face, and support ageing positively.

Stratford will once again mark the occasion with a free event from **11am on Monday 29 September**, for Stratford district's kaumātua and older people.

The celebration will feature BINGO with prizes, live music, a delicious lunch, and plenty of opportunities for laughter and connection.

SDC Community Engagement & Development Lead Anna-Louise Crane says, "We hold this popular event every year and it's always a lot of fun. If it's your first time coming, or you're by yourself, don't worry! You'll find Stratford's friendliest bunch of people there."



"Come along and let us treat you for a day!"

Please RSVP for catering purposes by Thursday 25 September.

- Phone 06 765 6099 and ask to register for the International Day of Older Persons event
- Email Anna-Louise at acrane@stratford.govt.nz

Help decide the future of our Māori Ward, Whakaahurangi Stratford

In the Māori Ward Referendum you'll vote to either keep or remove our Māori Ward for the next 2 elections in 2028 and 2031.

You'll vote in the referendum at the same time as you vote in our council elections. Voting opens on 9 September and closes at noon on Saturday 11 October.

The candidate who wins the 1 Māori Ward seat in our upcoming elections will sit on council until the next elections in 2028. After that, the future of the ward is up to all of us.

Wards help people get representation around the council table.

Stratford district is divided into three wards:

- Māori (1 seat)
- Rural (4 seats)
- Urban (6 seats)

This helps ensure there's a good mix of people around the council table, representing the different areas and interests within our community.

Our Māori Ward gives Māori community members a voice in council, just like the Rural Ward ensures rural communities are represented, and the same goes for the Urban Ward.

Although councillors are elected through a ward, they swear an oath to serve the whole district. That gives us a team of people in council all working for the good of the district, but with each person able to bring their own unique perspective to the table.

1 vote in our Māori Ward has roughly the same weight as 1 vote in our Rural or Urban wards.

The number of seats in each ward is set using a formula that ensures a vote in one ward is roughly equal in value to a vote in another.

We have 1 Māori Ward seat. That's based on the total number of councillors (excluding the mayor), the proportion of voters on our Māori roll compared to the general roll, and fair representation rules under local government legislation.

Things can change over time, so to make sure we continue to achieve fair representation for our district, we carry out a Representation Review every six years which looks at the total number of councillors and how they're elected. Our next review will be in 2027.

People on our Māori roll have 1 ward vote and 1 vote for mayor.

If you're voting in the Māori Ward you don't also get to vote for your preferred Rural or Urban ward candidates. Just like if you're voting in the Rural Ward, you don't also get to vote in the Māori Ward, even if you whakapapa Māori.



Is your bush getting in everyone's business?



Could your plants be making life tricky for people walking or driving past, especially those with mobility or sight challenges?

Spring means lots of new growth in the garden, so it's a good time to check your property boundary.

- ✓ Trim vegetation back to the property boundary so the full footpath or grass berm is clear.
- ✓ Maintain 2.5m clearance above footpaths and 4.5m above roads.

Is overhanging vegetation stopping you from getting around safely? Let us know on 06 765 6099, StratfordDC@stratford.govt.nz, or the Antenna app.

For the full rules, visit Stratford.govt.nz/Overgrown

Library & Visitor Information Centre

Phone 06 765 5403

Monday – Friday: 8.30am – 5pm

Saturday: 9am – 1pm

Sunday & Public Holidays: Closed

Stratford Transfer Station

Phone 06 765 8500

Monday: 12pm – 5pm

Thursday: 10am – 1pm

Friday – Sunday: 12pm – 5pm

Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre

Phone 06 765 6275

Monday – Friday: 6am – 6.30pm

Saturday: 7am – 5pm

Sunday & Public Holidays: 10am – 5pm

Glockenspiel

Performs daily at 10am, 1pm, 3pm, and 7pm

3 September 2025