

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



Congrats to Aotearoa's newest citizens!

At our latest Citizenship Ceremony, District Mayor Neil Volzke presided over a ceremony to confirm New Zealand's latest citizens.

Congratulations and nau mai, haere mai to: Karthik Chitneni, Liam Dagg, Graham De'One, Leandr  Eksteen, Yolandi Koegelenberg, Dalton  Koegelenberg, Laura Motilal, Venish Motilal, and Valandiel Motilal!

STRATFORD DISTRICT

Mayoral Christmas GIFT APPEAL

1 - 18 DECEMBER

Make someone's Christmas truly magic!

If you have a little extra to share this festive season, leave a gift, treat, or something special under the Christmas trees at the Service Centre or Stratford Library & Visitor Information Centre.

Mayor Volzke will put on his special red hat to deliver your donation to local kids, families, and individuals that need a bit of extra holiday cheer.

The last day to donate is Thursday 18 December.

Welcome donations (no need to wrap them) include:

- Toys and family board games
- Books and new toiletries (for all ages)
- Non-perishable food and festive treats, such as Christmas cake, lollies, biscuits, and crackers
- Summer-fun gear, like sports equipment, outdoor games, and beach toys

Pre-loved soft toys cannot be accepted, but you can donate other pre-loved toys or books if they're clean and in excellent condition.

For info on business sponsorship or making a cash donation, visit Stratford.govt.nz/GiftAppeal



SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN JUST DROPPED!

The summer school holidays are almost here, and with them, lots of free and low-cost opportunities for kids to have fun in our district.

Grab your copy of our Cool Holiday Programme booklet from:

- Stratford Library & Visitor Information Centre
- Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre
- Service Centre on Miranda Street
- Stratford.govt.nz/Holidays (scan the qr code)

From crafts at the library and our daily pool party to the festive Christmas Hunt and the Stratford Kids' Trout Fishing Day, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Happy holidays!



Wai o Rua shutdown in January for scheduled pool liner upkeep

Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre will be closed from **10 to 25 January** so we can carry out scheduled maintenance.

It's time to check the health of our pool lining, and this means emptying the pools, checking for any necessary repairs, cleaning, re-filling, and then testing to ensure the water is ready for normal splashy programming!

This is a big job and requires a 2-week shutdown to get through each step in the process.

While we're closed to the public, our team will also be working on other maintenance jobs, as well as deep cleaning, training and planning for the 2026 year.

There will be no public access into Wai o Rua during the closure, but you can still get in touch with us. We'll be available to chat on the phone and respond to emails between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday over the closure period.

You might be wondering why we're doing this in the summer holidays. Good question! January is the best time to do this work because ground water levels are lower, which means there is less risk of external damage to the pool liners when emptying the pools.



January is also historically our least busy month as well, with families away enjoying the school holiday break, or making use of the free outdoor pools available in the region (or at the nearest beach!).

We want to cause as little disruption as possible to our normal pool programme, and doing this in January means we don't impact our busy school term visits and the Wai o Rua Swim School classes.

While we wish we didn't need to close, it's important for us to carry out this maintenance to ensure our facility continues to be fit for you and your wh nau to enjoy for years to come.

We appreciate your patience and understanding while this is underway. If you have any questions, please contact us on 06 765 6275 or email WaiORua@Stratford.govt.nz.

Fairy tale ending for Scarecrow Trail

Of all the creations in the Stratford Scarecrow Trail, one was judged to be just right!

Congratulations to 'Bears of Fairbank', winner of the People's Choice Award 2025.

And a big shout-out to our joint People's Choice runners-up; The Un-Scary Scarecrow by Maryann Rest Home and Papat  nuku by Little Steps Kindy

Thank you to everyone who made this year's trail fit for a storybook.

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

10 December 2025