

Central Link

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

24 Hour Phone 06 765 6099 | StratfordDC@stratford.govt.nz | Stratford.govt.nz

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O
WHAKAAHURANGI
STRATFORD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Conversations

Join us for a presentation from a local speaker followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Upcoming sessions

14 November, 11am Seed Savers
28 November, 12pm GMC Chiropractor
12 December, 11am Salvation Army Men's Shed

**Every second Friday in
the Stratford Library**



Rates invoices are out

If you receive your rates invoice by email, it should have arrived already. If you haven't received it, please check your junk or spam folder. If it's still missing, email Rates@stratford.govt.nz so we can check your email address and provide a copy of your invoice.

If you receive your invoice by mail, it'll arrive any day now (if it hasn't come already).

This installment of rates is due on 26 November. If you have any questions, please call 06 765 6099 or email Rates@stratford.govt.nz.

Make the switch from paper rates invoices to email invoices at Stratford.govt.nz/RatesByEmail



Your Way | Kia Roha

FREE Hearing Therapy Service

- Tuesday 18 November, 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Centennial Restrooms, Fenton Street
- **Bookings essential at 0800 008 011**

www.yourwaykiaroha.nz/hearing



Visit the Cheshire Cat and 50 other creations on the Stratford Scarecrow Trail. It's one of the biggest scavenger hunts in Taranaki, with the chance to win a share of over \$2,000 worth of prizes! Get your map from the library, pool, service centre, or Stratford.govt.nz/Scarecrow

Stratford district gets green light to retain in-house water services

The Department of Internal Affairs has approved Stratford District Council's Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP), allowing us to now proceed with establishing an in-house business unit to manage the district's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services.

Following community consultation in May 2025, Elected Members decided to retain water services in-house rather than join a regional water services organisation with New Plymouth District Council and South Taranaki District Council.

Mayor Neil Volzke says, "Stratford residents made it clear that they want their water managed locally. It's great that the DIA agrees with the plan, and now we can get to work."

"The three waters reform journey has been long, and over the last 12-24 months staff have been knee deep in analysis to determine what's feasible for our community. This is a major milestone and one the team should be very proud of," says Neil.

Chief Executive Sven Hanne says, "Sustainable water services, both environmentally and financially, are hugely important to our community. Our WSDP outlines the best way forward for managing this important resource on behalf of our district, and we're ready to crack on with it."

"We'll now move forward with Council's staged implementation plan to support service delivery and compliance, while the business unit is being established."

"The unit is set to be in place by 1 July 2027, so while it won't be a short process, we'll continue to keep our community informed every step of the way."

Keep up to date with progress at YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz



River swim? Check the water quality online first

Taranaki beaches, lakes, and rivers are back under the microscope this summer.

Every week until the end of March, Taranaki Regional Council staff will collect water samples from popular regional swim spots, including the Pātea River at King Edward Park Scout Den, to test for faecal bacteria that might cause illnesses like gastroenteritis, respiratory infections, and skin irritations.

Before you or your dog jumps in the water:

- ✓ **Visit TRC.govt.nz/Can-I-Swim-Here.** Water quality results are updated online towards the end of each week. Scan the QR code and bookmark it now to make it easy to check.

- ✓ **Look for signage** around the Scout Den and other popular spots along the Pātea River. If it's not safe to swim or extra caution is advised, signage will be in place to let people know.

- ✓ **Do a quick sense check.** If the water looks discoloured or cloudy, smells off, or there's been heavy rain in the past three days, it's best to come back another time.

- ✓ **Keep your dog safe too.** Animals can be affected by poor water quality. If your dog loves a splash, check online before they jump in.



Frustration grows as \$2,000 worth of plants stolen over 6 months

Council staff and contractors are becoming increasingly frustrated as their efforts to beautify the district's town centre, parks, and reserves are being undermined by plant thieves.

Over the past six months, stolen plants have amounted to a wholesale value of more than \$2,000.

Parks and Reserves Officer Melanie McBain says it's clear that popular garden flowers are being deliberately uprooted from public areas by thieves, either for use in private gardens or to be sold.

"Our team has worked hard to make Stratford's parks some of the best in the district, and we've had great feedback from the community about how beautiful our public spaces and garden beds are looking," says Melanie.

That's why it's so disheartening to see plant theft at the level we're experiencing now. We can't recall it ever being this bad, and it's coming at a real cost to our ratepayers."

Plants have most recently gone missing from King Edward and Victoria Parks, as well as from around the Centennial Rest Rooms and War Memorial Centre.

Melanie says, "If you see suspicious activity around planted areas in public spaces, or notice plants are missing, please call us straight away on 06 765 6099 - day or night. You can also report it through our free Antenna app and include photos."

"If someone is further damaging public property, please call 105, the Police non-emergency number. Thanks for helping us look after our shared spaces."

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

12 November 2025