

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

2025 Wrapped-Up

You showed up, Whakaahurangi Stratford.
Here's your year, all wrapped-up in the numbers
and mahi that kept us moving forward.

And the journey got a lot smoother

- ✓ Around **198km** of unsealed roads got graded, we completed **26km** of resealing on sealed roads, and responded to **314** landslips.

You made a splash this year

- ✓ **82,787** visitors to Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre so far this year
- ✓ **1,880** enrolments for Wai o Rua Swim School across four school terms

And still found time for crafts and a good book

- ✓ **44,505** books issued from the Library
- ✓ **8,119** e-book, e-audio and e-magazine issues from the Library
- ✓ **272** preschoolers attended storytime and 567 tamariki came to 3:30 Club at the Library
- ✓ **94% satisfaction** score for Library services from the residents' survey

You're passionate about getting out in nature, especially with your doggie pals

- ✓ **90% satisfaction** score for parks and walkways from the residents' survey
- ✓ **2,085** dogs registered to date in the Stratford district

And you're going other places too!

- ✓ **99** people were helped with upskilling, support, and apprenticeships, as well as into part time and full time work through MTFJ Workforce Programme

You don't waste opportunities to be kind to the planet

- ✓ **283** tons of recyclable items diverted from landfill this year
- ✓ **182** tons of glass recycled
- ✓ **6** projects were awarded grants through our Waste Levy Fund
- ✓ Stratford schools saved over **135,000** milk bottle lids from landfill as part of the "Send ya lids to School" competition, with the total continuing to grow

And you know how to give kudos where it's due

- ✓ **7** local champions were acknowledged through the Citizen Awards

Thanks for an amazing year! From all the Council staff and contractors behind the numbers, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a great year ahead.

You were there when it mattered most

- ✓ **53.7%** of eligible Stratford district voters voted in the local election, the highest percentage in Taranaki
- ✓ Highest number of people standing for council in recent history, with **4 new Elected Members** sworn in to Council in October
- ✓ Consulted on the future of water services delivery as part of Central Government's Local Water Done Well reforms, receiving **184 submissions** with overwhelming community support for a stand-alone in-house model

You're going paperless like a pro

- ✓ We received and followed up on **435** reports from you through Antenno
- ✓ **1,409** people are receiving their rates invoices by email and helping us reduce printing costs, now we just need the other **3,743** ratepayers to do the same

But there's still nothing like a good chat

- ✓ Our Service Centre answered **12,211** phone calls so far this calendar year
- ✓ And talked to **9,159** people who came in person

You're building something special

- ✓ **62** resource consents were issued for the calendar year to date



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Mayor Neil Volzke

As 2025 draws to a close, it's a good time to pause and take stock of what we've achieved together, and what lies ahead. This year has brought its share of challenges, but also opportunities to strengthen our district and plan for the future.

After sixteen years in the role as District Mayor, I am always amazed how resolute, supportive, and

passionate local people are and for me, it is one of the key motivators that helps make the job of the Mayor so rewarding and fulfilling.

There have been many government initiated changes this year. But despite all the changes, criticisms, negativity, and turmoil going on in the world that surrounds us, there are many great people in our region who excel, are successful and contribute positively to the well-being of our community.

A council highlight this year was signing off our water services delivery plan and having this accepted by the Department of Internal Affairs.

It follows six years of development work and is a crucial decision for this community as we finally move towards the implementation stage of this project.

The other highlight was the October council election, which resulted in four new councillors being elected and the appointment of a new deputy mayor.

As Xmas approaches, I remind myself that while it

is a time for giving and celebration, we need to take time to think of the number of families who are less fortunate than ourselves.

I sense that 2026 will see improvements and I hope we can all look to the New Year with some optimism.

As always, this year's Mayoral Christmas gift appeal has been well supported, and we are grateful to those who have donated. This week I have the job of playing Santa and distributing the gifts to local families, which is always a highlight of the year.

Looking ahead to 2026, I'm confident that with the same spirit of cooperation and generosity we've seen this year, we can meet whatever comes our way. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making Stratford a great place to live, whether through volunteering, supporting local initiatives, or simply looking out for one another.

On behalf of Debbie and myself, please stay safe, enjoy the festive season, and have a very Merry Christmas.

Mayor Neil Volzke

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

17 December 2025



Opening Hours

Stratford District Council operating hours over the Christmas and New Year period.

Happy Holidays!

We hope you have a fantastic break during the festive season. To help you get organised, here you'll find the holiday hours for council facilities.

What if something urgent comes up?

If you have any urgent enquiries, please call **06 765 6099** at any time.

Our phone line is staffed **24 hours a day, 365 days of the year**, even when our physical office is closed.

Council Service Centre

Phone **06 765 6099** - call anytime for urgent issues

- Wednesday 24 December: 8.30am - 12 noon
- Thursday 25 December - Sunday 4 January (inclusive): Closed
- Monday 5 January: 8.30am - 4.30pm (back to normal hours)

Library & Visitor Information Centre

Phone **06 765 5403**

- Wednesday 24 December: 8.30am - 1pm
- Thursday 25 December - Sunday 4 January (inclusive): Closed
- Monday 5 January: 8.30am - 5pm (back to normal hours)

Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre

Phone **06 765 6275**

- Wednesday 24 December: 6am - 3pm
- Thursday 25 - Friday 26 December (inclusive): Closed
- Saturday 27 - Tuesday 30 December (inclusive): Normal hours, see below
- Wednesday 31 December: 6am - 3pm
- Thursday 1 - Friday 2 January (inclusive): Closed
- Saturday 3 January: 7am - 5pm (back to normal hours)

Normal pool hours:

- Monday - Friday: 6am - 6.30pm
- Saturday: 7am - 5pm
- Sunday & Public Holidays: 10am - 5pm

Group Fitness classes will take a break from **22 December 2025 to 26 January**.

Wai o Rua is closing temporarily in January for maintenance

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

We're due to check the health of our pool lining. 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!

Read more at WaiORua.govt.nz or scan the QR code.



Captain's Log

Stardate: Week 1 of the School Holidays

The Junior Cadets are now all affected by the cryptic 6-7 space virus. Vital signs remain stable, though snack consumption has reached astronomic levels. Whether snacks are the cause of the virus remains unknown; further investigation is underway.

Senior Officers are attempting to provide educational enrichment exercises; however, the virus may impair cognition, as all activities have been declared "too boring to understand, 6-7." Cadets are instead choosing to stare at the ship's display panels for most of each planetary cycle.

We must set course at all possible speed to the library, Service Centre, or pool facility for a full programme of holiday activities.

If those destinations prove too far, Stratford.govt.nz/Holidays must suffice.

Further updates will be logged as the situation evolves.



Calling all kids 13-years-old & under!

Find the icons on
**Stratford's 2025
Christmas Hunt**
& be in to win prizes!

Get your entry worksheet from
Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre
or the **Stratford Library & Visitor
Information Centre** and return it by
12pm Sat 10 Jan.

Good luck!



Looking for
Christmas gifts?

Check out the awesome
range of swim gear for kids
and grown-ups at
Wai o Rua!

