

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



Congratulations to Scarecrow Trail winners and highly commended!

The Stratford Scarecrow Trail may be officially over for another year, but we've still got plenty to enjoy. Most scarecrows will remain up until 1 December!

While we're still counting votes before we announce the People's Choice award recipient, we have our category winners and highly commended makers to cheer for. So, without further ado, our winners!

Stratford Business Association Business Category

- **Winner:** Pioneer Village with Albert (# 11) - pictured. **Highly Commended:** Maryann Rest Home with The Un-Scarey - Scarecrow (# 10)

CMK Accountants Open Category

- **Winner:** Midhirst Scouts with Kayaking Scout (#14). **Highly Commended:** The Sextus Family with Grinchy Grab 'n' Go (#30)

New World Stratford Primary School Category

- **Winner:** Pembroke School with Red Riding Hood and Co. (#48). **Highly Commended:** St Joseph's School with Te Anuhe Tino Hiakai (#51)

Fulton Hogan Pre-School Category

- **Winner:** Stratford Play Centre with Pebbles the Play Centre Octopus (#36). **Highly Commended:** Stratford Community Childcare Centre with Kaitiaki o te whenua (#38)

Mitre 10 Stratford Best Use of Upcycling

- **Winner:** St John Youth with Dare Devil Dave (#21). **Highly Commended:** Alice Patrick with Sophie the Dragon (#46)

Thank you to everyone who took part. Once again, we were blown away by all the entries. We laughed, we got spooked, we felt joy, and we wondered "how did they do that?!"

And a big thank you to our category sponsors, and our event supporter the Taranaki Electricity Trust!



Annual Report and Summary Annual Report for 2024/25 now online

Visit Stratford.govt.nz/AnnualPlansAndReports to view our latest Annual Report and Summary. These documents show Council's progress on Long Term Plan objectives and outline our current financial position.

Make someone's Christmas shine bright! The annual Mayoral Christmas Gift Appeal begins on Monday 1 December



Right now, Christmas trees are going up across Stratford district, kids are excitedly writing their wish lists for Santa, and grown-ups are planning for the holidays ahead. Yet for those who don't have much to spare for gifts or goodies, the festive season can bring more stress than cheer.

That's why District Mayor Neil Volzke is encouraging people to brighten someone's Christmas by placing gift donations **under the Christmas trees** at the council's **Service Centre** and **Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre** from **Monday 1 December** to **Thursday 18 December 2025**.

"The Mayoral Christmas Gift Appeal is a tradition that's been going strong for over 65 years. It may have the word 'Mayoral' in the title, but it's the community that's at the heart of it," says Mayor Volzke.

"We're a district that comes together and looks after each other, and that's shown year after year in how generously people give, so others can enjoy a happy Christmas."

"I pop on my Santa hat and personally deliver the gift parcels, and seeing the smiles and hearing the absolutely delighted surprise is always the highlight of the season."



Welcome donations to put under the Christmas trees at the Stratford Library and Service Centre include:

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



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

Business sponsorship is welcome, as are cash donations to help top up the presents under the Christmas trees.

Cash donations can be made to the following account, using 'Mayoral' as the reference:

SDC Account : 15-3947-0221272-010

For any questions, or a receipt for a cash donation, people can contact Community Development and Engagement Lead Anna-Louise Crane on 06 765 6099 or by email to ACrane@stratford.govt.nz

"Thank you, Stratford, and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas ahead!"

Come and see us at the Royal A&P Show this weekend!



The Royal A&P Show, hosted by Stratford A&P, is on 29 - 30 November, from 9am to 4pm at the Flint Road East showgrounds.

It's going to be a HUGE event with plenty to see and do, but there are LOTS of reasons to stop by the Council tent:

- **PICK UP A BINGO CARD TO ENTER OUR SUMMER PRIZE DRAW**
- **SPIN THE WHEEL FOR GIVEAWAYS**
- **CHAT WITH COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR DISTRICT**
- **DISCOVER THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER**

See you there!

STRATFORD CHRISTMAS PARADE ON FRIDAY!

Come to a Christmas parade fit for royalty and soak up the festive fun on Friday 28 November!

- Entertainment in Prospero Place from 5pm
- The parade at 6.30pm with carols around 7pm

Don't forget about parade road closures between 4.30pm and 7.30pm on:

- Miranda Street between Regan Street and Fenton Street
- Fenton Street between Portia Street and Juliet Street
- Broadway (SH3) between Seyton Street and Page Street



Stay on Santa's good list!

Keep safe and remain behind the marked line during the Christmas Parade.

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

26 November 2025