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

Nominated your local champion yet?

Nominations for our annual Citizen Awards close on Friday 29 May 2026.

Nomination forms for both the 2026 Citizen Award and Youth Citizen Award (recognising our 12-24 year old champions) are available to download at Stratford.govt.nz or printed copies can be picked up at Council's Service Centre, the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre and Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre.

If you need help with the nomination process please contact us on 06 765 6099.

Councils given three months to propose the future of local government

Last week, Central Government told local councils across New Zealand to lead their own local government reform, in collaboration with other councils as part of the Government's Head Start pathway, or wait for the Government to "do it to you."

Taranaki's mayoral forum, which includes the three district council mayors and the regional council chair, met last Thursday to discuss the reform programme and plan a way forward.

District Mayor Neil Volzke says, "While local government was expecting an update on the Simplifying Local Government reform programme, the detail of this wasn't known until Tuesday last week. In response, we broadly welcome the changes to the original proposal, which provide space for locally-led solutions and keep regional councillors in place until the October 2028 elections. This allows the district mayors to focus on the long-term future of local government in our region, and now that we know Central Government's agenda, we need to crack on and identify what's best for our communities."

"At last week's mayoral forum we agreed to take a draft agreement, which will propose how the Taranaki councils will work together in this process, to our respective councils for discussion. It's important to note that no decisions have been made on the process yet, or on what a future local government model will look like for our district."

"The Government has given us a short timeframe to work up a proposal, and within that time we're very interested in seeking views from our community on what's most important to consider in the process. This will help ensure that our proposal is informed by the aspirations of our communities."

"We'll continue to keep you updated as we work through this reform programme, and encourage you to participate in opportunities to share your view."

The best way to stay informed on this is through our Your Say Stratford website or the Antenno App. If you haven't already registered, please do so at YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz/Register

Community Conversations at the Library

Every month the Stratford Library hosts a local organisation to share a bit about themselves, and what they do to support our communities.

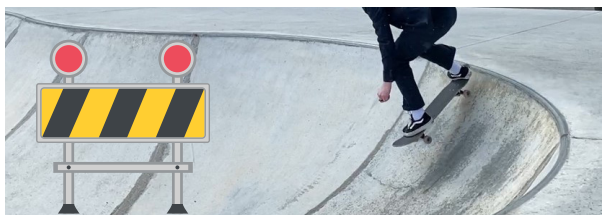
This month's session is on **Friday 15 May, from 11am** and welcomes **Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust.** Come along for a cuppa and chat to learn more. If you have a suggestion for our Community Conversation events, let Jane R at the Library know. Email **library@stratford.govt.nz** or phone 06 765 5403.

Design a Puanga flag

Our annual Puanga design a flag competition for tamariki and rangatahi closes on Friday 22 May.

Entry forms are available to download at Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga or pick one up from the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre.

The competition is open to young people aged from 5 to 18 years. Winning entries will fly down Broadway as part of our 2026 Puanga celebrations and as well as receive a $50 prize pack.



Construction at Skate Park to improve accessibility

This week, work starts on improving accessibility at the Victoria Park Skate Park.

This includes the construction of a new ramp connecting the skate bowl to the rest of the skate park and extension of the retaining wall next to the pathway.

While the work is underway, the path and construction area will be cordoned off and closed to the public.

Access will be available to the remainder of the skate park outside of the construction site, but please take care and follow any directional signage in place.

This work is a direct result of feedback from skate park users and is expected to be complete by June 2026, weather permitting. We appreciate your patience and understanding while these improvements are carried out.

Age Concern Taranaki delivers their Steady as You Go class, which is available Friday mornings at the Senior Citizens Hall, Regan Street.

Thank you to everyone who attended the **Living Well After 55 Expo** on 8 and 9 May.

We had over 40 organisations on display at the expo, and attendees enjoyed everything from activities like indoor bowls and Tai Chi to blood pressure and hearing checks, and talks on enduring power of attorneys and advance care plans.

A big thank you to Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust, TOI Foundation and Taranaki Electricity Trust for making this event happen.

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

13 May 2026