

Central Link

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



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Youth council seeks members for 2027



If you are 12-24 years old and live, work or go to school in the Stratford district, apply to become part of the Stratford District Youth Council (SDYC).

SDYC is all about making youth voices heard. Members make new friends, can experience once in a lifetime opportunities and have loads of fun hosting events for youth.

SDYC Co-Chair Hunta Ngatai-Northcott reflects on his time in the youth council and says "Looking back now, I'm really glad I took the chance and applied, because SDYC has given me so many opportunities that I probably never would have put myself forward for otherwise."

Applications close on 27 October 2026. Apply at Stratford.govt.nz/SDYC

STRATFORD School Holiday Programme Spring 2026

The School Holiday Programme is out!

Pick up a copy of our School Holiday Programme from the Stratford Library & Visitor Information Centre, Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic centre or from our service centre on Miranda Street. You can also find it online at Stratford.govt.nz/holidays

Tip- Check which activities require you to book and make sure you get in early to avoid missing out!

Some highlights

- Splash Bash at Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre
- The Amazing Youth Race with the Stratford District Youth Council
- Making Scarecrows at the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre

Calling All Scarecrow Makers: Get your entry in before 14 October

If you've ever driven past a Stratford Scarecrow Trail entry and thought "I could do better than that," now's your chance. Registrations close on 14 October, and every scarecrow registered by then goes onto the official trail map that thousands of hunters will use to track it down. No registration means no spot on the map, and no map spot means no visitors can find you.

The Stratford Scarecrow Trail is one of Taranaki's largest scavenger hunts, with a share of \$2,000 in prizes across four categories, Pre-school, Primary School, Business and Open. There's also a prize for best use of upcycled materials, and the People's Choice award, voted for by the hunters themselves

Past entries have included a scarecrow Iron Maiden, a straw filled Girl with the Pearl Earring, and plenty of shed sourced creativity that beat anything store bought. You don't need a polished finish, you need an old shirt, some straw, and a bit of imagination.

Register at Stratford.govt.nz/scarecrow or pick up a paper form from the Library and Visitor Information Centre.



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



Stratford's Sian Horton named national Environment Champion

Stratford District Council's Sian Horton has won the Environment Champion Award from the New Zealand Trade and Industrial Waters Forum, recognising her work minimising the pollutants that come from businesses like cafes and garages. This is done through the use and maintaining of grease and oils traps.

Sian was nominated for her steady involvement in the national forum, where she's a regular contributor helping council officers around the country solve tricky trade waste problems. Locally, her work spans food safety, alcohol licensing, trade waste monitoring and wastewater compliance. Congratulations Sian, well earned.

Head Start Reform decisions on hold

The Government has confirmed it won't make decisions on Head Start local government reform proposals until after the general election, with officials working through common issues with councils before anything progresses.

In August, Stratford and South Taranaki District Councils submitted a joint proposal for two unitary councils covering Taranaki, shaped by the 633 of you who completed our community survey, with 83% supporting a two council model.

Mayor Neil Volzke says Council sees this as a delay rather than a change in direction, as regional councillors still won't be elected in 2028, so the conversation will return and Stratford will be ready when it does.

In the meantime, it's business as usual, with no changes to your services, rates, representation or staffing, and we'll keep working with our neighbours across Taranaki. Thank you to everyone who shared their views. You can follow updates at yoursay.stratford.govt.nz

Antenno

Be informed. Get involved.

Over 1,000 Stratford locals are already using Antenno to get instant updates on roadworks, water issues, local news, and to report problems directly to us. Be the first to know what's happening. Download Antenno: Stratford.govt.nz/antenno

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
30 Sep 2026