

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

Mayoral Christmas Gift Appeal closes this Friday 13 December

It's our last few days of collecting donations for the Stratford District Christmas Gift Appeal. Christmas is not a happy time for everyone. Your generous donations are delivered personally by District Mayor Neil Volzke to people and families in our district who need some extra cheer on Christmas Day.

Please place your family board games, toys, non-perishable yummy goodies, and books and toiletries for all ages under the Christmas trees at council's Service Centre and the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre by Friday 13 December.

Visit [Stratford.govt.nz/BringJoy](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/BringJoy) for details, and thank you for bringing smiles to faces this Christmas.



Stratford's Swim School goes Platinum!

The Swim School at Wai o Rua – Stratford Aquatic Centre has been making waves recently, gaining special platinum status as part of Swimming New Zealand's accreditation for the Registered Swim School Programme.

The platinum level Wai o Rua Swim School has achieved puts them alongside some of the top operators in the country. It shows the school has a strong commitment to water safety and trust, with skilled and experienced swim instructors helping kids to learn through engaging, structured lesson plans.

Rennie Naicker, Wai o Rua Aquatic Services Team Leader, says they had applied for standard accreditation, and it was a wonderful surprise to gain the extra recognition.

"Achieving platinum standard is proof that we're on the right path with how we approach swim lessons. I already knew our swim instructors were awesome, so that's not news – but it's great for them to get recognition for the great work they're doing with the kids too."

"During this calendar year, over 2,200 children have received lessons," says Rennie. "This includes our after-school and weekend classes, as well as the free water safety lessons available through local schools, like Stratford Primary School and Avon Primary, thanks to the support of Toi Foundation."



Swim School Coordinator Nardia Higgison holding the facilities' platinum certificate, with Rennie Naicker (left), and Stratford District Council Chief Executive Sven Hanne (right)

Term 4 of the Swim School is coming to a close next week and will reopen for the new year at the end of January. In-between, the pool is running their popular school holiday activities with event booklets available from Wai o Rua, the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre, council's Service Centre, and online at [Stratford.govt.nz/Holidays](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/Holidays)

Scan the QR code to download our Summer School Holiday Booklet full of free and low-cost fun!



Booklet -> [Stratford.govt.nz/Holidays](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/Holidays)

Public Notices

Pruning of Notable Trees on Broadway

Pruning maintenance of several notable trees on Broadway (in-between Celia Street and Fenton Street) will take place on week of Monday 16 December, weather permitting. The road will remain open, but traffic management will be in place while this work is being completed. Thank you for your patience.

V Araba | Director - Assets

Meeting Schedule - December

- Meeting of the Percy Thomson Trust: Thursday 19 December at 4pm, Stratford District Council Committee Room

Meetings and workshops will be held in the Council Chambers on Miranda Street, unless stated otherwise. Visit [Stratford.govt.nz/Schedule](https://www.stratford.govt.nz/Schedule) for updates to meeting and workshop times, as these may change.

S Hanne | Chief Executive

Hop on the bus to Whangamōmona Republic Day and be in to win a special Summer Nights picnic!

Enjoy a country family fair like no other at the Whangamomona Republic Day, Saturday 18 January.

Get on the bus from the Stratford War Memorial Centre carpark and go in the draw to win a Summer Nights picnic for four, filled with tasty treats to enjoy at the free Summer Nights Concert later that day, in the picturesque Rhododendron Dell, King Edward Park.

Come back from Republic Day, sit back, and relax with live music and (hopefully) your picnic prize!

Bus seats are limited, so don't miss out!

Book your spot on [Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz) or phone 06 765 5403 for details.



What's happening with the Central Link?

You'll all have received the sad news that NZME is intending to close the Stratford Press, with the last issue to be on Wednesday 18 December 2024.

The loss of our local newspaper has an obvious impact on the way we deliver council news and the Central Link. But what hasn't changed is our commitment to sharing important and timely information to as many in our community as possible. Our team is working on what that looks like going forward and we look forward to sharing that with you in the New Year.



Nau mai haere mai!

Welcome to our newest citizens of Aotearoa New Zealand!

Congratulations to Raymond Baker, Nicole, Ethan and Alan Derham, Dean Lubbe, and Shaayal Prasad, pictured here with District Mayor Neil Volzke after their Citizenship Ceremony on 27 November 2024.

Thank you for making Stratford district your home!

Register to get the Central Link by email!

Did you know we send the Central Link out as an email newsletter every Tuesday? Register at [YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz](https://www.yoursay.stratford.govt.nz) and tick the box saying you'd like to subscribe. Our last email Central Link for 2024 will be on 17 December and we'll be back on 14 January 2025! Scan the QR code to find out more...



Library and Visitor Information
Phone 06 765 5403
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm
Sunday & Public Holidays Closed

Transfer Station
Phone 06 765 8500
Monday - 12.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday - 10.00am - 1.00pm
Friday - Sunday - 12.00pm - 5.00pm

Wai O Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre
Phone 06 765 6275
Monday – Friday 6.00am – 6.30pm
Saturday 7.00am – 5.00pm
Sunday and Public Holidays
10.00am – 5.00pm

Glockenspiel
Performs Daily at 10.00am, 1.00pm,
3.00pm and 7.00pm
11 December 2024