

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

WHAT'S UP
WHAKAAHURANGI?



Have you signed up to YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz yet?

Get invites to important surveys, learn about Stratford District Council projects, share your thoughts and ideas, kōrero with us and your community, and have your say on the future of our district. Help shape the decisions that matter - big and small, fun and serious, at Your Say Stratford!

So, what's up Whakaahurangi Stratford?
Let us know what you think!



Citizen Awards –
6 August 2024

Congratulations!

Last week, we celebrated our 2024 Citizen Award recipients; Kieran Best, Gloria Corkill, Murray Fawcett, and Rawiri Mako were presented with a Citizens Award, Ellie Brady and Achim Hanne with Youth Citizen Awards, and Peter McDonald acknowledged with an Outstanding Citizens Award.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou i tō koutou tautoko i tō tātou hapori.

Many thanks to our award recipients for everything they do to support our community.

Read more at Stratford.govt.nz/CitizenAwards

Public Notices

Meeting Schedule - August 2024

- Workshop:** Tuesday 27 August at 1pm
- Policy & Services Committee:** Tuesday 27 August at 3pm
- Percy Thomson Trust Meeting:** Thursday 15 August at 4pm, Stratford District Council Committee Room

Unless otherwise stated, meetings and workshops will be held in the Council Chambers on Miranda Street. Changes to meeting times will be published in the meeting schedule at Stratford.govt.nz/PublicNotices

S Hanne | Chief Executive

Survey shows Stratford district great for well-being, but residents asking for clarity around rates and value for money

The 2023/24 results of an independent survey on residents' satisfaction of Stratford District Council (SDC) services, show that people want better value for money from their rates, and more clarity around how rates are spent.

Chief Executive Sven Hanne says that while people enjoy their lifestyle in the district, and rate their overall well-being and council facilities highly, it's been a hard year for councils right across the country.

"With the last year burdened by rates rise discussions and the additional workload on local government from central government without any cost recovery in place, I'm not hugely surprised by peoples' perception of council's expenditure"

"It's clear we've got some work to do to help people better understand the use of rates in local government, and some changes to make in other service areas to improve the outcome for our residents," he says.

The results of the 2023/24 survey are relatively consistent year-on-year. Overall satisfaction with Council's performance is at 59% (up 2%) and satisfaction with quality of services and facilities reached 69% (up 2%).

Council facilities continue to showcase high satisfaction levels, with the Stratford Library, Visitor Information Centre, and Parks and Walkways consistently receiving high ratings from residents, with 97%, 96%, and 90% respectively. The Aquatic Centre received 75% satisfaction, and Customer Service interactions 82%.

Overall well-being in Stratford is reported as very high, with 80% rating their wellbeing as Good or Excellent.

Survey respondents' also believe Stratford to be a safe place (73%) attractive place (70%) and offered a healthy lifestyle (74%).

Sven says the feedback they receive from the annual survey is invaluable. "I would like to thank everyone that participated. These reports don't get put in a folder to gather dust. We really strive to do the best we can for the district, and your feedback helps to keep us on track," he says.

"I also want to acknowledge the efforts of our staff who continue to show up and get the job done for our community."

Visit Stratford.govt.nz/Survey for full survey results.



How to have your say in the next survey

Invites to our Customer Satisfaction Surveys will now be sent out by email instead of physical post so we can reduce our research budget. As was the process previously, if you'd like to take part, you'll complete the survey online. We invite people in groups, four times a year. You may get a survey invite if:

- You've subscribed to receive "General council news and updates" when you've registered on YourSay.Stratford.govt.nz
- If you receive your rates invoice by email. Visit Stratford.govt.nz/RatesByEmail to sign up.

It's important to do one of these two things if you'd like to have your say and take part. The first survey invites for 2024/25 will be sent later this month.

Programme giving young rural jobseekers the right tools for employment is gearing up

Stratford's Workforce Programme has helped 38 locals find employment over the 2023-24 year. 26 young people have received driver training or support with licences, and 13 local businesses are now working alongside the programme to give young people their start in a new career, but Samantha Vega, Workforce Programme Coordinator, says it's the people behind the numbers that get her excited.

"We primarily work with people aged between 16 and 24 who aren't in education, employment, or training, and they keep me on my toes," she says. "I'm alongside them the whole way, and watching these young people develop their skills, become confident in their abilities, and thrive in a job? It's pretty inspirational."

Stratford's Workforce Programme is part of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Community Employment Programme, which works in partnership with Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry of Social Development. The focus of MTFJ is to get young people into sustainable employment.

District Mayor Neil Volzke says, "Being in a rural location means we've got some unique challenges for youth employment. Because we're part of the MTFJ whānau, we're able to look at what our community needs and come up with targeted solutions."

The Workforce Programme can give eligible people financial support with industry training, driver licences,

and the tools, equipment, or clothes people will need when they start work. There's also non-financial support available for those that need help with CV and cover letters, careers advice, and connections with local employers and partner organisations.

"There's help for local employers too," says Samantha. "The businesses we're working with are incredible and they're really committed to developing their new employees' talents."

"We wrap support around both the job seeker and employer to get the best result. On the employer side, that might mean giving financial help with training and development, special licences, or tools and PPE."

"It all starts with a chat," says Samantha. "If you're not in work, education or training right now and you're looking for employment, give me a call and we can talk through where you're at and what you need."

Take the first step

- Call 06 765 6099
- Email Workforce@Stratford.govt.nz
- Visit Stratford.govt.nz/Work
- Drop-in and see Samantha at the Stratford Library every Wednesday from 10 am to 4pm.



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 – Friday 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Wednesday 10.00am – 1.00pm

Saturday & Sunday 1.00pm – 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

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