

# 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

Receive the Central Link by email. Register at [Stratford.govt.nz/EmailMe](http://Stratford.govt.nz/EmailMe)



TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O  
WHAKAAHURANGI  
**STRATFORD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Stratford**  
**May 20 - 26**

**FREE & LOW  
COST EVENTS  
FOR 12 - 24  
YEAR OLDS!**



Youth Week from 20 to 26 May is fast approaching, but we're ready with these FREE and cheap events to celebrate our 12 to 24 year-old rangatahi!

**FREE Murder Mystery Night** starting at 4.30pm on Thursday 23 May at the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre. Don't forget to make a design for Badge Battle! Register at [Eventbrite.co.nz](http://Eventbrite.co.nz)



**SDYC On the Bus** is heading to New Plymouth for pizza and skating for just \$5 from 5.15pm on Friday 24 May. Register at [Eventbrite.co.nz](http://Eventbrite.co.nz)



**FREE Pool Party Showdown** from 1pm on Sunday 26 May at Wai o Rua. Featuring volleyball and the rubber duckie relay!

Info at [Stratford.govt.nz/YouthWeek](http://Stratford.govt.nz/YouthWeek)

## Public Notices

### Meeting Schedule - May 2024

- Audit and Risk Committee:** Tuesday 21 May at 12 noon
- Workshop:** Tuesday 28 May at 1pm
- Policy & Services Committee:** Tuesday 28 May at 3pm

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](http://Stratford.govt.nz/PublicNotices)

S Hanne | Chief Executive

## The Victoria Park pond's clean and refill is finished, but trashy habits have been uncovered...

Since mid-February, Stratford District Council (SDC) has been draining and cleaning out the scenic Victoria Park pond to look after its health and make sure the pond can continue doing its important job of filtering silt and sediment out of incoming water before the flow joins the Pātea River.

The pond has recently been excavated of silt and refilled, temporary fencing removed, the crayfish and eels moved during the draining process can now return, and a viewing area has been created with SDC hoping to install seating so people can enjoy the view.

John Cooper, SDC Services Asset Manager, says the pond is now looking at its best, but as the water in the pond was drained, a massive amount of rubbish was revealed.

"When the water receded, we found around 15 scooters, 3 bikes, a pram, a cash register, 2 stolen signs from the local bike park, a bin from the skate park, guttering and nova coil, a heap of drink and food packaging, and over 15 road cones. I wouldn't be surprised to see someone had chucked a partridge and a pear tree in there, too," says John.

"Littering and illegally dumping rubbish is not on. Having to deal with illegal dumping is a growing issue that affects not only the council but also our community. It costs us a lot of money to clean up after these dumpers, and that money is coming from our district's ratepayers."



## Elizabeth Watson Fund can give a helping hand to 65+ community members in need

Elizabeth Maree Watson generously left funds to Stratford District Council in her will to distribute to Stratford residents aged 65 years and over who need financial help.

You can apply for support for things like the purchase of clothing, and paying bills and doctor's accounts. The Mayor assesses the applications and can decide how the funds are distributed.

You can apply in writing at any time of year. You'll need to have proof of your financial need, including income and bank statements.

Visit [Stratford.govt.nz/FundsAndGrants](http://Stratford.govt.nz/FundsAndGrants) for more information and criteria, or call us on 06 765 6099. Any information you give us will be kept private.



Just some of the rubbish found when the Victoria Park pond was recently drained.

"It's incredibly disappointing to have to spend money to replace a stolen park sign, but then to find it in the pond and have to pay again to clean it out and dispose of it, is just the trash icing on the vandalism cake."

While rubbish was removed after the pond was drained, more is set to be revealed next summer when the silt excavated from the pond is dry enough to be screened before it's spread onto pasture.

It's illegal to dump rubbish in public areas. If people see illegally dumped rubbish, they should report it through SDC's Antenna app, call 0800 DUMPING, or if the rubbish might affect a waterway, phone Taranaki Regional Council's environment hotline on 0800 736 222.

Illegal dumping of rubbish in a public place may result in an infringement notice of up to \$400.



## Stratford Bike Park finalist in parks awards!

We're excited to announce that the Stratford Bike Park has been named as a Finalist for the Green Pavlova 2024 Parks Awards in the Active Park and Sportsground Award category!

This is the second consecutive time the bike park has been a finalist, but we're hopeful we'll have a new award for the town's mantelpiece when the winner is announced on 30 May!

## Celebrate our district's local champions

Don't forget to nominate your local champions for a Citizen Award or Youth Citizen Award before Friday 31 May! Visit [Stratford.govt.nz/CitizenAwards](http://Stratford.govt.nz/CitizenAwards) for more information. Come on, let's acknowledge those that do so much for our community!

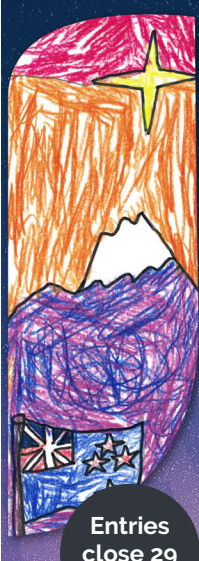
## What does Puanga mean to you?

**Street flag design competition for youth aged 5 - 18**

The winning designs will be flown in Whakaahurangi during Puanga celebrations in June!

[Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga](http://Stratford.govt.nz/Puanga)

Pictured design by Shianne Pratt, 2023



Entries close 29 May!

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

15 May 2024