

**STRATFORD**

Free and  
low-cost  
holiday events!

**SUMMER**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**



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

[stratford.govt.nz/Holidays](http://stratford.govt.nz/Holidays)



# Important information about our holiday programme



## Make sure you register

You'll need to register for some of our activities. Please do it early so you don't miss out. You can register online at [Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz) or at the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre and Wai O Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre.

## Is your kiddo 8 years old or under?

Children 8 years and under have to be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years old or over for all of our activities.

At Wai O Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre, there must be at least 1 adult supervisor to 3 children under the age of 8. If a caregiver is supervising more than one child under the age of 8, all children have to be in the same pool. Full supervision rules are on **page 14**.

## Opening hours and contact details

### Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre

Prospero Place, Stratford 4332

Call: 06 765 5403

Email: [library@stratford.govt.nz](mailto:library@stratford.govt.nz)

Facebook: @StratfordLibraryNZ

### Normal opening hours

- **Monday - Friday:** 8.30am - 5pm
- **Saturday:** 9am - 1pm
- **Sunday and Public Holidays:** closed



### Festive holiday hours

- **Tuesday 24 December:** 8.30am - 1pm
- **Wednesday 25 December to Thursday 2 January 2025:** Closed
- **Friday 3 January:** Back to normal hours - 8.30am - 5pm



## Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre

53 Portia Street, Stratford 4332

Call: 06 765 6275

Email: [waiorua@stratford.govt.nz](mailto:waiorua@stratford.govt.nz)

Website: [WaiORua.govt.nz](http://WaiORua.govt.nz)

Facebook: @WaiORuaStratfordAquaticCentre

### Normal opening hours

- **Monday – Friday:** 6am – 6.30pm
- **Saturday:** 7am – 5pm
- **Sunday and Public Holidays:** 10am – 5pm

Our hours can sometimes change due to facility bookings. Give us a call to check availability.

### Festive holiday hours

- **Monday 23 December:** 6am – 6.30pm
- **Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve):** 10am – 2pm
- **Wednesday 25 December (Christmas Day):** Closed
- **Thursday 26 December (Boxing Day):** 10am – 5pm
- **Friday 27 to Monday 30 December:** 10am – 5pm
- **Tuesday 31 December:** Closed
- **Wednesday 1 January (New Years Day) and Thursday 2 January:** Closed
- **Friday 3 January:** Back to normal hours - 6am – 6.30pm

Group Fitness classes will take a break from 23 December 2024 to 6 January 2025.



## Get out and about in Whakaahurangi Stratford

### Tick off your list...

- Experience the latest exhibition at the Percy Thomson Gallery.
- Check out a movie at Stratford's historic TET Kings Theatre.
- Jump on your bikes and head to the Stratford Bike Park. While you're there, have fun on the playground and take a selfie in our Victoria Park photo frame.
- Take a stroll on the Stratford Discovery Trail.
- See what activities are available at Tutaki Youth.
- Visit the Taranaki Pioneer Village and take a ride on the train.
- Discover the Republic of Whangamomona and try your hand at the mini-putt course!
- Go on safari at Te Popo Gardens and discover the iconic African animals.
- Enjoy some outdoor fun at the Hollard Gardens.
- Take a stroll on one of our many walking trails - have you tried the Cardiff Walkway or York Road Loop? Perhaps you've never been to Dawson Falls?!



Need more ideas?

Visit [Stratford.govt.nz/Discover](https://Stratford.govt.nz/Discover)



## Idea: Make an easy Christmas tree

### Get creative with what's around the whare!

Make your own little Christmas tree with pegs and cardboard, and then decorate it. You can even make a whole forest of trees. Who knows? Maybe Santa will leave tiny presents under your little Christmas trees too?!

#### Step 1 - find pegs

Find a peg for each tree you're making. The best pegs to use are the ones that are spring-loaded, so they'll hold on to the tree part. Don't take all your grown-up's pegs though. You want to make sure they still have enough to wash and dry all your clothes.

#### Step 2 - cut out triangles for the trees

You can use green card (like in the picture) or any card you have around the house and colour it. Carefully cut out your triangles - get a hand from a grown-up if you need it. If you're making heaps of trees, try making some wide and some tall. Which do you like best?

#### Step 3 - time to decorate!

What can you find or make to decorate your tree? You could use coloured paper, buttons, shiny bits of foil from food wrappers, things from nature you find outside, string for tinsel, just to name a few options. Use double-sided tape or glue to stick them on. Try not to make your decorations too heavy, so your tree will stand upright. Once you're done, find a nice home for your trees.



Join Stratford Library's  
**Reading is Sweet**  
**Summer  
Reading  
Challenge**



**Get invited to  
a special  
PARTY!**



**Complete  
challenges  
for sweet  
treats**



- 
- Register at the library or online at [Stratford.govt.nz/Reading](http://Stratford.govt.nz/Reading)
  - The challenge runs from 2 December, ending with a sweet party on 23 January!

# Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre



## Fruit Salad Keyrings

Thursday 9 January

10am – 11am

11.15am - 12.15pm

Make a tasty fruit salad keyring using different materials, like colourful perla beads and foam shapes.

Cost: Free

Ages: 5 - 12 years

Register at:

[Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

Venue: Library



## Cupcake Plushies

Tuesday 14 January

10am – 11am

11.15am - 12.15pm

Want a treat? Create your very own cupcake plushie pal. Just don't eat them...

Ready, set, sew!

Cost: Free

Ages: 5 - 12 years

Register at:

[Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

Venue: Library



## 3D Summer Scenes

Thursday 16 January

10am – 10.45am

11am - 11.45am

Bring your summer vision to life!

Make a 3D summer picture that stands out from the page.

Cost: Free

Ages: 5 - 12 years

Register at:

[Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

Venue: Library

# Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre



## Decorate a Bag

Tuesday 21 January

10am – 11am

11.15am - 12.15pm

Design your own bag!

Decorate a calico bag with fabric markers.

Draw, write, or both?!

How creative can you get?

Cost: Free

Ages: 5 - 12 years

Register at:

[Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

Venue: Library

## Idea: Make Strawberry Santas



### Step 1 - cut your strawberry

Carefully cut the green part off your strawberry and then cut the berry in half. You may need to get a grown-up to help.

### Step 2 - turn it upside down

That's right. The pointy end is the top of Santa's hat.

### Step 3 - cream!

Put whipped cream between the 2 halves for Santa's face and beard. Put a bit on top for Santa's pom-pom and add some extra for buttons. Use dairy-free icing if you can't have cream.

### Step 4 - eyes go on the cream

Use chocolate buttons, raisins, or anything that's yummy, round, and not too big.

### Step 5 - eat!



# Whānau friendly events in the community

# — STRATFORD — CHRISTMAS PARADE

THEME: CHRISTMAS MOVIES

**Friday 6 December 2024**  
**Broadway, Stratford**

**5:00pm** Prospero Market

**6:30pm** Parade with carols to follow



# Whānau friendly events in the community



## The Christmas Hunt starts on Friday 13 December!



Calling all kids 13 and under! There'll be 7 Christmas Icons hidden around Stratford. Do you have what it takes to solve the clues and find them?

Take part in the hunt and go in the draw to win one of three prize packs! Get your clue sheet and entry form at the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre.

The hunt ends at 12pm on Saturday 11 January.

Good Luck!



# Whānau friendly events in the community



## Stratford Kids' Trout Fishing Day

**Saturday 14 December**

**8am to 1pm**

Don't let the big one get away! The 27th annual Stratford kids' trout fishing day will see **over 300** large rainbow trout released into the Scout Den pool in King Edward Park's Pātea River.

Fish during your booked time between 8am until 1pm with help from Stratford Fishing Club members and volunteers.

All fishing gear will be provided, but if you have a good supply of wriggly worms for bait, they'll be much appreciated.

Grown-ups - if you'd like to volunteer to help kids fish on the day, please get in touch with Taranaki Fish & Game on 06 757 9676.

**Cost:** Free

**Registration:** Book your 15 minute time slot by visiting the site at the Stratford Library and Visitor Information Centre, or calling **0800 765 6708**.

**Venue:** Scout Den pool, King Edward Park



# Whānau friendly events in the community

## Whangamōmona Republic Day

Saturday 18 January

10am - 4pm

**Make it easy! Book the bus leaving Stratford at 10am and returning back at 3pm**

Ever skinned a possum or cracked a whip? Had a ride in a helicopter? You can do it all at the Whangamōmona Republic Day!

Plus enjoy quick-fire raffles, horse and cart rides, sheep racing, vintage car club, and have a blast in the Kid's Corner with bouncy castle, face painting and games.

There's something for everyone!

**Tip - bring cash! There's no ATM and EFTPOS may not be available.**



**Republic Day entry fees:** \$10 for 15-plus years, \$5 for 6-14 year olds, 5 years and under **FREE**

**Venue:** The Republic of Whangamōmona



### **Book the bus and go in the draw to win a Summers Night picnic for 4!**

The Republic Day bus will depart from the Stratford War Memorial car park at 10am and leaves for home, from the Republic, at 3pm. Bus tickets start from \$10 per person which includes your Republic Day entry fee.

Book a bus ticket and go in the draw to win a picnic for four, filled with tasty treats to enjoy at the free Summer Nights Concert starting at 4.45pm on Saturday 18 January in King Edward Park. Come back from Republic Day, sit back, and relax with live music and (hopefully) your picnic prize.

**Book your bus ticket at:** [Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

# Whānau friendly events in the community

An aerial photograph of a park during sunset. A stage with a green canopy is on the right, with a band performing. A large group of people is sitting on the grass in front of the stage. The sky is orange and pink. The text 'Summer Nights' is overlaid in a large, white, cursive font.

# Summer Nights

**Save the dates! Free concert and movies in the parks**

## Summer Nights Concert

**Saturday 18 January**

**4.45pm - 8pm**

Join us for an evening of music with...

- **The Bald Eagles**
- **The Lady Killers**

**Cost:** Free

**Venue:** Rhododendron Dell, King Edward Park

## Summer Nights Movies

**Saturday 25 January**

**4pm - 7pm**

Bring a picnic and enjoy...

- **Trolls Band Together at 4pm**
- **Wonka at 5.45pm**

**Cost:** Free

**New venue for 2025!** Victoria Park, next to the Stratford Bike Park

# Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre



## Pool supervision rules

- 5 years and under must have a caregiver over 16 years of age in the pool within arms reach.
- 6-8 years must be actively supervised by a caregiver over 16 years of age.
- There must be a minimum of 1 adult supervisor to 3 children under the age of 8.
- If a caregiver is supervising more than one child under the age of 8, then all children must be in the same pool.

## Pool entry fees

	Casual	10x Concession
Adult	\$6	\$54
Child	\$5	\$45
Senior	\$5	\$45
Spectator	FREE	
Adult supervising child under 8 years old in the water	\$3	
Family Pass (2 adults and 2 children over 8 years OR 1 adult and 3 children)	\$16	

**Looking for Christmas gifts?**

**Check out the awesome range of swim gear for kids and grown-ups at**

**Wai o Rua!**



# Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre



## Mega Inflatables!

**Starting on Sat 21 December and ending Sat 25 January:**

**11am - 2pm every Monday and Saturday**

Love making a splash? Visit Wai o Rua during one of our mega inflatable sessions for some extra bouncy fun!

**Cost:** Pool entry

**Ages:** 8 plus years

**Register:** Not needed

**Venue:** Wai o Rua

## DOUBLE Mega Inflatables!!

**Starting on Fri 27 December and ending Fri 24 January:**

**11am - 2pm Wednesdays and Fridays (but closed New Year's Day)**

Double the fun. Not one, but TWO mega inflatables will be out for the ultimate in air-filled, splashy excitement!

**Cost:** Pool entry

**Ages:** 8 plus years

**Register:** Not needed

**Venue:** Wai o Rua

# Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre



## Christmas Eve Lolly Scramble

**Tuesday 24 December**  
**11am – 12pm**

Dive into the fun and scramble for your Christmas stockings!

Come for a sweet and splashin' good time.

**Cost:** Pool entry

**Ages:** All ages

**Register:** Not needed

**Venue:** Wai o Rua



## Bomb Competition

**Friday 3 January**  
**12pm - 1pm**

Gather your friends and family and show off your cannonball skills.

Who knows? You may win yourself some sweet treats. Oh! And of course, bragging rights!

**Cost:** Pool entry

**Ages:** 8 plus years

**Register:** Not needed

**Venue:** Wai o Rua



## Volley Ball

**Monday 6 January**  
**11am - 12pm**

Jump into the fun and get ready to spike, block, and volley your way to victory!

Register as an individual and we'll create teams on the day.

**Cost:** Pool entry

**Ages:** 8 plus years

**Register at:**

[Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

**Venue:** Wai o Rua



# Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre



## Inflatable Race Day

Wednesday 8 January

12pm - 1pm

Get ready for a fun-filled session of laughter, excitement, and (friendly) competition. Take turns racing on the large inflatable, best times win a prize!

Enter as an individual, get a team together, or even compete as a family. Our staff will be there to provide support and heaps of encouragement!

**Cost:** Pool entry

**Register:** Not needed

**Ages:** 8 plus years

**Venue:** Wai o Rua



## Treasure Hunt

Monday 13 January

12pm - 1pm

Dive and discover hidden plunder during the Wai o Rua treasure hunt!

Search for riches untold and have a blast with family and friends.

**Cost:** Pool entry

**Ages:** 8 plus years

**Register:** Not needed

**Venue:** Wai o Rua

# Wai o Rua - Stratford Aquatic Centre



## Water Polo

Friday 17 January

11am - 12pm

Splash, score, repeat!  
Get ready for an action packed game of water polo.

Teams will compete, skills will unfold, and the goals will fly in!  
Who will be victorious?

Cost: Pool entry

Ages: 8 plus years

Register at:

[Eventbrite.co.nz](https://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

**Note:** Register as an individual and we'll create teams on the day

**Venue:** Wai o Rua

## Hungry for MORE summer fun?!

Follow these Facebook pages and download the free Antenno app for event updates...

- Taranaki Pioneer Village
- Tutaki
- TET Kings Theatre
- Stratford Speedway
- Zeal Taranaki



## Write a letter to Santa on the next page...

Carefully cut on the dotted line, fold in half, and leave somewhere Santa will discover your letter. Or maybe send it to the North Pole!



# Dear Santa



Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten horizontal lines for writing a letter.





DEAR SANTA...



DEC 25

