

Innovation | Inspiration | Information |

CHECK IT OUT

MCHL Newsletter Issue #8

Welcome | Haere mai

February and March are bursting with activity, and we're excited to share what's happening. Enjoy our Makerspace highlight featuring Deanna and find out more about the cultural story of our building. Family Fun Day returns for 2026 (Yah!), and entries for the Library in Your Pocket competition are still coming in — keep them up!

Book into our upcoming workshops, this issue has a spotlight on Reading for Wellbeing, and don't forget to download the Antenno App for updates. We're also celebrating our Dive into Reading Challenge success with over 1,450 books read!



Creativity in Motion: Deanna Gunn and The Ballad of Joe Taihape

The Ballad of Joe Taihape (2026), now in the Manawatū Community Hub Libraries catalogue, combines bold poetry and striking illustrations by NZ artists, including Deanna Gunn, Makerspace Specialist. The Makerspace plays a key role, nurturing creativity and guiding artists of all ages to bring ideas to life through illustration, design, and technology.

**View the full story
online by visiting:**

<https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2024/2025/creativity-in-motion-deanna-gunn-and-the-ballad-of-joe-taihape>

 makerspace

“ Manawatū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL) provides services at Te Āhuru Mōwai and satellite locations for the community and visitors.



Te Āhuru Mōwai: A Living Story

As we reflect on Waitangi Day and look forward to Matariki, Te Āhuru Mōwai stands as a living story of culture, knowledge, and community. Inspired by Māori pūrākau and designed to celebrate Aotearoa New Zealand's heritage, the building guides visitors on a journey from darkness to light, from potential to understanding.

Gifted its name by local iwi Ngāti Kauwhata, Te Āhuru Mōwai is a safe haven for the community. A place to gather, explore, and engage. Since opening in July 2024, it has become a space where stories, culture, and knowledge come together, welcoming all to experience its taonga, design, and narratives. Visitors can explore the Cultural Narrative in English and te reo Māori on the MCHL website www.mchl.co.nz or pick up brochure.

Beyond architecture, Manawatū Community Hub Libraries invites engagement with Māori stories and history through curated resources, including the Te Ara o Tawhaki collection and the Treaty of Waitangi digital collection, connecting visitors with knowledge, culture, and community.

**View the full story
online by visiting:**

https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2024/2025/te-ahuru-mowai-a-living-story/_nocache





Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day is back! Join us for a fantastic morning of FREE fun for all ages. Bring your kids, friends, and neighbours to enjoy inflatables, family activities, tasty treats, live entertainment, community group showcases, and exciting giveaways. Whether you're new to the area or a long-time local, it's the perfect way to connect with our community.

Sunday, 22 March 2026
10am–1pm
Victoria Park, Feilding

Proudly hosted by Manawatū Community Hub Libraries and Manawatū District Council, with support from Central Energy Trust and local groups.

If you are interested in supporting the event through sponsorship, please contact Marie Willis marie.willis@mdc.govt.nz.



Keep the Entries Coming!

We've received some fantastic entries for our Library in Your Pocket Summer Reading Photo Challenge and there's still time to take part. Show us what you're enjoying this summer, whether it's an eBook, audiobook, movie, or a great book. Snap a photo in a fun or scenic spot and share it with us. You can enter as many times as you like, and every entry goes in the draw to win.

Prize pack includes:

- A \$50 book voucher
- A Makerspace experience (plus up to \$30 for materials)

To enter:

- Send us a DM with your photo via Manawatū Community Hub Libraries on Facebook
- Email your photo and contact details to mchl@mdc.govt.nz
- Or ask a staff member at the MCHL front desk for assistance

Find out more at:

www.mchl.co.nz/whats-on/summer-reading-photo-challenge

What's On Spotlight



Resin Workshop with Resinated Arts (18+)

Friday, 6 March

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Cost: \$90pp

Get creative with resin!

In this hands-on evening workshop, you'll make a stunning bamboo board and two coasters to take home. All materials and guidance provided.

Edge Lit Light Workshop (12+)

Wednesday, 11 March

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Cost: \$12pp

Whether you're a DIY newbie or a creative pro, this hands-on session guides you through designing, engraving, and assembling your very own custom edge-lit light. Use our laser cutter, experiment with acrylic, and bring your ideas to life.

Intro to Macrame – Wall Hanging Workshop

Saturday, 14 March

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Cost: \$45pp

Join Emily Black from Creative Habit for a relaxing and inspiring introduction to macramé. In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn the essential knots and techniques needed to create your very own beautiful wall hanging. All materials are provided.

For more info visit:

www.mchl.co.nz/whats-on/events-calendar

Reading for Wellbeing

Life can feel busy and overwhelming, and finding time to slow down isn't always easy. For Manawatū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL), wellbeing is a key focus, with reading playing an important role in supporting mental and emotional health.

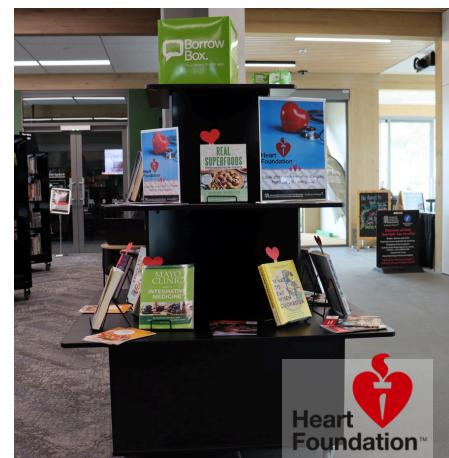
Reading helps reduce stress, ease loneliness and provide a break from daily pressures. Getting lost in a story, magazine or newspaper creates space for calm and reflection. Sharing stories or reading aloud can also offer comfort and reassurance, especially during challenging times.

Kirsty Meads, MCHL Content Specialist, says reading gives everyone access to trusted information, diverse resources and a welcoming library environment, making it a simple way to relax and support wellbeing. The Hub's collection includes resources on mental health, mindfulness, self-care and emotional resilience, alongside supportive spaces for those exploring these topics.

Digital services such as Libby, Hoopla, BorrowBox and PressReader also ensure free access to ebooks, audiobooks and more. Through welcoming spaces and thoughtful collections, MCHL continues to foster a healthier, more connected community.

For more info visit:

<https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2024/2025/reading-for-wellbeing>



Heart Health Display

Pump up your heart knowledge and come by the Healthy Heart Display for lots of tips to keep your ticker in tip-top shape.

The Heart Foundation is giving free **15-minute heart health checks** – no appointment needed. **Wednesday, 15th April 11:00am – 1:00pm** Manawatū Community Hub Libraries, Te Āhuru Mōwai 64 Stafford Street, Feilding.



Capturing Feilding & District Heritage

Do you have photos or stories that help tell the story of our community? Bring them along to the Heritage Area at MCHL from 11.00am–12.00pm on Friday 27 February (the last Friday of the month), and we'll help you upload them to the Feilding & District Heritage website, www.feildingheritage.co.nz. Together, we can preserve today's moments as part of tomorrow's history.

To view more heritage photos or submit your own visit:
[https://www.feildingheritage.nz/](http://www.feildingheritage.nz/)



Be in to WIN a \$25 Voucher

This year, Antenno is the Manawatū District's Valentine. Download Antenno, tell MDC what you love about the Manawatū District in the 'Feedback and Ideas' section, and you'll enter the draw to win a \$25 voucher for either the 'No Knead to Book' cafe or the Makino Aquatic Centre.

Competition closes @ 3:00pm 27 February 2026



For information on how to enter, visit: www.mdc.govt.nz/valentines-comp



Photos of children collecting their book prizes.

Dive Into Reading: Over 1,450 Books Read!

Tamariki across the Manawatū District embraced reading through the Manawatū Community Hub Libraries Dive into Reading Summer Programme, beating the “summer slump” while building skills. Of 149 participants, more than half completed the review challenge to earn a free book at the finale. Altogether, 246 books secured Bash entry, while 48 keen readers tackled 26 books each, helping reach nearly 1,500 books read. The programme ended with a poolside celebration at the Makino Aquatic Centre.

A huge thank you to everyone who was part of the MCHL Dive into Reading programme! It's been incredible to see so many children reading, learning, and having fun. And a special shout out goes to our amazing sponsors: Cooper Rapley Lawyers, Domino's Feilding, Empire Plumbing, Feilding Manchester Lions Club, Feilding Oroua Rotary Club, Homely Property Management, Jacynza Murray – Tremains Real Estate, McDonald's Feilding, Taylor Made Construction, Home Staging NZ, Team Campbell – Harcourts Real Estate, and Turners Gifts & Luggage, for helping make the programme such a splash.

For more info visit:
[https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2024/2025/dive-into-reading-over-1,450-books-read!](https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2024/2025/dive-into-reading-over-1,450-books-read/)



Osian completed the Additional Reading Challenge and won the prize draw, receiving the Ultimate Summer Reader Prize, which included a bag of goodies, books, makerspace items, and Lego.

Thank you for reading!

 [mchl.co.nz](https://www.mchl.co.nz)