



Innovation | Inspiration | Information |

CHECK IT OUT

December 2025

| Issue #7

Welcome | Haere mai

Welcome to Check It Out! Our bi-monthly newsletter is bursting with library goodness from 2025 wrap-up and makerspace book bags to school holiday fun, StoryWalks®, the new BorrowBox, and our Dive into Reading Challenge.

Festive Season Hours:

December 22–24: Open from 9:30am to 5:30pm

December 25–28: Closed (Open Plus Access)

December 29–31: Open from 9:30am to 5:30pm

January 1–4: Closed (Open Plus Access)

The MCHL **Out of Hours Return Box** on Stafford Street will be locked 5:30pm on the **24 – 29 December** unlocked 9.30am and locked 5:30pm on **31 December to the 5 January**, unlocked 9.30am. Please hold onto your items (no fees) and return them via Open Plus or during our opening hours.



Book Bags for Young Readers

Bright book bags featuring the Manawatū Community Hub Libraries logo have been customised with heat-pressing by the Makerspace team. These professionally finished bags will be given out as prizes for the current Dive into Reading! Children's summer reading challenge. The bags are durable and practical, making them perfect for young readers.

Do you have a project in mind? Reach out to the Makerspace team to discover how we can assist you.

To learn more visit:
www.mchl.co.nz/makerspace

 makerspace



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



MCHL 2025: That's a Wrap

As 2025 draws to a close, Manawatū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL) reflects on a year filled with activity, innovation, and strong community connection. With the support of our community, Manawatū District Council, partners, volunteers, and staff, MCHL delivered a wide range of programmes across Te Āhuru Mōwai and the district. These included early-years and school programmes, book clubs, creative workshops, digital service expansions, Makerspace innovation, HomeLink deliveries, and support for six community libraries. Partnership services such as Digi-Coach support, JP clinics, legal advice, and Hato Hone St John visits continued to break down barriers and enhance access for all. A proud highlight of 2025 was Te Āhuru Mōwai receiving national recognition, including the New Zealand Architecture Award for Public Architecture, the Master Builders Commercial Project Gold Award, and the ALGIM Customer Experience Award for the Open Plus system—making MCHL the first library in New Zealand to offer after-hours access until 11pm, seven days a week. As we thank our dedicated team and volunteers, **we look ahead with excitement to 2026, including the return of Family Fun Day on 22 March at Victoria Park, Feilding.**

View the full story online by visiting:
<https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latestnews/2024/2025/mchl-2025-thats-a-wrap>



**SAVE
-THE-
DATE**

What's On

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2026

5TH - 23RD JANUARY 2026

The summer school holiday programme is now available, collect a brochure from the Makino Aquatic Centre or Te Āhuru Mōwai, Manawatū Community Hub Libraries.



To see the calendar of events online, scan the QR code or visit: www.mchl.co.nz/schoolholidays



Summer Holiday Fun with MCHL!

Get ready for one of Manawatū Community Hub Libraries' biggest summer holiday programmes yet!

Across three weeks in January, tamariki can enjoy **themed crafts**, **Pop-Up Play** with Sport Manawatū, **Movie Mondays**, and a **Teddy Bears Picnic**. Older children can book in for **Fairy House Workshops (8+)**, **Virtual Reality sessions** and the new **Youth Games Tournament: Champions Arena**, featuring a **Naruto Shippuden: Ultimate Ninja Storm 4** competition (11+). Families can also enjoy **Emergency Management Day activities** and a free performance by bestselling author–musician **Deano Yipadee**.

Dive into Reading Summer Reading Challenge is a great way to get Tamariki reading. See the back of the newsletter for more details.

Full schedule is available at www.mchl.co.nz or pick up brochure from Te Āhuru Mōwai.



Library In Your Pocket – Photo Challenge!

This summer, celebrate "Library in Your Pocket" by sharing a photo of your summer reading in a fun or scenic spot. Show us what you're enjoying, whether it's an eBook, audiobook, movie, or book, and feel free to submit as many photos as you like!

Everyone who enters goes into the draw to win an MCHL prize pack! A \$50 book voucher and a Makerspace experience (with up to \$30 for materials).

You can share your photo and contact details with us by:

- Sending a direct message and your photo to Manawatū Community Hub Libraries on Facebook
- Emailing your details and photo to: mchl@mdc.govt.nz
- Ask a staff member at the MCHL front desk for assistance



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

What's On Spotlight



School Holiday (8+)
Workshop – Fairy House
Cost: \$10pp
Friday, 9 January 2026
10:00am – 11:30am
Enchanting workshop budding creators will design and build their very own fairy house.

Youth Games Tournament
Naruto Shippuden Ultimate Ninja Storm 4 (Free)
Tuesday, 13 January
2.00pm – 4.00pm
Open to ages 11 and up, with on-the-day signups and a prize up for grabs! (donated by Domino's Feilding)

Deano Yipadee Show (Free)
Wednesday, 21 January
10:00am – 11:00am
Location: Manchester Street School
Best-selling Author, Musician and Performer Deano Yipadee will have your child in stitches as they read, sing, laugh and bounce along with his collection of chart-topping Scholastic books and songs.

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.

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

Where Stories Step Outside

Manawatū District's growing collection of StoryWalks® offers families the perfect way to combine outdoor adventure with the joy of reading. Four installations at Himatangi Beach, Kōwhai Park, Mt Lees Reserve and at Te Āhuru Mōwai bring well-loved children's books to life through beautifully displayed story pages set along walking tracks. From Tama and the Taniwha at Himatangi Beach to That's Not a Hippopotamus at Kōwhai Park and The Grizzled Grist Does Not Exist! at Mt Lees Reserve, each StoryWalk® blends reading, nature, and local creativity, with carved creatures and interactive elements waiting to be discovered.

The newest StoryWalk®, located outside Te Āhuru Mōwai in Feilding, features Pu and Ru's Bird Beak Clues a fun, educational trail full of bird facts, rhyming clues, and playful surprises. With routes winding past playgrounds, skateparks, picnic spots, and beautiful outdoor spaces, these StoryWalks® offer an ideal summertime activity for whānau of all ages. Pack a hat, gather the kids, and make it a goal to visit all four StoryWalks® across the district this summer!

For more info visit:

<https://www.mchl.co.nz/whats-on/storywalks>

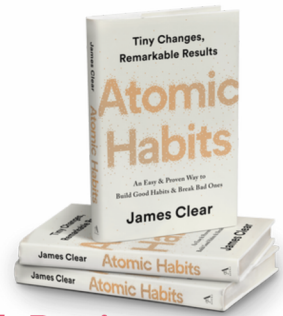


Digital Time Capsule

Did you know Santa once arrived at the Makino Aquatic Centre car park by helicopter? If you're out capturing festive or summer holiday photos this year, remember you can upload to the Feilding Heritage website to become part of a digital time capsule!

On Wednesday's from 10am–12pm, the Feilding branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists volunteers help with family history research, family trees, and online genealogy tools.

To view more heritage photos or submit your own visit:
<https://www.feildingheritage.nz/>



Book Review

★★★★★

Atomic Habits by James Clear is a practical, motivating guide that shows how small, consistent actions can create big, lasting change. Making it a perfect companion for New Year's resolutions. Clear's simple strategies, like habit stacking and focusing on identity-based goals, help turn resolutions into sustainable routines rather than short-lived January promises. It's an encouraging, easy-to-apply book that gives you the tools to build better habits one tiny step at a time.



New! Borrow Box

Borrow Box from Bolinda Digital lets you read eBooks and listen to eAudiobooks on your computer or device using its built-in reader and player. With your MCHL membership number and PIN, you can access a wide range of adult, teen, and children's titles. The Borrow box app's user-friendly interface makes it easy to browse, borrow, and enjoy content wherever you go.

For more information visit the MCHL website.

<https://www.mchl.co.nz/digital-library/borrowbox>





Dive into Reading tree display in the children's area of the library.

Adventure Awaits! Dive into Reading

Registrations are now open! Tamariki are invited to dive into a world of adventure this summer with the launch of the Dive into Reading Summer Reading Challenge, proudly delivered by Manawātū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL). Running from 8 December to 16 January, this free, family-friendly programme encourages children to explore new worlds through books and earn rewards along the way.

"This summer's programme is all about adventure," says Marie Willis, Community Programmes Manager. "Whether tamariki are diving into picture books, chapter books, or sharing stories with whānau, it all counts. We want children to experience the pleasure of reading, and the magic stories can bring to their summer."

Participants read three books, complete short reviews, and fill in their Reading Log, levelling up from Bronze through to Mythical. Each book review check-in earns an instant prize and stamp. **Completing the challenge unlocks free entry! to the Makino Aquatic Centre Summer Bash on Thursday the 22 January where they will be able to collect their personal book to keep. For more info and to purchase extra tickets visit: www.makino.co.nz/programmes/summer-bash.** Designed for pre-schoolers to 11+, the programme welcomes all reading abilities which includes independent reading, being read to, and shared whānau stories. Marie adds, "Dive into Reading is only possible thanks to the incredible support of our local business community. Their generosity helps us keep this programme free, fun, and accessible for all tamariki."

The following businesses supported with Book Sponsorship, Cooper Rapley Lawyers, Domino's Feilding, Empire Plumbing, Feilding Manchester Lions, Feilding Oroua Rotary, Homely Property Management, Jacynda Murray – Tremains, McDonalds Feilding, with these businesses supporting the check-in prizes Home Staging NZ, Taylor Made Construction, Team Campbell – Harcourts, and Turners Gifts & Luggage.

Explore our Dive into Reading display in the children's area, the perfect place for discovering new stories. With prizes to earn and adventures unfolding on every page, Dive into Reading is a fantastic way to fuel imagination all summer long.

Register online or at the MCHL front counter:

https://www.mchl.co.nz/whats-on/dive-into-reading-summer-reading-programme/_nocache



Thank you for reading!