

CHECK IT OUT

August 2025

Issue #5

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

Welcome | Haere mai

Welcome to the fifth edition of Check It Out, the bi-monthly newsletter from Manawatū Community Hub Libraries. We are delighted to **share the latest updates, workshops, and helpful information to enhance your experience.**

This edition we are highlighting the free services, community partnerships, and local volunteers, including volunteer central. From volunteer central, Mahjong and our Heritage to Justice of the Peace and more.



Pop Culture Meets Local Pride: MCHL's Youth Space

The youth space at Te Āhuru Mōwai, known as Te Whanga, has undergone an exciting transformation and it's already turning heads. Once a room with blank walls, the space now bursts with colour, creativity, and meaning thanks to a bold new mural designed with rangatahi (youth) in mind.

The mural brings together pop culture favourites like Deadpool, Pikachu, and Wolverine, seamlessly woven with local symbols like the Feilding clock tower and Makino Bridge. The artwork was brought to life by Barry McGoldrick, graphic designer at the Manawatū District Council, using illustrations from local creatives Morgan Goodwin, Deanna Gunn, and other sources.

The room also features a quote wall filled with uplifting messages, and a display of four core values: Whanaungatanga (community), Manaakitanga (care), Rangatiratanga (leadership), and Kaitiakitanga (guardianship).

View the full story online by visiting: www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2024/2025/pop-culture-meets-local-pride-mchls-youth-space-transformed.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



Bringing Art to Life in the Makerspace

Meet Keria and Ava-Marie from North Street School Feilding. These are two of our winners from the Manawatū Community Hub Libraries Matariki Art Competition held in June. They got the chance to bring their designs to life in the Makerspace. With the guidance of staff, they used sublimation printing to transfer their artwork onto a t-shirt. Keria's t-shirt design required four A4 sheets per side to cover both the front and back of her t-shirt, resulting in an eye-catching seamless print.

To find out more about the Makerspace: www.mchl.co.nz/makerspace

SCAN TO LEARN MORE





Welcome to Manawatū: A Cuppa & Connection

Have you recently moved to the Manawatū District? Whether you're from another country, town, or region, we invite you to join our monthly morning tea. This is a relaxed space to meet others, share stories, and begin building connections in your new community.

When: Third Friday of each month, 10:00am – 11:30am

Where: Te Āhuru Mōwai, 64 Stafford Street, Feilding

Upcoming Dates: Friday, 15 August & 19 September 2025

Come along on your own or with a friend or family member. Everyone is welcome. Enjoy a cuppa and a warm welcome as you settle into life in the Manawatū.



Mahjong with Mary

Mahjong has become a popular at Manawatū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL), thanks to local volunteer Mary Howard. When the library was temporarily located on Goodbehere Street, a community request to learn Mahjong sparked the idea for sessions. Although no one initially knew how to play, Mary, a retired office administrator, stepped in to teach. Drawing from her own experience learning the game as a teenager, she now runs free 8-week beginner courses every Thursday people enjoy the strategic and social aspects of the game. Mary's sessions have sparked wider interest, leading to the creation of a Monday social group for returning players to practise and socialise. With no formal Mahjong club in Feilding, MCHL has become the go-to place for the game, attracting both newcomers and seasoned players. For booking in please ask MCHL staff at the front counter.

View the full story online by visiting:

www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latestnews/2024/2025/Mahjong-withMary



What's On Spotlight

Everyday Makeup

Workshop Cost: \$50

Saturday, 30 August

2025 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Join Briar McKenzie, Makeup Artistry for a hands-on workshop. Learn practical, wearable techniques using your own products.

Fathers Day Tank

Cost: \$10

Wednesday, 3 September

3:30pm – 5:00pm

Build a tank for Dad. Assemble and decorate a kit, ready to gift for Father's Day.

Spring Flower Centrepiece

Workshop Cost: \$85

Friday, 5 September

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Welcome Spring by creating your very own beautiful floral centrepiece with Garden Flowers by Sara.

Resin Workshop

Cost: \$90

Friday, 17 October

6:00pm–9:00pm

Design your very own eye-catching bamboo serving board and a pair of stunning coasters with Resinated Arts.

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



VOLUNTEER CENTRAL Cuppa&Chat

Looking for new ways to spend your free time, make friends, participate, and belong? Want to **give back** to the community but don't know how or where to start?

9th September 2025, Tuesday, 10 am to 12 pm

Manawatū Community Hub Libraries

manawatū community hub libraries Te Āhuru Mōwai

WHATUNGĀ TŪAO VOLUNTEER CENTRAL

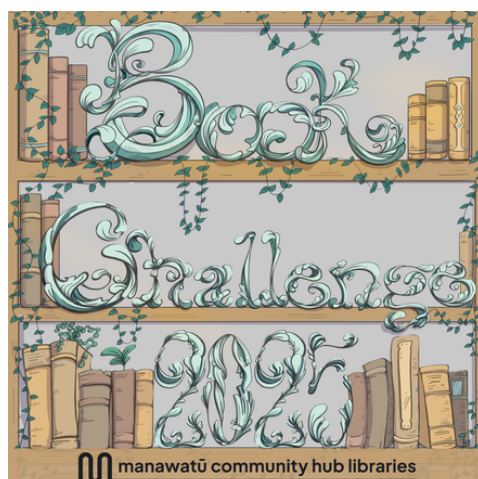
MCHL Highlights

Book Challenge

As you browse the library shelves, look out for our book review shelf talkers. These are honest ratings and reviews from readers in the Manawātū Community Hub Libraries Book Challenge. Whether a book was a hit or a miss, these reviews can help you choose your next read and maybe even inspire you to try something new. You might discover an unexpected favourite or decide to skip a book that's not your style.

Want to join the challenge?

Pick up your Book Challenge fold-out from the library and record the books you read. Fill in a review card and return it to the MCHL front counter whether it was enjoyed or not, we want to hear from you. Your feedback helps us recommend great reads to our community of book lovers, share varied opinions, and build a collection that reflects the tastes and interests of our readers.



Pay Your Rates

You can pay your Manawātū District Council rates with us. Simply visit the MCHL front desk. We accept payment by cash, EFTPOS, or credit card.

For more information:

www.mdc.govt.nz/services/rates/paying-your-rates

Information Centre Services

We can help with purchasing tickets for Eventfinda events, just come and see us at the front desk.

Planning a trip? Whether you're travelling by coach, ferry, or train, we offer personalised support for online reservations. Visit the Information Centre at the shared MCHL front desk. We are here to help every step of the way.

For more information:

www.mchl.co.nz/services/feilding-and-district-information-centre



Helping Hands at Crafternoons

Kirsty Brown is a long-time supporter of Manawātū Community Hub Libraries and a dedicated volunteer at our weekly Crafternoon sessions for 5 to 8-year-olds. What began as a fun activity with her daughter seven years ago has grown into a meaningful way for Kirsty to give back to the community. With a passion for crafts and a love of reading, Kirsty brings warmth, and creativity to her role.

Read Kirsty's story online:

www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latestnews/2024/2025/helping-hands-at-crafternoons



Feilding Community Centre: A Local Legacy

The Feilding Community Centre was established in 1938 by L.J. Wild and was the first community centre in New Zealand. It began as a social experiment in adult rural education and quickly became a place for local groups to meet and hold activities. Today, Manawātū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL) provides services at Te Āhuru Mōwai that continue this role as a place for community learning, connection, and support.

Family History Help at the Library

Every Wednesday from 10:00am to 12:00pm, visit the Heritage Table at MCHL to meet members of the Feilding Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. They're available to help with family history research and answer any questions you may have.

To view local history and heritage photos, scan the QR Code or visit: www.mchl.co.nz/services/heritage/feilding-and-district-heritage-collection



Justice of the Peace (JP) Service Thrives

Tucked away in the Ngutu Kākā Room at Te Āhuru Mōwai, a quiet but powerful public service unfolds every Tuesday and Friday. The Justice of the Peace (JP) service is one of the most valued community services hosted by Manawātū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL). An offering that began in 2014 at the Manawātū District Council, then moved into the library by 2016, and by 2021, demand had seen the service expand to two days a week. **With 1,060 clients served in the last year alone and no bookings required, it's a simple and reliable option — just drop in between 11:30am and 1:30pm.**

JPs can assist with a wide range of tasks from certifying documents and witnessing statutory declarations to signing affidavits and verifying legal forms. These seemingly simple services often carry real weight in legal and official matters, and having them available at a central, public location like the community hub means it's accessible for all. Currently the service is assisting about 25 clients per week.

Behind this popular service are 15 dedicated local JPs, a mix of working professionals and retirees, all volunteering their time.



Photograph of Justice of the Peace Arjen Spekking, one of the 15 local JPs available at the Community Hub, known for his calm presence and distinctive Dutch accent.

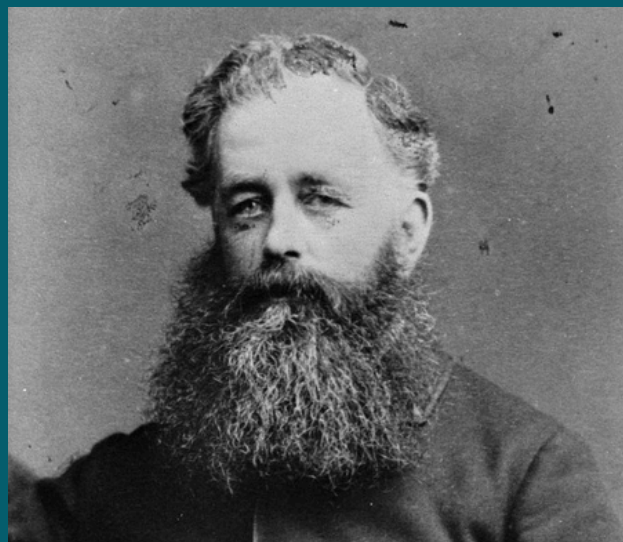
Among them is Rod Titcombe, who first became a JP in 1988 while serving at the Manawātū District Council. Now retired, Rod continues to serve after 37 years. "I've always believed in giving back to the community," says Rod. "Being a JP is a small way to help make people's lives a bit easier."

JPs are more than just official witnesses. They are everyday citizens chosen for their integrity, trained thoroughly, police-vetted, and sworn in to represent the law and their community. Many are nominated by community groups or fellow JPs with an endorsement of their character and capability. Nominations are made by the local Member of Parliament.

In an age where even basic legal processes can feel daunting, the JP service at MCHL is a rare gem — free, accessible, and trusted. It's more than a convenience; it's a quiet, consistent presence that reflects the best of community spirit and public service.

Arthur Halcombe: JP and Early Feilding Pioneer

Arthur William Follett Halcombe (1834–1900) was a Justice of the Peace and a key figure in the early development of Feilding and the wider Manawātū region. The town of Halcombe was named in his honour, and Stanway was named after his wife, Edith. His leadership helped shape Feilding.



Thank you for reading!