

CHECK IT OUT

MCHL Newsletter Issue #11 August 2026

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

Welcome | Haere mai

As we look forward to the warmer days ahead, there's still plenty happening at the hub. In this edition of Check It Out, discover our new Library of Things items, Makerspace success, upcoming workshops, student study space, board games, Mayor in the chair and more.

We are also celebrating Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, sharing new resources for all ages, and inviting you to help preserve our community stories through our heritage collection.

Stay up to date with the latest news and coming events with the Check It Out newsletter!



Cracking Innovation!

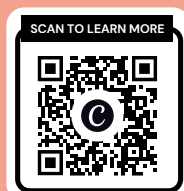
A little creativity, clever design, and 3D printing have created a new teaching resource for hospitality students at Queen Elizabeth College.

Working with the MCHL Makerspace, Junior Food Teacher Mrs Rickie Allen-French developed reusable 3D-printed eggs to help students practise cracking and separating eggs without waste or mess.

The realistic eggs can be cracked open, reassembled, and reused, helping students build confidence, coordination, and kitchen skills. After testing and refining the design, 30 eggs were produced for classroom use. The project shows how the makerspace can turn ideas into practical, innovative learning tools.

View the full story online:

<https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2026/cracking-innovation>



Growing Together: The Library of Things

Our Library of Things collection continues to grow, offering free access to equipment, technology, learning tools and experiences beyond traditional library resources. Created in response to community interests, the collection supports creativity, discovery and learning. New items are being added throughout the year, with community suggestions helping shape what comes next.

The collection already includes musical instruments, eBook readers, portable CD players, a telescope, sewing machines, toys and games. Upcoming additions include electronic keyboards, digital drum kits, family fitness sets, a Giant Kubk set, GoPro camera, Bluetooth party speaker and educational toys.

Borrowing is easy, simply choose a display case from the Library of Things display shelves near the children's area and take it to the front counter. Items are free to borrow for two weeks, with holds and renewals available. Explore the Library of Things today and discover new ways to learn, create and connect!

View the full story online by visiting:

<https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2026/growing-together-the-library-of-things/nocache>





Need somewhere quiet to study during mock exams? We are opening a free study space for local students at Te Ahuru Mowai, 64 Stafford Street, Feilding. Bring your friends to study and collaborate, or use the space to focus on your own. There's free Wi-Fi, a smart screen and whiteboard for group study, and a quiet environment with no distractions. **Bring your books, laptop and study mates and make the most of this free space—no bookings required!**

Dates & Times

Wednesday 9 Sept
1pm–4pm

Thursday 10 Sept
1pm–4pm

Friday 11 Sept
1pm–3pm

Saturday 12 Sept
1pm–4pm

Monday 14 Sept
1pm–4pm

Tuesday 15 Sept
1pm–3pm

Wednesday 16 Sept
1pm–4pm

Thursday 17 Sept
1pm–4pm

What's On Spotlight



**Hand Sewing Workshop:
Upcycled Coin Purse**
Saturday, 29 August
2:00pm – 4:00pm

Cost: \$15

Transform fabric scraps into a colourful handmade coin purse while learning the fundamentals of hand sewing. In this beginner-friendly workshop.

**Father's Day Treasure Chest
Workshop**

Wednesday, 2 September
3:30pm – 5:00pm

Cost: \$10

Children will assemble their own wooden treasure chest, then let their creativity shine by adding decorations, embellishments, paint, and personal touches to make it truly one of a kind.

All materials provided.

Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Grandparent's Day
Handmade Keepsake
Workshop**

Saturday, 26 September
10:00am – 12:00pm

Cost: \$12

Celebrate Grandparents' Day with a handmade keepsake!

Children and their grandparents (or a special adult) will work together to mix, pour, and decorate a Plaster of Paris ornament. All materials supplied. Suitable for all ages. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more info visit:

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



Youth Games Afternoon

Join us on the last Wednesday of every month, with the next session happening on **Wednesday, 26 August, from 3.30pm–5.00pm**. Come along to Te Āhuru Mōwai, 64 Stafford Street, Feilding, and enjoy an afternoon of PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo and VR, with light snacks provided. Ages 11–18. No registration is needed — just drop in, bring your friends, and enjoy some gaming fun.



Board Games Afternoon

Bring your whānau and friends to Te Āhuru Mōwai for a fun afternoon of board games. Enjoy a great mix of classic and modern games for all ages, whether you are a seasoned player or trying board games for the first time. Share good conversations, tasty snacks and a warm drink. Join us on **26 September from 2.00pm–4.00pm** for an afternoon of play, friendship, and community.

Mayor in the Chair

We are looking forward to welcoming Mayor Michael Ford to the hub. If you have a question, an idea to share, or simply want to chat about what's happening in our district, drop in and say hello at Te Āhuru Mōwai, 64 Stafford St, Feilding. Join us on Fridays from 11am–12pm. Upcoming sessions are **18 September, 9 October, 6 November, and 11 December**. Everyone is welcome.



Let's Keep Young Minds Exploring



A young child visits the library especially to play with the new dollhouse, enjoying imaginative play in a welcoming space.

Every visit to Te Āhuru Mōwai now offers families a fresh experience, with new interactive play equipment rotating every quarter in the children's area. Current attractions include a large doll's house, with future themes featuring a kitchen, shopping and café, and office play sets.

The initiative, developed by Community Hub Experience Specialist Val Leighton, aims to keep the library welcoming, encourage imagination, and inspire repeat visits. Val carefully selected each set to suit the community hub environment. The rotating toys complement popular permanent activities such as Duplo, colouring, and the outdoor play area, encouraging learning, creativity, and social connection.

View the full story online by visiting:

https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2026/lets-keep-young-minds-exploring/_nocache



Our Shared Heritage

Every photo holds a memory, and every story helps preserve the heritage of Feilding & District.

Come along to Capturing Feilding & District Heritage on Friday 28 August, 11:00am-12:00pm (held on the last Friday of every month) in the Heritage Area at Te Āhuru Mōwai, 64 Stafford Street, Feilding.

Learn how you can contribute your historic photos, memories, and stories to the Feilding & District Heritage website:
<https://www.feildingheritage.nz>

Whether it's a family photo, a local landmark, a community event, or a story passed down through generations come and see us.

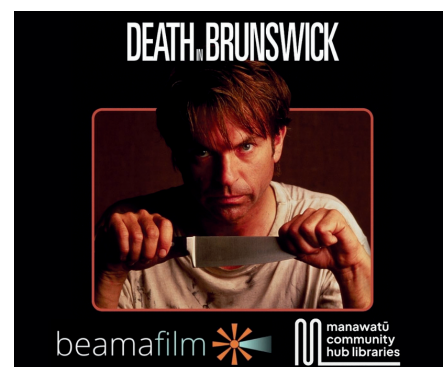


What's On Manawātū Booklet

Pick up your free August–October 2026 booklet from Manawātū Community Hub Libraries or Makino Aquatic Centre and discover upcoming events, programmes, classes, and activities happening across both facilities.

Can't make it in? It's now available online too:

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



Beamafilm Celebrates Sir Sam Neill

Celebrate Sir Sam Neill's remarkable career with a curated Beamafilm collection, free for Manawātū Community Hub Libraries members. Stream acclaimed films, documentaries and TV series on multiple devices, showcasing over 50 years of his work, from New Zealand productions to international favourites including Death in Brunswick, Sirens and Dean Spanley.

To read the full article:

<https://www.mchl.co.nz/your-mchl/latest-news/2026/beamafilm-celebrates-sir-sam-neill>





Celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

We invite you and our community to celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori from 14–20 September with a week of activities, experiences and opportunities to connect with te reo Māori.

A highlight of the celebration is Te Ara Kōrero – The Pathway of Stories, a self-directed cultural trail through Te Āhuru Mōwai. Visitors can explore the Hub at their own pace, discovering the meaning behind its architectural and design features and learning about the connections between the building, the whenua and our ancestors.

A special installation at the end of Te Ara Kōrero will celebrate this year's national theme, "Te Reo Towns", by exploring the story behind our town's name, Aorangi. According to accounts from the time, early explorer Matangi saw a flock of migrating tūi that appeared like a great cloud in the sky and named the area Aorangi.

Visitors will also find more opportunities to bring te reo into everyday life, with additional bilingual signage throughout the Hub and MCHL team members will welcome visitors in te reo as they continue building their own confidence and knowledge through language learning.

Throughout the week, there will be opportunities to take part in interactive experiences including harakeke weaving, rongoā workshops and cultural performances, with more activities to be announced.

Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori is an opportunity for everyone to engage with our national language, whether you are speaking your first words, building confidence or using te reo every day. MCHL looks forward to creating a space where te reo is heard, celebrated and embraced by the whole community. Nau mai, haere mai. Come along, explore Te Āhuru Mōwai and discover the stories waiting to be found.

To find out more about Te Wiki o te Reo Māori events and activities at Manawatū Community Hub Libraries, visit: <https://www.mchl.co.nz/whats-on/te-wiki-o-te-reo-maori>

Thank you for reading!

