

CHECK IT OUT

February 2025

Issue #2

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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

Welcome to the second issue of Check It Out, Manawatū Community Hub Libraries' bi-monthly newsletter. We're excited to bring you the latest updates, event news, and valuable information to help you make the most of your community hub.

The MCHL team is thrilled to have seen so many people enjoying our summer programmes, and we are excited to continue bringing you engaging and enjoyable experiences in the months ahead.



Basketball Half Court is a Slam Dunk!

A new outdoor basketball half court has recently opened for the public to enjoy, located on Hobson Street outside Te Āhuru Mōwai. This new addition to the community was made possible through a collaborative effort between the New Zealand Community Trust (NZCT) and the Manawatū District Council (MDC), aiming to provide a recreational space for locals to be active and engage in outdoor sports.

The half court offers a fantastic opportunity for basketball enthusiasts of all ages to practice their skills, play casual games, or simply enjoy time outdoors.

Love MCHL Month

We are excited to celebrate Love MCHL Month throughout February with engaging promotions, including our weekly Rock Hunt, Bookface competition and a special book display. Additionally, suggestion cards are available in the library for you to share what you'd like to see offered at MCHL, and don't forget to grab some complimentary bookmarks.

As a member of MCHL, you have access to over 50,000 physical items and an ever-growing digital collection. Our curated selection caters to a wide variety of interests, ages, and life stages, providing opportunities for exploration, learning, entertainment, and creativity. If you have ideas for expanding our collection, we would love to hear them!

You can borrow items for three weeks, while magazines are available for a one-week loan.

For more information, scan the QR code below or visit mchl.co.nz. If you need assistance during your visit, feel free to ask a staff member for help.





Save the Date! Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day 2025 in Feilding is set for Sunday, 16 March, from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Victoria Park. Join us for this one-of-a-kind free event for all ages.

Enjoy inflatables, soft play for little ones, balloon blasters, popcorn, and snacks, along with the chance to explore local community booths and discover new initiatives.

It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, enjoy the day, and experience what the community has to offer, all made possible by generous sponsors. Save the date and bring your family, friends, and neighbours to this community event.

Cutting Edge Technology: Makerspace CNC Machine in Action

At Te Āhuru Mōwai, the MCHL Makerspace is home to some impressive projects, including this creative kitchen helper made by our patron, Jacinda. Using the CNC machine, Jacinda crafted a versatile piece of furniture that can transform into both a table and a stepladder, allowing children to safely assist in the kitchen. The design slots together easily, offering a functional solution for both parents and kids. Jacinda found the pattern online and the CNC precisely cut the shapes from plywood, carve out pockets for joints, and drill screw holes for easy assembly.

The CNC at MCHL Makerspace is ideal for making everything from custom furniture to wooden signage and shapes. With its precise cutting and carving capabilities, it's a fantastic tool for turning creative ideas into reality. If you've got a project in mind and think the CNC might be the perfect tool for the job, our Makerspace staff are ready to help you get started and guide you through the process.



What's On Calendar Spotlight

JP Services

Tuesdays and
Friday's
11:30am - 1:30pm

**Feilding Bridge
Club**, Tuesday,
25 February
2025 11:00am -
1:00pm

**Feilding Branch
of the New
Zealand Society
of Genealogists**
Wednesdays
10am - 12:00pm

Between The Covers Book Club

Wednesday, 26
February 2025
5:30pm - 6:30pm



MCHL Highlights



Bookface Competition

To take part, simply snap a photo using books, magazines, or DVDs to create a unique BookFace image. You can blend your face with a book cover or get extra creative by using props and different body parts. The possibilities are endless.

There are two categories for prizes:

- Adult Category
- Children's Category

The lucky winners in each category will receive a \$30 Paper Plus book voucher courtesy of Manawātū Community Hub Libraries.

Competition Details

- **Submission Deadline:** February 28th, 2025
- **Winners Announced:** March 4th, 2025 (via MCHL social media channels)
- **Where to Submit:** You can submit your entry digitally via email at mchl@mdc.govt.nz or via our Facebook page. Please include your contact details and indicate whether you are entering as an adult or child.



A Glimpse into History Digital Comics

This photograph was taken shortly after a May school holiday session in 1982 at the Feilding Public Library. Children's Librarian Carol Morrison, having just shared stories about witches with the children, was attending to the public desk. The image provides a clear snapshot of public libraries before computers were introduced. The MCHL team's school holiday program and story time continue to be offered to this day.



COMICSPLUS #ReadAllTheComics

Have you checked out Comic Plus? With over 25,000 digital comics, graphic novels, and manga available, it's a fantastic resource for comic fans. No queues, no boundaries – read to your heart's content! To access it, you'll just need your MCHL membership number and PIN/password.



Popular Summer Reading Picks

This summer, readers enjoyed a variety of top-checkout books. These books offered something for everyone, from suspense and history to adventure and light-hearted fiction.

Have you had the opportunity to read any of them?



#1 Biography
The last secret agent
By Pippa Latour



#1 Adult Fiction
Inheritance
By Nora Roberts



#1 Adult Non-Fiction
The Last Muster
by Carly Thomas



#1 Junior Non-Fiction
4 Yaks and a Yeti
By Peter Hillary



#1 Junior Fiction
Diary of a Minecraft Zombie Collection
By Zack Zombie



Grace Norman aged 11, enjoys volunteering in the library weekly shelving books.

Stories of impact: Home Schooled Grace Norman, 11, Volunteers at Manawatū Community Hub Libraries

Grace Norman, an 11-year-old home schooled student with a passion for books, is making a difference in her community by volunteering twice a week at Manawatū Community Hub Libraries (MCHL).

For the past six months, Grace has been shelving books and helping maintain the library's inviting atmosphere. "I love being surrounded by books," Grace shared. She has an extensive personal collection at home and counts Enid Blyton, the beloved author of timeless children's classics, as her favourite. Grace is currently working her way through Blyton's collection.

Grace says she enjoys the peaceful atmosphere and finds it a great place to meet others while also giving her time to herself. She adds that the friendly staff and the community make her volunteering experience even more rewarding.

Grace's journey began when her mother, Elizabeth Norman, reaching out to the MCHL staff about volunteering opportunities. With a flexible four-day school schedule, Grace has been able to dedicate her time to the library with her mother always nearby. In addition to her passion for books, Grace's favourite subjects are maths and history. She enjoys gymnastics and has what she describes as a "giant obsession" with cats.

Her favourite part of the community hub, apart from the books, is the makerspace, where she recently created a vinyl graphic t-shirt. She also participates in the library's popular "Crafternoons" programme during term time. The MCHL staff hold Grace in high regard, describing her as a confident, well-spoken young lady who enthusiastically embraces her role.

Manawatū Community Hub Libraries offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities, catering to those who can commit regularly and those who prefer to help out with one-off events.

Across the region, volunteers play an essential role in ensuring the success of the local community libraries, events, and services that MCHL offers. Local event such as the annual Family Fun Day in March and MCHL Homelink service wouldn't be possible without volunteer support.

Those who are interested in making a difference are encouraged to register their interest to join the growing team of volunteers.

Thank you for reading!

