

2025/2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Feilding Civic Centre Trust

Annual Report to Manawatū District Council

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Reporting period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

This report presents the Trust's activities and performance for the year. Bookings increased to 562 and estimated foot traffic reached 43,900. The report also records progress against the Statement of Intent.

Chair report

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Report for the Feilding Civic Centre Trust for the 2025–2026 financial year. This has been a year of significant change and challenges for the Trust, with a continued focus on the long-term sustainability of the Feilding Civic Centre and its important role within our community. I would like to sincerely thank Manawatū District Council, its elected members, Chief Executive and staff for their continued financial support, constructive engagement and willingness to work collaboratively with the Trust throughout the year.

The year has also seen considerable changes in the Trust's governance. I would like to acknowledge and thank those trustees who have concluded their service, including Allan Williams, Tony Chapman, Theo Baker, Brodie Noon and Mark Marsden. Each has generously contributed their time, knowledge and experience to the Trust. I particularly acknowledge Tony Chapman for his service and longstanding commitment.

Looking ahead, the Trust has been working closely with Manawatū District Council to consider the future governance and operational arrangements for the Civic Centre, with the shared objective of ensuring this valued community facility remains sustainable and accessible for generations to come. I extend my appreciation to my fellow trustees, our staff, volunteers and the many organisations and individuals who continue to support and utilise the Centre. While this has been a challenging year, I am confident that the work undertaken will help secure a positive future for the Feilding Civic Centre and the wider community it serves.

Evan Tull

Chair

Purpose and community role

The Trust seeks to provide a sports and entertainment facility that engenders civic pride and is recognised as a venue of choice for community activities. Its purposes include encouraging participation in arts, culture, recreation and sport, and managing, promoting, enhancing and maintaining the Civic Centre for community use.

The Statement of Intent links the Centre's work to Council's strategic priority of a place to belong and grow. The Centre provides spaces for sporting activities, performances, meetings, workshops and community functions.

Operational performance

The Trust is pleased to report an increase in venue usage compared with the 2024–2025 financial year, with total bookings exceeding the Statement of Intent target of 480–500. The Trust notes that estimated foot traffic reflects the total number of visits to the venue rather than the number of unique individuals.

Measure	2024–2025	2025–2026	Change
Bookings	498	562	+64 | 12.8%
Estimated foot traffic	37,904	43,918	+6,014 | 15.9%
Stadium bookings	307	352	+45 | 14.7%
Cedar Room bookings	97	115	+18 | 18.6%
Concert Chamber bookings	65	69	+4 | 6.2%
Whole complex bookings	29	26	−3 | 10.3% decrease

Community participation

Sport accounted for 337 bookings, approximately 60% of the annual total. Workshops and courses increased from 28 to 60 bookings, and dance bookings increased from 30 to 38. Meetings accounted for 66 bookings, theatre and shows for 27, dinners for 10, prizegivings for five and other uses for 19.

The Trust is pleased to report an increase in dance competition activity and overall venue bookings during the year. This growth reflects the commitment of staff to providing quality customer service, alongside increased marketing and promotional efforts. Booking information indicates that word of mouth, social media and the venue's website continue to be important sources of referrals and new business.

Facilities and service improvements

During the reporting period the Trust appointed an additional staff member to support the increased utilisation of the facility and maintain a high standard of service for venue users. With the support and funding from MDC, the Concert Chamber air conditioning was upgraded, improving comfort for performers and audiences alike. The replacement of the kitchen windows was another important facility improvement, contributing to the ongoing maintenance and functionality of the building.

Challenges affecting venue use

The Trust continued to adapt to changing booking requirements throughout the year, with a growing emphasis on flexible use of the Centre's facilities. One major booking was unable to proceed due to restrictions associated with the building's seismic assessment.

Performance against the Statement of Intent

The following assessment uses the targets and results in the supplied completed Statement of Intent. Results described as current or ongoing require confirmation as at 30 June 2026.

Goal One Events activities and venue use

Measure and target	Reported result
Confirmed bookings 480–500 bookings	562 bookings and estimated foot traffic of 43,918.
Marketing and information pack Complete within 2025–2026	Completed and ongoing.
Customer database 250 in 2025; 350 in 2026; 450 in 2027	282 groups reported as current.

Goal Two - Community participation

Measure and target	Reported result
Civic Centre Friends 8 registered volunteers in 2025–2026	Programme developed and rolled out; 8 registered.
School and community engagement 15 contacts every six months	Completed with regular school contact.
Arts and cultural engagement 10 contacts every six months	Newsletters, database outreach and regular venue contact through EVANZ.

Financial stewardship and facility planning

Goal Three - Financial management

Measure and target	Reported result
Additional income $25,000, excluding third-party funding for remedial works	COGS $5,000; event sponsorship $4,760; term deposit interest $3,753. Total $13,513. (Note 1)
Financial reporting Six-monthly and audited annual reports within three months; draft year-end financial reports by 30 July	First Report of period – submitted as 9 month report. Draft Financials submitted Sept 2026 (Note 2)
Asset vesting Request to Council by end of October 2025	Incomplete. (Note 3)
Procurement plan September 2025	Procurement policy & conflicts of interest policy approved by the Trust November 2025

Note 1: The result highlights the ongoing challenge of securing additional revenue while maintaining the Centre's focus on providing accessible and affordable facilities for the community.

Note 2: Due to scheduling the 6 month report was presented as a 9 month report to council. The draft annuals were presented to Council in September.

Note 3: Discussions are ongoing with MDC. The process highlighted a number of assets the trust is depreciating, that MDC have also included within its own depreciation schedules.

Goal Four - Maintenance and asset planning

Measure and target	Reported result
Annual maintenance schedule Agreed by end of June 2025	Completed.
Ten-year asset management plan December 2025, subject to Council and consultant processes	Work with Council ongoing; further work required.