

SuperSkills Jubilee AGM Report

1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

The 2025-2026 year was one of significant growth for SuperSkills Jubilee, with strong demand for programmes, expanding community partnerships, and continued recognition of the positive impact our services have across Southland.

Throughout the year, most classes operated at or near capacity, with waiting lists developing for several programmes. To maximise participation opportunities, a revised attendance policy was introduced to ensure places remained available to those committed to regular attendance.

Several programmes evolved in response to participant interests and community needs. Cross Stitch expanded into **Needlecraft**, while **Knot Just Knitting** broadened to include crochet, loom work, and other fibre arts. Popular holiday workshops, including soap making, needle felting, and wet felting, enabled participants to develop new creative skills and confidence.

A major achievement was the introduction of **Cooking Smart for Diabetes**. Following requests from both health professionals and community members, budget cooking classes were adapted to focus on diabetes management through affordable, practical meal preparation. Demand quickly exceeded expectations, resulting in a second diabetes-focused class. Participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting meaningful lifestyle changes and improved confidence managing their health.

Our partnership with **Ruru Specialist School** continued to strengthen through the delivery of an enhanced Independent Life Skills Programme, focusing on budgeting, meal planning, cooking, and practical skills required for independent living.

Community engagement remained a hallmark of SuperSkills. Participants in our Crochet and Needlecraft programmes completed a range of charitable projects, including beanies for the Hamlin Project in Ethiopia, garments for Southland Hospital's neonatal and children's wards, and Christmas hats for local newborns.

Volunteer mentors continued to be the foundation of our success. During the year we welcomed new volunteers Neil Logan and Joanne Lang and entered 2026 with twelve active mentors supporting programme delivery. We also continued our partnership with SIT by hosting student placements, helping develop future community-sector workers while strengthening our programmes.

Several facility improvements were completed during the year. The relocation of the SuperSkills classroom into the former Jubilee Education room created a brighter, quieter, and more welcoming learning environment. A dedicated waiting area was established for clients, and a new oven was installed to improve the functionality and safety of our cooking programmes.

Our partnership with **Whare Tapua Arts Murihiku** continued to flourish, providing accessible and affordable community space for many of our creative programmes. Over the previous 12 months, SuperSkills delivered 97 workshops within the Arts Murihiku building, resulting in 1,191 client attendances.

A significant highlight occurred in March when representatives from SuperGrans/SuperSkills Aotearoa visited SuperSkills Jubilee. During their visit, our organisation was recognised as the highest-performing SuperSkills agency nationally, delivering the highest number of workshops, supporting the greatest number of participants, and recording the highest volunteer contribution within the network.

The year concluded with the Creative Connections Exhibition at Whare Tapua Arts Murihiku, showcasing not only the creativity of participants but also the confidence, friendships, wellbeing, and personal growth fostered through SuperSkills programmes.

By the Numbers 1/07/25-30/06/26

Workshops Held: 746

Client Sessions Provided: 5197

Looking Ahead to 2026-2027

As demand for our services continues to grow, SuperSkills remains committed to developing programmes that are responsive, practical, and community-focused.

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Launching an **Advanced Diabetes Cooking** programme to build on the outstanding success of **Cooking Smart for Diabetes** and provide graduates with opportunities to further develop their knowledge and skills.
- Redeveloping **Nurture Nest** to better meet local needs by partnering with **ComCol Youth Service** and delivering a tailored programme for young parents aged 16-20 years and their babies.
- Continuing to identify service gaps for parents, caregivers, and families in line with community needs and funding priorities.
- Expanding creative and life-skills learning opportunities, with an increased focus to use donated resources to develop creativity and practical skills while increasing awareness of sustainability.
- Continuing to strengthen partnerships with local organisations, healthcare providers, and community groups.
- Maintaining our focus on volunteer recruitment, support, and recognition to ensure sustainable programme growth.

SuperSkills extends its sincere thanks to our board, General Manager, volunteer mentors, participants, funders, donors, and community partners. Your commitment enables SuperSkills Jubilee to continue empowering people with practical skills, greater confidence, stronger social connections, and increased independence.

Together, we are building stronger individuals, stronger families, and stronger communities.

Heather Barker, Coordinator, SuperSkills Jubilee Invercargill