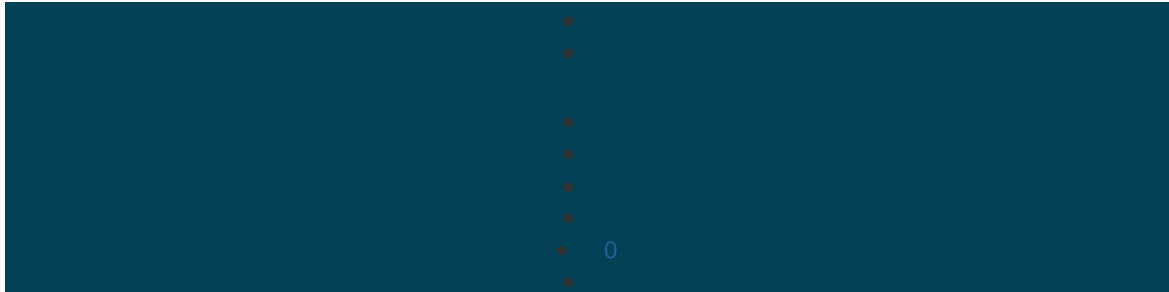


Exercise for the older generation, led by students



Pause
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Duration Time 1:28
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Subtitles

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Captions

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Chapters

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Video will play in 1 secondPlay Now!

Stop

MARK TAYLOR FAIRFAX NZ

Wintec has started a twice-weekly Biokinetic Clinic for elderly people with chronic conditions. It uses personalised exercise plans for better health.

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Sail the Waitemata on a vintage Vessel, departs NZ Maritime Museum

Weights, exercycles and mini-trampolines are part of a typical week for some Hamilton seniors.

That's through Wintec's biokinetic clinic, which is designed for elderly people and those with conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

About 35 participants sweat it out at two weekly sessions at the Rotokeun Campus, which can feature activities ranging from tai chi to weaving their way through a cone slalom.



MARK TAYLOR/FAIRFAX NZ

Age and chronic conditions are no barrier at Wintec's biokinetic clinic. Pictured are participants Brian Elsmore, in maroon vest, and partner Margo Ellesmere, wearing the heart shirt, with classmates, Wintec students and staff.

The rowing machine is a favourite for Hamilton's Brian Elsmore.

"I'm no [spring] chicken, I'm 79," he said.

"I have trouble with my knees. That's one of the reasons why I'm doing this [session], is to try and build the strength up again."

Extra flexibility in day-to-day life and more stamina during the workouts were benefits Elsmore had noticed.

"It's a jolly good idea, I reckon, rather than sit at home and do absolutely nothing," he said.

His partner Margo Eilemere decided to attend too and was a fan of the tai chi finishing exercise and the personalised help.

Each participant has an exercise programme and a Wintec graduate or postgraduate student to work through it with them.

Ad Feedback

Masters student Tanja Allen said the area of clinical exercise physiology had captured her interest.

"It's working with people with chronic illness and trying to improve their life ... using mostly exercise," she said.

Issues for those going to the Wintec clinic included mobility, diabetes, or the need to lose weight and Allen was relishing working with them.

"I would never get the opportunity to work with such a diverse range of people if I didn't have this clinic here," she said.

Wintec's Stephen Burden, who co-ordinates the clinic, said many participants had multiple health issues and the aim was getting their bodies back into motion.

For instance, one attendee had undergone multiple surgeries to treat cancer, and knee or hip replacements were also common.

Exercises were designed to make daily activities easier - such as sitting down or getting up and increasing grip strength.

"They require that for opening tins and bottles and doors," Burden said.

Clinical exercise physiology was an emerging industry in New Zealand and Burden hoped to see it grow after official recognition.

Going by the numbers in Australia, New Zealand would need 700 to 800 professionals, he said.

The biokinetic clinic is run by Wintec's Centre for Sport Science and Human Performance.

- Stuff