

Mayor tests new eZee bike

An electric cargo bike that can carry up to 200 kilograms is being touted as a "game changer" by a Nelson-based company that has already sold a fleet of them to Palmerston North City Council.

Electric Bike Hub director Jace Hobbs this week got Nelson Mayor Aldo Miccio to test the eZee bike which he has got exclusive distribution rights to in New Zealand. They sell for \$3600 each.

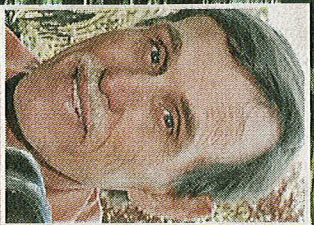
Mr Miccio said he was considering buying one of the bikes for personal use, and felt they were something the council could look at. "They are really good, loads of fun to ride and fast – very impressed."

Mr Jace is peddling the bikes to local authorities around New Zealand, confident that others will follow Palmerston North's lead. It bought four eZee bikes with extra gear.

"I'm on a mission to go up the steepest hills and meet the shakers and movers of New Zealand with this new technology."

The bikes could travel 40 to 50 kilometres, typically traveling about 30kmh, on a battery that took about three hours and 15 cents worth of power to charge, he said. "It can radically reduce door-to-door costs."

With the bike's ability to transport large items like kayaks and surfboards, Mr Jace also believed it would appeal to people for personal use.



Moving with ease: Jace Hobbs of Electric Bike Hub, inset, in Wakapuaka watches Nelson Mayor Aldo Miccio test the eZee electric bike in Queenstown.