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No age limit for biking around the city

MONIQUE STEELE

On the first day of her second term, a “more confident” Christchurch mayor Lianne Dalziel got amongst the community to celebrate a new addition to the city.

Dalziel visited Park Lane Retirement Village on Monday to celebrate Christchurch receiving two ‘tri-shaw’ bikes which enabled passengers with mobility issues to get pedalled around.

“I got invited to this last week... I moved my appointments around to do it.

“It’s such a good idea,” the newly re-elected mayor said.

Dalziel said the Cycling Without Age project worked in with the city’s cycling developments.

“We’re building cycling lanes... and there’s no reason why Christchurch can’t be the cycling capital of New Zealand,” she said,

Retirement villages across the country will receive new rickshaw-style bikes which allow two passengers to be pedalled by a cyclist.

Founder Dorthe Pedersen said

the bikes allowed people to get out for a bike ride when mobility might be an issue, in particular, for elderly people.

“We’re redesigning the perception of what age is about, there are no boundaries. It gives them a break away from any challenge or sickness that has occurred in their life,” she said.

The first trishaws arrived in New Zealand late last year, and Arvida purchased seven more bikes across the country.

The initiative started in Pedersen’s home country of Denmark in 2013.

Park Lane Village manager Aleshia Rayner said the initiative was important in preventing feelings of isolation or loneliness which can affect elderly people in rest homes.

“It gets our ressiess [residents] out. These increase interaction with staff and the community,” she said.

Rayner said a resident who was reliant on breathing with a heavy oxygen tank was able to take her oxygen tank on the

trishaw and go out for a ride.

“My lunch break now is ‘come on guys, let’s go for a ride around the block’,” Rayner said.

She said the one bike at Park Lane was already in high demand.

Pedersen will be unveiling the new bikes at eight villages from Christchurch to Auckland throughout October.

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Dorthe Pedersen



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Molly Craig and Bessie Bromell have a laugh.

JOSEPH JOHNSON/FAIRFAX NZ