



MEDIA RELEASE

7 April 2008

Dyslexia exhibit transforms car park and wins landscape award

National recognition for Christchurch sculpture garden

The ground-breaking Dyslexia Discovery Exhibit was recognised with a silver medal at one of New Zealand's most prestigious landscape honours, the bi-annual New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects Resene Pride of Place awards.

The permanent exhibit was conceived by some of New Zealand's top creative minds including Richard Taylor and the Weta team, and sculptor Paul Dibble who was commissioned by the Dyslexia Foundation to reflect John Britten's dreams of speed and flight. Other contributors included prominent UK artist Mackenzie Thorpe and Ron Davis, pioneer of the Davis Dyslexia Correction method.

The exhibit, designed as an interactive sculpture garden, transformed the front car park of a notable Worcester Boulevard villa into a place of expression for the dyslexic mind. The design and construction process was managed by Christchurch-based landscape design firm, Morgan + Pollard Associates.

Roger Pollard, Morgan + Pollard Managing Director, says the award is an outstanding achievement and a tribute to the creative abilities of the people involved.

"This is an extraordinarily beautiful garden in an urban landscape that offers an incredible insight into the dyslexic mind and the creative energy within."

Guy Pope-Mayell, Chair of Trustees of the Dyslexia Foundation, is delighted with the award, which comes only a year after the Government formally recognised dyslexia and begun the process of addressing the needs of dyslexic students in New Zealand schools.

"The Dyslexia Discovery Exhibit plays two vital roles. Firstly it's a fantastic space, a serene spot in the Christchurch CBD for locals and visitors to enjoy. And secondly it confronts dyslexia head on; the sculptures help visitors to understand that dyslexia is so much more than a range of learning difficulties.

"Dyslexia is a creative gift, not a disability, and the calibre of people involved with the exhibit demonstrates the correlation between creative minds and success," added Mr Pope-Mayell.

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Notes to Editors:

- The NZILA winner's citation is included below. More information can be found at www.nzila.co.nz/awards_current.asp
- Further information on the Dyslexia Discovery Exhibit can be found at www.cmct.org.nz/dde
- Dyslexia Awareness Week is taking place from 16-22 June. This year's theme is: Dyslexia – a blessing in disguise. See www.dyslexiafoundation.org.nz for more information.

**NZLIA LANDSCAPE DESIGN WINNERS CITATION
DYSLEXIA DISCOVERY EXHIBIT**

Morgan + Pollard Associates

Category 2d Commercial / Industrial / Institutional

AWARD: SILVER

This project transforms the front car park of a notable Worcester Street (Christchurch) villa into a place of expression for the Dyslexic mind.

The landscape provides a 'canvas' for four major pieces of artworks to provide an exhibit which gives insight into how the dyslexic mind relates to the world.

A formal geometric layout provides a strong context for the dyslexic interpretation.

The design is sensitive to the historic villa and acknowledges the use and style Worcester Street.

The site is an excellent transitional space between the building and the street.

The concept of a dyslexic garden is highly original and throughout the site are innovative design elements to enhance user understanding of the dyslexic mind.

Additional notes for award applicant:

- *Extremely high standard of materials and workmanship*
- *Excellent detailing*
- *Good response to location*
- *Planting complemented the hard landscape*
- *A low key plant palette – used restrained colour.*

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