

A KIWI ICON ON SHOW TO CELEBRATE DYSLEXIA

Dyslexia Action Week marks the beginning of an era. It's no longer enough to merely recognise dyslexia for the learning difference it is – it is time to act.

The Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand states that “actions speak louder than words” – which is the theme for this year's Dyslexia Action Week.

Canterbury Dyslexia is taking action with 'Dyslexia Discovery' – this Saturday from 11-3pm.

Experienced Dyslexia Facilitators will be at the award winning Dyslexia Discovery Exhibit on Worcester Boulevard to raise awareness and understanding of dyslexia and the many challenges and gifts it brings.

The legendary 'Britten' V1000 motorbike will be on display at 'Dyslexia Discovery' on Saturday, as well as one of John Britten's unique, rarely displayed, earlier prototype in the evolution of the Britten V1000. The V1000 still holds 4 world land speed records. John used his creative dyslexic thinking style to invent many incredible things, including the legendary Britten. John's widow, Kirsteen, will be available on Saturday to answer questions about John, his dyslexia and dyslexia in general.

It is estimated that one in every ten New Zealanders are dyslexic. In 2008 dyslexia was formally recognized and the government has recently contributed towards literacy in schools. Canterbury Dyslexia hopes that some of this funding will be used to support and nurture those 70,000 students with the dyslexic thinking style.

Dyslexia is an alternative way of thinking that enables individuals to view the world from many different perspectives and in creative ways. Many successful people have achieved because of the many creative gifts these perceptual talents bring.– including Einstein, Orlando Bloom, Kiera Knightley, Richard Taylor and of course, John Britten.

Dyslexia is not limited to reading difficulties. If addressed appropriately, dyslexia can result in creative talents. If not, it can affect a range of areas, from literacy and numeracy to concentration, memory, time and organisational difficulties.

According to a recent survey by the Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand, most educational professionals teach between one and three dyslexic students a year. Without the appropriate support, these students are at risk of failing to reach their potential, and the resulting low self esteem can have negative social and emotional effects.

With awareness and understanding, we can all make a difference – our actions today can affect 70,000 young New Zealanders tomorrow.

How you can take action:

- To find out more about dyslexia and for a free online assessment – go to **www.daviddyslexia.co.nz**
- For more information on dyslexia or to make a donation, go to **www.dfnz.co.nz**
- For schools wanting to join the free 4D programme: **www.4Dschools.org.nz**
- For general information about dyslexia, including research and tips for parents: **www.dyslexia.yale.edu**