

Exhibit wins award

A Christchurch dyslexia exhibit has not only transformed a carpark into a sculpture garden but won a national landscape award to boot.

The \$500,000 Dyslexia Discovery Exhibit at the Dyslexia Foundation's office on Worcester Boulevard has been recognised with a silver medal at the bi-annual New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects Resene Pride of Place awards.

The award was presented earlier this month to Christchurch landscape design firm Morgan and Pollard Associates, which managed the design and construction process of the exhibit.

Director Roger Pollard said the exhibit, four large bronze-coloured sculptures, was 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," he said.

Dyslexia Foundation trust chairman Guy Pope-Mayell said he was delighted with the award, particularly as it came only a year after the Government formally recognised dyslexia.

The exhibit was conceived by some of New Zealand's top creative minds, many dyslexic themselves or "gifted picture thinkers", including Weta Workshops co-founder Richard Taylor

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Mind sculpture: the award-winning Dyslexia Discovery Exhibit at the Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand's Worcester Boulevard office.

and Palmerston North sculptor Paul Dibble, who designed London's New Zealand Memorial.

The foundation commissioned Dibble to reflect the late John Britten's dreams of speed and flight. The Christchurch engineer, who designed a world record-setting motorbike, was dyslexic.

Other contributors included United Kingdom artist Mackenzie Thorpe and American Ron Davis, who pioneered a method of

teaching people with dyslexia to read.

Dyslexia was a "creative gift", not a disability, and the calibre of people involved with the exhibit demonstrated the correlation between creative minds and success, Pope-Mayell said.

Funding for the exhibit came from Templeton biscuit-makers Cookie Time Ltd, a private family trust and others who supported the project "in kind".