

Awareness key

By BROOKE GARDINER

LET'S raise public awareness of dyslexia because it's often misunderstood.

That's the call from local education specialist Esther Whitehead, who knows why it was important to raise public awareness of dyslexia. "It's important for children to realise that they are not alone and that one in 10 Kiwis are dyslexic," she said.

Next week a nationwide campaign will be launched to help raise public awareness of the learning difference, which affects up to 10 per cent of Kiwis. Ms Whitehead said nationally Kiwi singer/songwriter Don McGlashan would be releasing a song, with the lyrics explaining what it is like to

► DYSLEXIA CONFERENCE

The free seminar will be held at Kip McGrath Education Centre on Gorge Road, Queenstown, on June 25 at 6pm. Bookings are essential as spaces are limited. To book email kipmcgrath@queenstown.co.nz.

be dyslexic from an emotive point of view.

She would also be holding a public seminar with Dyslexia Foundation CEO Guy Pope-Mayell. Dyslexia was only officially recognised by the Government as a learning difficulty in 2007 and just two years on – 2009 has been designated a Year of Action on dyslexia.



Knowledge important: Education specialist Esther Whitehead: "It's important for children to realise that they are not alone and that one in 10 Kiwis are dyslexic."