

MEDIA RELEASE
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St Laurence gets behind Documentary Film Festival

Wellington investment and finance company St Laurence has thrown its support behind New Zealand's first International Documentary Film Festival.

St Laurence is official sponsor of the three awards on offer; best short documentary, best documentary and best feature documentary.

Managing Director Kevin Podmore says St Laurence is delighted to be sponsoring a new initiative in New Zealand film entertainment.

“With the recent success of movies such as *The Lord of the Rings*, we are already an established player in movie-making,” Kevin says. “However, we are also producing some fantastic documentary films, which are receiving similar recognition at overseas film festivals.

“With the advent of our own Documentary Film Festival, New Zealand theatre-goers will have the opportunity to see not only some of our best documentaries, but also the best the world has to offer. It's an exciting initiative that St Laurence is proud to be part of.”

New Zealand film *Heroes of Gallipoli* will premiere on opening night. The documentary includes original footage from the Anzac beaches, restored with the expertise of Peter Jackson company Weta Digital.

The Festival – dubbed DOCNZ 2005 – will begin at Auckland's Academy Cinema on September 15 and run until September 28, then move to Wellington's Paramount Theatre from September 29 to October 5.

St Laurence is an Australasian investment and finance company specialising in property bond issues, fixed interest debenture stock investments, managed funds and syndicated property investments.

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For more information about St Laurence, visit www.stlaurence.co.nz or call 04 499 3219