

# Ashburton gets sneak preview of Gloriavale documentary



**Malcolm Hopwood**

Ashburton audiences will have an advance screening this Sunday of a documentary on Gloriavale that opens in New Zealand cinemas the following week.

Entitled Gloriavale, the documentary directed by Noel Smyth and Fergus Grady, examines the widespread abuse inside the Gloriavale cult and the institutional failures that allowed it to continue.

The documentary claims unprecedented access to the secretive community and follows the Ready family as they mount a ground-breaking legal case against the cult's powerful leaders.

Regent cinema co-owner, David Favel, said the advance screening was offered to him when he made the booking for the documentary.

"I saw it as a local movie with the action taking place on the West Coast and Canterbury and it's valuable to get an insight into what's happening at Gloriavale,"

he said. "It's been a bonus for us to receive the preview and I hope it will heighten interest when the film opens on August 18."

In discussing the documentary, Favel saw a strong parallel with the religious oppression Ashburton's Afghan refugees faced over many years with the former members of the Gloriavale cult.

The documentary's press kit explains it exposes the "true extent of Gloriavale's crimes and the cruelty of its leaders" and highlights the story of the Ready family as they "risk losing their home, their community and those they love for a chance to bring positive change to Gloriavale".

Movie critics who've already viewed Gloriavale have called it "a heartbreaking tale of faith betrayed" and "enlightening, heart-rending and rage inducing".

Noel Smyth, who co-directed Camino Skies with Fergus Grady, will attend Sunday's screening together with members of the Ready family.

Afterwards Smyth and family members, who now live in South Canterbury, will hold a question and answer session with cinema patrons.

Seats are limited and bookings can be made by contacting the Regent cinema.



Sharon Ready, who is a current Gloriavale resident, is trying to clean up Gloriavale from the inside, while other members of her family are working from the outside. The Ready family is part of a groundbreaking legal case against the cult and members feature in Gloriavale the documentary.