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**OPERATOR OF ILLEGAL DVD BURNER LAB CHARGED WITH
COPYRIGHT, FIREARM AND DRUG OFFENCES**

57 year old suspect refused bail after arrest to appear in Court on Monday 30th May

Sydney: On 27 May, Campsie Police Detectives supported by investigators from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT) conducted a multiple search warrant operation on a vehicle and a residence in Condell Park in Sydney's western suburbs, and subsequently arrested a man on movie copyright, firearms and drugs offences.

The operation followed a lengthy enquiry by investigators from AFACT into a suspected commercial-scale illegal DVD manufacturing racket following information received from a member of the public.

Police seized over 8,500 illegal movie DVDs and a sophisticated illegal DVD manufacturing lab involving 18 DVD burners, printers and computer equipment able to produce illegal DVDs on a mass scale. Police also discovered four firearms, methyl amphetamine with an estimated street value of more than \$10,000, and almost \$25,000 in cash.

The 57 year old male was subsequently charged with multiple offences including manufacturing and distributing infringing DVDs, the supply of an indictable quantity of a prohibited drug and possession of unauthorized and unregistered firearms.

Movie titles seized in the Police operation included illegal copies of *The King's Speech* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, and *Water for Elephants*. The latter two films are currently screening in Australian cinemas and neither are yet available legitimately on DVD.

Andrew Mackie, Managing Director of Transmission, the Australian distributor of *The King's Speech*, said that he was disheartened by the continued theft of movies and television programs: "Transmission is incredibly proud to play a part in bringing this Oscar-winning film to Australian viewers. The success of the film is in part due to the important creative contribution made by Australian actors, producers, distribution and cinema personnel. Movie theft threatens Australia's screen communities and local businesses and it is important that all movie lovers play a part in preventing it."

Neil Gane, Executive Director of AFACT said, "This is not the first time we have come across individuals or crime groups using both movie theft and drug trafficking as their preferred illegal fundraising activity. We commend the action taken by the NSW Police which has resulted in the arrest and eradication of a drug trafficking and movie theft racket."

Members of the community can provide information on movie piracy to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000 or AFACT by calling 1800 251 996.

Penalties for copyright crimes under the Commonwealth Copyright Act are a maximum of \$60,500 and/or 5 years jail per offence.

About AFACT

AFACT works closely with industry, government and enforcement agencies to address copyright theft and protect the interests of the film and television community as well as the interests of Australian movie fans.

In February 2011, IPSOS and Oxford Economics released a study on behalf of AFACT entitled "Economic Consequences of Movie Piracy in Australia". The key findings, outlined below, indicated the scale of harm caused by movie piracy to the Australian economy in the 12 months up to July 2010.

- \$1.37 billion in revenue was lost across the entire Australian economy.
- 6,100 jobs were forgone across the entire economy.
- Tax losses to movie piracy amounted to \$193 million.
- Direct consumer spending losses to the movie industry, ie. cinema owners, local distributors, producers and retailers amounted to \$575 million.

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