

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
5 APRIL 2011

POLICE SEIZE OVER 10,000 ILLEGAL MOVIE DVDS AND 55 DVD BURNERS
\$6,600 in cash and at least 5 terabytes of data also seized

Melbourne: On 4 April, officers from Hume CIU, supported by investigators from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT), raided an illegal movie DVD manufacturing operation in Meadow Heights in Melbourne's north, seizing over 10,000 illegal movie DVDs.

Police also seized 55 DVD burners, \$6,600 in cash and 11 hard drives amounting to at least 5 terabytes of data. Movie titles seized in the raid included copies of the Oscar winning *The King's Speech*, along with copies of *Battle: Los Angeles* and *Sanctum*, which are all currently showing in Australian cinemas and are not yet available legitimately on DVD.

The raid followed an investigation by AFACT investigators that indicated that a man was burning copies of the illegal movies at his residence and selling them to members of the public from his garage. AFACT will allege that this operation was set up as both an illegal DVD manufacturing base and an outlet to sell the illegal discs. AFACT will also allege from records obtained during the search that the man operating the racket had made over \$70,000 from the illegal sale of DVDs within the past 12 months.

Following the raid, the Australian director of *Sanctum*, Alister Grierson, said: "Making *Sanctum* was a labour of love and was only possible with the contribution of our highly professional, hard-working crew. We hope that movie-lovers chose to enjoy the film legally at the cinema, on DVD, or via legitimate online services. In addition, we hope that people acknowledge that we can only make more films employing more Australians if the money made from the film goes back into the hands of the film's investors and not into the hands of those who are copying and distributing the film illegally."

Commenting on the police action, Neil Gane, Executive Director of AFACT, said: "We commend the Victorian Police for their actions yesterday. This was a sophisticated illegal movie DVD manufacturing operation that included computer equipment, printers and high capacity storage devices along with 55 DVD burners with the potential to burn off thousands of illegal movie DVDs a week. The commercial scale of the operation was designed to reap maximum profits from an illegal act and we welcome its demise."

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.

Contact:

Stephen Jenner

02 9997 8011

0409 776 196

info@afact.com.au

www.afact.org.au