

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
17 JUNE 2010

POLICE SHUT DOWN ILLEGAL DVD OPERATIONS IN NSW AND VICTORIA

*A total of 111 DVD burners with the potential of burning 2.7 million illegal DVDs
a year seized*

Sydney & Melbourne: Police from NSW and Victoria were today involved in three search warrant raids resulting in the closure of two illegal DVD burning operations and the seizure of an estimated 7,000 illegal movie Blu-Ray discs and DVDs and 111 DVD burners with the combined capacity of producing 2.7 million discs per year.

In Penrith, NSW Police, supported by investigators from the Australian Federation of Copyright Theft (AFACT) conducted simultaneous raids on a business premises and a residence seizing an estimated 2,500 illegal Blu-Ray discs and DVDs, 1,000 blank DVD-Rs and computer equipment used to manufacture pirated DVDs. One male in his twenties was arrested and is expected to be charged with copyright and trade mark offences.

The haul included illegal DVD copies of *A-Team*, *Robin Hood*, and *Shrek – The Final Chapter* that are all currently showing in Australian cinemas and not yet legitimately available on DVD.

In Springvale, Victoria Police supported by investigators from AFACT, raided a business premises in Springvale South, seizing an estimated 4,500 illegal DVDs, 112 DVDR burners, 12,000 blank DVD-Rs, two computers and 12 printers. A male in his forties was arrested and charged with copyright offences and dealing with the proceeds of crime.

Following the operation, Neil Gane, the Executive Director of AFACT, said: "Thanks to excellent work by officers from NSW and Victoria Police, these illegal piracy operations have been effectively shut down, cutting off the supply of illegal discs to movie pirates operating at weekend markets, and helping to protect jobs and honest, hard-working local businesses."

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, police and educational institutions to address copyright theft and protect the interests of the film and television industry as well as the interests of Australian movie fans.

In 2009, State and Federal Police conducted 69 raids involving movie piracy and seized 194,233 pirated DVDs. They also seized 749 burners capable of producing over 18 million pirated DVDs a year with a potential street value of over \$94 million.

On 24 November 2009 in Sydney, AFACT and Crime Stoppers hosted an event to destroy an estimated 780,000 pirated DVD movies, the result of NSW Police, Victoria Police and Federal Police operations to counter movie piracy. Also attending the destruction ceremony were local DVD store owners and Australian actors Susie Porter (*East West 101*, *The Jesters*) and Roy Billing (*Underbelly*, *Charlie and Boots*).

Australia's copyright industries are the 3rd largest contributors as a percentage of GDP in the world, second only to the US and UK.

In 2006/07 they contributed 10.3% GDP to Australia's economy [up 66% since 1996], represented 8% of our employment and generated 4.1% of total exports.

The film and TV industry in Australia alone contributed \$4.4 billion to GDP and supports 50,000 jobs, including small businesses under threat from movie and TV piracy, and independent cinemas, video rental stores and film and television producers across the country.

In 2007, the film and TV sector contributed an estimated \$1.8 billion in tax to the Australian Government.

Contact:

For interviews with Neil Gane, AFACT, please contact:

Stephen Jenner

02 9997 8011

0409 776 196

info@afact.com.au

www.afact.org.au

ENDS