

MEDIA RELEASE

16 June 2008

Friday 13th bad luck strikes Sydney pirates

SYDNEY – On Black Friday the New South Wales Police swept through a music and karaoke store in Cabramatta, seizing over 20,000 suspected pirated Asian film DVDs and music CDs. The raid was the second carried out on the store, with previous search warrants executed in March 2007. The Police were assisted by industry investigators from Verifact Risk & Investigations.

Located amongst the seized discs were a large number of Asian TV dramas released by companies such as TVBI, SBS, KBS, MBS as well as Van Son products and music CDS across a range of popular artists.

Verifact Director Jarrod Bowditch said “The fact that this shop has been raided on more than one occasion shows that pirates persist in this illegal behaviour. Let this be a warning that copyright owners will continue to work with the police to close these pirates down, no matter how many times we have to repeatedly hit them.”

The General Manager of the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry, Sabiene Heindl stated “The NSW Police are to be congratulated on another successful raid against people exploiting others creativity for commercial gain. The Australian music industry is committed to working collaboratively with the police and other copyright owners to bring music pirates to justice, particularly those shown to be repeat offenders.”

An Asian female who was found to be in charge of the store is due to appear in court on 18 June 2008 to answer charges for the March 2007 warrant. It is anticipated that further charges will be laid as a result of the warrant action of 13 June 2008.

Criminal penalties for copyright infringement are up to \$60,500 and five years imprisonment per offence for individuals, and up to \$302,500 for corporations.

For interviews with Jarrod Bowditch, Verifact contact:

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About Verifact

Verifact Investigations Pty Ltd (www.verifact.com.au) is the largest investigation company in Australia with offices in each state. We act for a number of clients in combating piracy. We proactively work with Federal, State Police services and other agencies and industry bodies to combat IP crime.

For interviews with Sabiene Heindl, MIPI contact:

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About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd (www.mipi.com.au) is the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry. MIPI represents close to 125 music labels through their association, ARIA and over 1,700 music publishers and songwriters through their association, AMCOS. MIPI operates a toll-free piracy hotline on **1800 06 16 16** and a report piracy form that can be accessed at www.mipi.com.au/report_piracy/report.htm.