

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NSW Police smash Australia's largest ever commercial piracy
manufacturing ring
- Estimated one million pirate discs seized -**

SYDNEY – New South Wales Police have executed five search warrants across South Western Sydney uncovering an estimated **one million pirate Asian movie and music discs**, allegedly manufactured in a clandestine commercial scale production plant in Smeaton Grange. The seizure is the largest ever of pirate music and Asian movies in Australia. NSW Police were assisted by industry investigators from Verifact Risk & Investigations (*Verifact*) and Music Industry Piracy Investigations (*MIPI*).

The raids follow months of extensive surveillance and investigation into key members of the pirate manufacturing ring, who allegedly used a shop front in Cabramatta to distribute the pirate music and Asian movie discs. In a bid to avoid detection, the organised criminal gang migrated its operations across a number of Sydney suburbs. Search warrants were previously executed on Van's Music, Cabramatta in June 2008 seized 20,000 suspected pirated Asian film DVDs and music CDs. The proprietor of Van's Music, a Mt Annan woman is currently before the courts on multiple charges of piracy as a result of an earlier March 2007 raid.

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 Asian artists.

The Investigations Manager of the anti-piracy organisation for the Australian music industry, Dean Mitchell stated "Today's record seizure confirms that physical piracy remains a huge problem for the music industry. The commercial scale production and distribution of pirate music discs robs artists and songwriters of their rightful rewards. Piracy is a serious crime and police continue to show they are prepared to take decisive action against these thieves."

Verifact Director Jarrod Bowditch said "Let this be a warning that copyright owners and the police will relentlessly pursue pirates no matter where they try and hide. We would like to thank the NSW Police Service in their relentless pursuit of these pirates."

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:

Jarrod Bowditch – (02) 9907 4991 After hours: 0414 707808

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 Dean Mitchell, MIPI contact:

Samantha Hales – (02) 8569 1177 After hours: 0439 605 765

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.

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd
PO Box Q20, Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230
Phone: +612 8569 1177
Fax: +612 8569 1181
mipi@mipi.com.au
www.mipi.com.au

ABN: 90 071 726 906 ACN: 071 726 906