

MEDIA RELEASE – 15 August 2008

VICTORIA POLICE NAB PENSIONER PIRATE

Anonymous tip off leads to seizure of over 12,000 pirated movie and music DVDs

Victoria Police, assisted by investigators from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (**AFACT**) and Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**), conducted a search warrant at the Doveton home of a 65-year-old man and seized over 12,000 pirated DVDs as well as computer equipment believed to have been used to manufacture the illegal haul.

The 65-year-old, who used his garage to store and manufacture the pirated DVDs, had an estimated 9,000 'master' titles of movies, music, computer games and pornography. The list of titles was allegedly emailed to customers who would make orders on line and then collect the discs from the 65-year-olds' Doveton residence paying \$5 per disc. Seizures included Australian-financed movie "The Bank Job", "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor", "Wall-E" and the "Dark Knight" and "Taken" which are still showing on Australian theatres and popular music titles from Australian artists, Kylie Minogue, Tina Arena and Savage Garden.

"This is the fourth successful raid on suspected movie pirates reported by members of the public in the past month. This increasing public awareness is a clear indication that people recognize that this is a criminal activity. We commend the person who reported this matter and the Victoria Police Service for their prompt and professional response," said Neil Gane, Director of Operations for AFACT. "Movie piracy is a crime that damages our movie industry and kills jobs in local economies, endangering many legitimate businesses like cinemas and video stores. We urge any member of the public who has information about movie piracy in their neighbourhood to report it by ringing Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or going to www.moviepiracy.org.au."

"Traders who deliberately burn and sell music are not only deceiving consumers but are taking food off the table of artists and songwriters who devote their life to creating music." said Sabiene Heindl, General Manager of MIPI. "Today's Victoria Police raid confirms the serious nature of piracy and sends the right message to all Australians – creativity and innovation are worth protecting."

Police investigations are ongoing and the 65-year-old male is assisting police with their enquiries.

Maximum penalties for copyright crimes are \$60,500 and/or up to five years jail

per offence. Members of the public can help police identify and shut down film and music piracy operations by ringing Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or going to www.moviepiracy.org.au or www.mipi.com.au. Consumer guides to help members of the public identify whether or not DVD or CDs are pirated are available to view and download from www.afact.com.au and www.mipi.com.au.

About AFACT

AFACT works closely with industry, government, police and educational institutions to address copyright theft and protect the interests of the movie and television industry as well as the interests of Australian movie fans.

Between June 2007 to June 2008, state and federal police conducted 67 raids involving movie piracy and seized over 934,000 pirated DVDs. They also seized 762 burners capable of producing over 19 million pirated DVDs a year.

AFACT acts on behalf of the 50,000 Australians directly impacted by copyright theft including independent cinemas, video rental stores and movie and television producers across the country. AFACT has its own anti-piracy hotline: 1800 251 996.

AFACT Contacts:

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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.

If you are aware of anyone engaging in piracy, you can report them using MIPI's toll-free piracy hotline on 1800 06 16 16 or by filling out the report piracy form available on MIPI's website at www.mipi.com.au/report_piracy/report.cfm.

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