



MEDIA RELEASE

31 August 2009

Victoria Police seize 15,000 discs in piracy raids

MELBOURNE – Victoria Police yesterday closed down a significant music and movie piracy operation in Laverton on Melbourne's outskirts. Working in conjunction with anti-piracy groups Music Industry Piracy Investigations (**MIPI**) and the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (**AFACT**), police seized more than 15,000 discs containing pirate music and movies.

Police also seized four computer hard drives containing infringing music and movies, revealing a sophisticated commercial operation. The computers were being used to preload portable hard drives with illegal music and movies which were then sold to the public. Eight disc burners used to produce pirate music and movie discs were also seized by police.

In addition, police and industry investigators found other market traders selling thousands of burnt discs to the public including the latest albums from artists Michael Jackson, Abba and the Bee Gees. Movies still screening in Australian cinemas including Inglourious Basterds, Ice Age 3 and Up were also seized in the raids.

A 34 year old male, 51 year old female and 66 year old male are assisting police with their inquiries in relation to yesterday's anti piracy operation.

Dean Mitchell, Investigations Manager of MIPI, said: "Industry groups have repeatedly demonstrated that they are prepared to work with market operators. However, today's police raid confirms that criminal action will be taken if market traders continue to sell infringing discs."

Neil Gane, AFACT Executive Director said, "Market traders selling pirated DVDs seriously threaten local cinema and video businesses run by hard-working, law abiding members of our community. They are the immediate victims of this crime".

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.

Members of the public can help police identify and shut down music and movie piracy operations by reporting piracy at www.mipi.com.au or www.moviepiracy.org.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.mipi.com.au and www.afact.com.au.



For interviews with Dean Mitchell, MIPI contact:

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About MIPI

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd 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 free-call anti-piracy hotline at 1800 06 16 16.

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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.

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 copyright theft, 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.

In 2008, state and federal police conducted 51 raids involving movie piracy and seized 544,697 pirated DVDs. They also seized 488 burners capable of producing 12 million pirated DVDs a year with a potential street value of over \$61 million.

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