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MAN ARRESTED AND CHARGED FOR RUNNING A MOVIE PIRACY OPERATION

Raid nets over 4,000 pirated DVDs and DVD burner lab

Sydney: NSW Police from Macquarie Fields, with the support of investigators from the Australian Federation Against Copyright Theft (AFACT), raided a DVD store in Macquarie Fields today, seizing over 4,000 pirated movie DVDs, including copies of *“Law Abiding Citizen”* and *“Up In The Air”*, which have only just been released in Australian cinemas. A 41-year-old man was arrested and charged with copyright offences.

On searching the premises, Police uncovered a DVD burner operation consisting of six DVD burner towers and in excess of 4,000 pirated movie DVDs.

Neil Gane, Executive Director of AFACT said: “Those individuals still intent on illegally burning and selling pirated DVD movies should know that their under-the-counter operations will be thoroughly investigated, closed down, and those responsible prosecuted and convicted. Movie piracy is not a victimless crime: It threatens legitimate businesses and the 50,000 people supported by the film and television industry in Australia.”

The 41-year-old man and a female in her twenties are assisting police with their inquiries.

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, best known for his role as Aussie Bob Trimbole in *“Underbelly”*, who said: “These criminals are taking away our livelihood... so to see them destroyed is a source of great glee.”

Penalties for copyright crimes under the Commonwealth Copyright Act are a maximum of \$60,500 and/or 5 years jail per offence.

Members of the community can provide information on movie piracy to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000.

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 \$94million.

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.

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