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MAN ARRESTED, 1800 PIRATED DISCS SEIZED AS POLICE BUST RURAL PIRATE BURNER LAB

*Burner Lab and Pirated Disc Store Hidden in Two Residential Addresses in Levin
and Foxton*

Auckland: On Thursday 31st January Detective Constable Stephen Yates of the Horowhenua CIB executed a search warrant on a residential address in Foxton. A man in his 30s was arrested and approximately 30 pirated movie DVDs seized. In a simultaneous warrant at another residential address in Levin 1,800 pirated discs and a computer were seized. Another man found at the second premises is assisting police with their enquiries.

The raid follows a joint investigation of the arrested man's activities by police and investigators from the New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft (NZFACT). During the course of the investigation numerous purchases of pirated discs were made from the suspect, each disc costing \$10. A number of recently released movies were seized by police in the raids, including Ghost Rider, Wild Hogs and 300.

"This case should serve as a warning to pirates in small rural communities – you are not too small or too far away to come to the attention of the Police." said Tony Eaton, Executive Director of NZFACT. "Small burner operations can cause massive damage to the film industry and the many small local businesses distributing legitimate movies. The arrest and conviction of those responsible shows support for these legitimate businesses and will also send a strong deterrent message throughout New Zealand's rural communities"

The man arrested by Police has been placed on a holding charge relating to his activities and will make his first appearance at the Levin District court on Thursday 7 February. Police investigations are continuing and the seized computer will be subject to forensic examination by computer experts at the Police Electronic Crime Lab.

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Piracy in Asia-Pacific

In 2006, the MPA's operations in the Asia-Pacific region investigated more than 30,000 cases of piracy and assisted law enforcement officials in conducting nearly 12,400 raids. These activities resulted in the seizure of more than 35 million illegal optical discs, 50 factory optical disc production lines and 4,482 optical disc burners, as well as the initiation of more than 11,000 legal actions.

About NZFACT: The New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft was established in 2005 by the Motion Picture Association to protect the film industry in New Zealand from the adverse impact of copyright theft. NZFACT works closely with its members, government and enforcement authorities to protect the New Zealand film and television industry, retailers and movie fans. NZFACT members include: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, New Zealand; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc. NZFACT works in association with the Motion Picture Association, which represents the interests of the film industry across the world. NZFACT also has an alliance with the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand to share information regarding copyright infringement, and is a member of the recently-formed Anti Counterfeiting Group, which represents the interests of New Zealand's major intellectual property stakeholders, such as the music industry, computer software and publishing. NZFACT has a nationwide hotline that enables the reporting of film copyright theft 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 0800 267 9744.

About the MPA: The Motion Picture Association (MPA) represents the interests of major motion picture companies in the global marketplace. On behalf of its Member Companies, the MPA conducts investigations around the world, assists with the criminal and civil litigation generated by such cases, and conducts education outreach programs to teach movie fans around the world about the harmful effects of piracy. The MPA directs its worldwide anti-piracy operations from its headquarters based in Encino, California and has regional offices located in Brussels (Europe, Middle East and Africa), São Paulo (Latin America), Montreal (Canada) and Singapore (Asia-Pacific). The MPA's anti-piracy activities have helped to transform entire markets from pirate to legitimate, benefiting video distributors, retailers, and foreign and local filmmakers alike. The MPA Member Companies include: Buena Vista International, Inc.; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Releasing International Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox International Corporation; Universal International Films, Inc.; and Warner Bros. Pictures International, a division of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc.

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