

## **Parachute 2010: Catholic Agencies Cooperate to Build “One World for All”**

Catholic development agencies Caritas and Mahitahi (Catholic Overseas Volunteers) combined with three other agencies at the recent Parachute Music Festival near Hamilton to promote thought and action towards a more fair and just world.

Their “One World for All” stand invited participants to solve a jigsaw puzzle of prayers for the Millennium Development Goals, negotiate a minefield, and draw up a Challenge for their lives from a well.

Caritas Communications Coordinator Martin de Jong said the cooperative effort represented a big step forward for the two agencies, who have both been at Parachute the last three years. This year, they worked in with interchurch development agency Christian World Service, Christian conservation organisation A Rocha (The Rock), and fairtrade company Micah Clothing.

“It was a challenge to pull together the ideas and abilities of five different organisations based in different parts of the country,” said Mr de Jong. “But we pulled it off, and created an interesting experience. We got young people and others thinking about their place in the world. Even local Anglican Archbishop David Moxon joined in the fun.”

The Parachute Christian Music Festival has been running 20 years, and is the largest Christian music festival in the southern hemisphere.



Mahitahi Director Christina Reymer in front of the entrance to the “One World for All” stand.



A “Thank You” Wall of green stickies – expressions of gratitude for the good things in their life written by visitors to the stall.