

17 January 2009

PARACHUTE 09 SET TO ROCK

Get ready for the summer of peace, justice and rock 'n roll...

Celebrating its nineteenth year, Parachute 09 is set to be the hottest spot on the summer calendar.

From 23-26 January, New Zealand's Mystery Creek Events Centre in Hamilton will resound with the hits of Christian music heavyweights from the USA and Australasia.

Four days and 150 artists make for the "southern hemisphere's biggest Christian music festival".

2009 hosts an all-star line-up including Casting Crowns, Family Force 5, David Crowder Band, Kutless, and NZ's national treasure. Dave Dobbyn.

Representing the home troops are Fatis Valor, Lukas, New Empire, Stu Larsen, Henry Seely from Planetshakers, and Joe Pringle from C3 Oxford Falls.

Organisers expect around 25 000 people to attend the event.

PARACHUTE HITS OZ

2009 also sees the first of Parachute's ventures into Australia with two major concerts in Sydney and Brisbane.

The Sydney event with Casting Crowns sold out a couple of weeks ago, while the Brisbane concert with David Crowder and Kutless is selling quickly.

Parachute Director Mark De Jong says Parachute's goal over the next five years is to establish a series of two or three festivals in Australia similar in scope to the New Zealand festival.

He says the Parachute festival will help build a stronger Christian music scene in Australia.

Mark explains:

<http://www.therockacrossaustralia.com/audio/080126MarkDeJong.mp3>

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR ADELAIDE SINGER SONGWRITER

Adelaide singer songwriter Jade Ambroze has won the Contemporary Christian Song category of the eighth Annual Independent Music Awards (IMA) with her song *More*.

The international judging panel for the awards this year included Peter Gabriel, Suzanne Vega, Roger Daltrey, George Jones, Buddy Guy, and Keith Urban.

Jade says she's "very excited" by the honor which follows her placing in the Spiritual Category of the Australian Songwriting Awards last year with *Beauty For Ashes*.

Andy Sorenson and David Holmes produced her latest album *Meant to Fly* which includes both songs.