

# Media officer lets her camera do the talking



**Mandi Meldrum, team leader of Marketing and Communications for AFP's International Deployment Group, has travelled to many of the AFP's off-shore missions and routinely photographs anything interesting that catches her eye.**

As a result, three of her photographs have been included in the *Women's Eye on Peace* exhibition hosted by the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA).

The IWDA is an Australian non-profit organisation creating positive change for women and their communities in Asia, the Pacific and Indigenous Australia. In partnership, the IWDA assists with achievable projects devised by local communities.

Kathy Proctor, *Women's Eye on Peace 2006* coordinator received more than 600 entries from professional and amateur photographers from more than

## **Hope Doesn't Fade**

The Solomon Islands. *Four weeks earlier, the woman in the picture worked in the front line of a riot squad that swept the streets of Chinatown while it was ablaze and looters were everywhere. She had the courage to go back to the burnt-out ruins to show the locals that she was still there for them. This picture stands for fortitude, humanity and hope. Due to the amazing restraint shown by the Participating Police Force deployed to assist the people of the Islands, not one person died during the Honiara riots, and now community groups are working together to rebuild.*

40 countries. The images captured interpretations of peace, ranging from smiling children in Timor-Leste and breathtaking landscapes in Nepal to peace rallies in Australia.

The exhibition has opened in three locations. The initial launch last year on 31 October was at the Artery gallery in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy. The event was attended by more than 500 people and coincided with the anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The second

launch took place at the Melbourne Sofitel Hotel on 7 December, where Melbourne business woman Lillian Frank spoke passionately about women's role in peace.

The images then headed to Sotherby's in Sydney for the third successful launch on 1 February hosted by television personality Catriona Rowntree. The 100 exhibition images can still be viewed and purchased at [www.iwda.org.au](http://www.iwda.org.au).> Funds raised from the sale of images will support women building peace in Fiji.



### Gifu Kids

The Solomon Islands. *The little girls here are no different to kids worldwide. They are both shy and inquisitive, and they speak Pidgin and English. Their simple way of life is something that has to be protected for generations to come. I felt privileged to be part of their life that day. The children are the future and every opportunity to build peaceful relations will be remembered by them.*



### From Now On

The Solomon Islands. *This was a most peaceful and heart-warming encounter. Although the damage had already been done, the female peacekeeper demonstrated her commitment, and said to them: "From now on, everything will be okay. We are here to help you." This young man just wanted to talk, he had lost his workplace due to the careless decisions of others and while the officer could not offer him employment, she did offer friendship and hope for the future.*

## Montage is favoured method

**While Mandi Meldrum is adept at catching the moment with traditional photographic techniques, it is combining these images into montages that feeds her creative spirit.**

"I can spend hours creating masks and layers and applying effects to create an image that I feel says what I want it to say," she said.

"This particular image called *Clarity 4 the shattered* combines a number of images relating to the Solomon Islands with my love of music."

