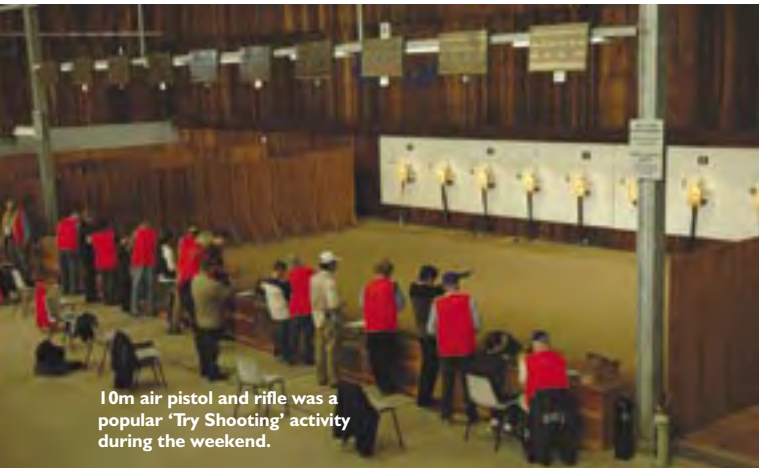


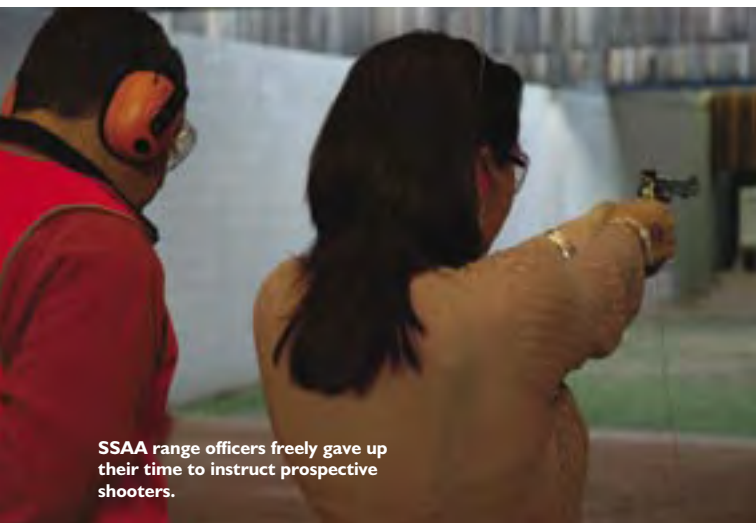
SSAA Shot Expo 2006

2006 SHOT Expo

by Assistant Editor Kaye Jenkins



10m air pistol and rifle was a popular 'Try Shooting' activity during the weekend.



SSAA range officers freely gave up their time to instruct prospective shooters.



Enthusiastic learner Steve Cross tries out the shotgun shooting.

"At the moment we are carrying a full line of firearms from Baikal, including both rifles and shotguns. Some of these are well below the thousand-dollar mark. We have found them to be a sturdy product, ideal for Australian shooters, with chrome-lined bores in the shotguns and hammer-forged rifle barrels. At the top end of the market we have the superb Chapuis firearms, which have some of the best timberwork one is likely to see. We also have our line of BSA airguns, with prices and features to suit most shooters. We are now the official distributors of Eley ammunition for Australia and carry a full line of their products."

Mike Chmiel, Parabellum.



Our Technical Advisor Brendan Atkinson was ready to tackle any and all questions.



A happy junior.



Emma Stephenson learning the finer points of shotgun shooting.



Karl Wolinski of SGU Group puts his tactical flashlight to use.

On the weekend of May 20 and 21, the Sydney International Shooting Centre came alive for the 2006 SHOT Expo to showcase the products and services of the best of Australia's shooting, hunting and outdoor industries.

This year's Expo was held at the Sydney International Shooting Centre, in Cecil Park, located an hour and a half from central Sydney. This centre was, of course, the home of the Sydney 2000 Olympic shooting events, but for this Expo, its many shooting ranges housed exhibition stands rather than Olympic competitors.

Despite marble-sized hail and the persistent bitter cold, the Expo punters came in masses; indeed, more than 5000 people attended the Expo during the weekend.

There were lines outside of the centre well before the 9am opening time on both days and even a two-hour power failure, which stopped exhibition lighting and coffee production on the Saturday morning, didn't dampen the atmosphere. Many thanks do, however, go to the people of The Generator Place, who quickly remedied the power situation with their backup generators.

SSAA Publications promoted our stable of magazines and met with industry leaders and interested readers. And, as in previous years, we offered a 'Guess how many bullets' competition, where entrants were asked to guess the number of rimfire bullets in a glass container to go into the draw to win \$500 worth of SSAA merchandise. While no-one did guess the exact number - 2898 -

NSW teen Isaac Bayssari was certainly the closest on 2888. Congratulations, Isaac!

There were stalls for all interests. The latest rifle, shotgun and pistol products were on show, as were secondhand, collectable and restored firearms.

Factory-made ammunition was literally selling like hot cakes, but reloading products were also quite popular with aspiring reloaders.

There were gun safes, optical and lighting equipment, cleaning products and a lot of essential equipment for general outdoor use too. Scrubnut Outdoor Gear and Blackfoot Designs led the way with their outdoor clothing, and Polaris had obviously cornered the all-terrain vehicle market with their professional display. Even the self-professed

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"It's good to see so many people attending this event. It's an excellent chance to see lots of shooting and hunting equipment without having to drive all over the place."
Alan McKee, Sheldon & Hammond.



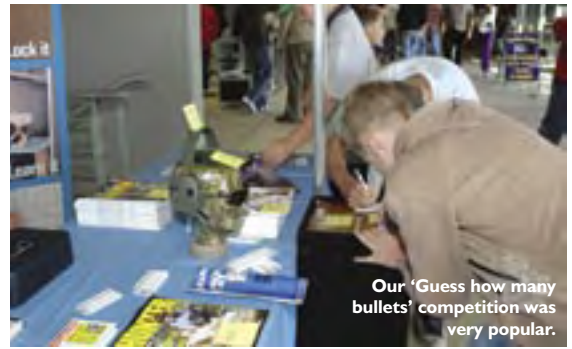
A lot of interest was shown in the Safari Firearms stand.



Rob Low of SSAA Insurance.

"We are very happy with the response and interest by the shooting public. A lot of interest shown towards our products, which include night vision goggles of gen 2+ mil spec technology. These are Russian military equipment and are the best available night vision goggles available to the public in Australia. Our rimfire rifles come from TOZ and Izhmash, and the latter was featured in the February edition of *Australian Shooter*. We have a TOZ .308 available for less than \$700, and a TOZ 12-gauge for \$850. Interest has been shown in our Baikal 12-gauge 20" barrelled hammer gun, and the Baikal combination gun."

Keith Anderson and Alex Taransky, Industek.



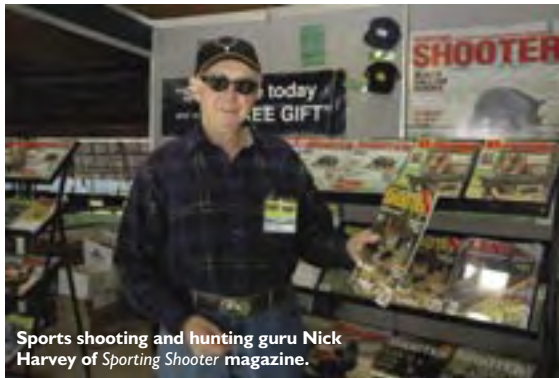
Our 'Guess how many bullets' competition was very popular.



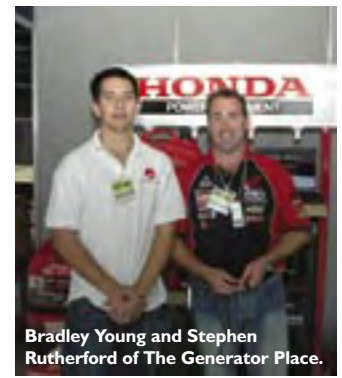
SSAA (NSW) President Bill Shelton and State Executive Director Roy Smith with Australian cricketing fast-bowler Glenn McGrath.



Leanne Cameron of Scrubnut Outdoor Clothing was always cheerful and ready to help.



Sports shooting and hunting guru Nick Harvey of *Sporting Shooter* magazine.



Bradley Young and Stephen Rutherford of The Generator Place.

outdoor chef had enough barbecue and camp oven gear to satisfy.

Knife enthusiasts were in their element with Kizlyar and other quality knife and leather companies and the taxidermy and trophy mounting services, and safari and big-game expeditions promoted the multi-faceted experiences of hunting, both in Australia and abroad.

Commonwealth Games medallist Adam Vella presented the latest information at the Recoilless Technologies International (RTI) stand. This technology is touted as revolutionary and the gathering crowds obviously thought so too.

There were exhibitions from all of the big names, such as Beretta Australia, Pabelum Imports, Horsley Park Gun Shop and

Industek to name a few, but the Expo also provided the opportunity for some of Australia's less well-known companies to promote their wares and their names.

All of the big shooting and hunting organisations had displays and were more than happy to talk about their services. Similarly, guru sport shooting authors Nick Harvey, Brendan Atkinson and John Dunn were always close at hand to answer questions and to share some of their experiences.

While Saturday seemed to be the busier day, Sunday certainly appeared to be the more 'family' day, and we were very pleased to see so many young people and families out and about and trying their hand at the shooting sports.

This year, for the first time in the SSAA's

SHOT Expo history, the 'Try Shooting' activities were established and they proved a huge success with lines backing up for rimfire rifle, air rifle and pistol shooting and archery. The clay target shooting, however, was certainly the most popular activity of the weekend, especially with Commonwealth Games medallist Russell Mark and other more-than-competent shooters doing the instructing.

Another celebrity to the Expo was VIP guest, Australian cricketing great fast-bowler Glenn McGrath. Between wandering through and looking at the exhibits, Glenn seemed more than happy to sign autographs for Expo visitors.

SSAA Publications Executive Director Tim Bannister said the Expo was "a great

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SSAA Single Action Shooting's 'Mister Skye' (Tony Cohen) and 'Sodbuster' (Alan Harris).



"We are the agents for VhitaVuori powders, but did not bring any down with us due to the paperwork involved. We have plenty of literature on this line of propellants, and have powders in stock. Transport of any powder around the world is an ongoing problem, but another shipment is due towards the end of the year. We have good supplies of Lapua brass, bullets and rimfire ammo, as you can see. We have been kept busy with plenty of questions from the public, just like last year."
Andrew McDonald (pictured left) Lapua (DW Custers).



Graeme Forbes of Forbes Wholesale with a Sharp's Creedmoor No. 2.



Commonwealth Games medallist Adam Vella at the Recoilless Technologies Int Corp stand.



The boys from Polaris.



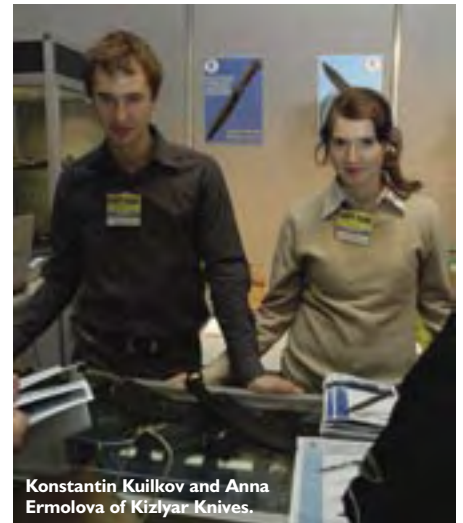
Nina Wegener of Farfield Heights, NSW, tries benchrest shooting.



The 'Try Shooting' events were a great success.



Brian Gatt, Alison Galea, Michelle Ferbrache and Lex Shipp at the Horsley Park stand. (Brian was very informative about their blue tooth GPS and street navigation systems.)



Konstantin Kuilkov and Anna Ermolova of Kizlyar Knives.

"We are very happy with the results, and the exposure that this show gives to the industry. We have sold a good number of our quality Russian knives and answered many questions about the product. Our folding knives have attracted a lot of attention."
Kizlyar Knives.



The Beretta Australia stand was always popular.

"Yes, we are very happy with the way it's gone. We had an excellent day yesterday [Saturday], despite the rain. We have seen a varied type of crowd this year, and have sold a pleasing amount of product. We have had lots of enquiries about products and services, which should translate into sales down the track. Our sales of bulk rimfire ammunition have been very pleasing - shooters can sharpen up their skills without breaking the budget."
David Abella, Horsley Park.

opportunity for SSAA members, *Australian Shooter* and *Hunter* readers and the general public to meet the operators of the cream of Australia's recreational shooting and hunting businesses and clubs, and for people to try shooting in a safe, controlled and friendly atmosphere.

"The fact that so many made the trip to Cecil Park shows just how healthy the shoot-

ing sports are. The level of interest demonstrated during the whole weekend was just outstanding."

SSAA (NSW) Executive Director Roy Smith said the weekend had well and truly lived up to expectations.

"I'd like to thank the exhibitors, SSAA (NSW) staff and the range volunteers who helped make the Expo the success it was,"

he said. "Once again, I have heard only positive comments from those shooters and would-be shooters who attended. It's been well worth the many hours of preparation."

Organisation for the 2007 SHOT Expo is already well underway by SSAA (Vic). The 2007 SHOT Expo will be held at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds in Ascot Vale, Victoria, on May 26 and 27. ●