



Hall of Fame accolade for Paralympic great

September 2020
\$8.95 incl. GST

AUSTRALIAN Shooter

THE MAGAZINE FOR SPORTING SHOOTERS

FABARM'S
fabulous five-shot

Will the **REAL 38**
PLEASE STAND UP!

Howa 'mini-me' a
MAXI ATTRACTION

REVIEWS

Smart device puts you in the picture / Predator AF 10x42 binoculars

Mark van den Boogaart's favourite rifle/cartridge/scope

The official publication of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia
Now 199,500+ members strong!

Proudly printed in Australia



ssaa.org.au





Australian Standard AS/NZS 1337.1 Certified
RX inserts available for Prescriptions
Polarised options available



WX VALOR CHANGEABLE

SINGLE LENS, 2 LENS & 3 LENS KITS AVAILABLE
POLARISED AND NON POLARISED LENS OPTIONS
AS/NZS 1337.1:2010 CERTIFIED



WX OMEGA ACTIVE

POLARISED AND NON POLARISED LENS OPTIONS
AS/NZS 1337.1:2010 CERTIFIED



WX SABER ADVANCED CHANGEABLE

SMOKE GREY, CLEAR AND LIGHT RUST LENS KITS ALSO AVAILABLE
FITS RX PRESCRIPTION INSERT
AS/NZS 1337.1:2010 CERTIFIED



WX TWISTED ACTIVE

POLARISED AND NON POLARISED LENS OPTIONS
AS/NZS 1337.1:2010 CERTIFIED

WILEY X AUSTRALIA

A division of Frontline Safety Australia Pty Ltd
Unit 4D/45 Fitzroy St, Carrington, NEWCASTLE NSW 2294

PH: 1300 72 82 70

READY FOR ANYTHING

BALLISTIC RATED
IMPACT PROTECTION



WX VAPOR CHANGEABLE

CHANGEABLE SERIES 2 & 3 LENS KITS AVAILABLE
FITS RX PRESCRIPTION INSERT
AS/NZS 1337.1:2010 CERTIFIED



RX INSERT PTX



WileyX VAPOR is official issue to the Australian Defence Force



WX GRAVITY CLIMATE CONTROL

INCLUDES REMOVABLE GASKET TO BLOCK OUT WIND DUST & DEBRIS
INCLUDES ELASTIC STRAP AND LEASH CORD
AS/NZS 1337.1:2010 CERTIFIED



INCLUDES Y-PEG
STRAP



REMOVABLE FACIAL CAVITY™
SEAL INCLUDED

VIP OFFER: SSAA Members 10% off
PLUS Free WX Cap for first 100 Eyewear Orders*
*CONDITIONS APPLY



www.wileyxaustralia.com.au

Use **CODE: SSAA10** at checkout to redeem offer



This Issue

September 2020

FIREARMS

- 22 Let's hear it for the boys
- 36 Howa 'mini-me' a maxi attraction
- 52 Fabarm's fabulous five-shot

HUNTING

- 48 High alert on black bear adventure

PRODUCTS

- 62 Predator AF10x42mm binoculars - in a world of their own
- 75 Smart device puts you in the picture

AND MORE

- 20 Hall of Fame accolade for Paralympic great
- 28 Favourite rifle/cartridge/scope combination - Mark van den Boogaart
- 34 Game on - a tasty solution to the pest problem

- 42 Keep tabs on barrel behaviour
- 55 Generosity opens door to dream deer excursion
- 58 Make yourself a better shotgunner
- 61 Your will and the National Firearms Agreement
- 64 Loyal dog adds extra dimension to the hunt
- 67 Presbyopia and the shotgunner
- 69 Make knife sharpening less of a chore
- 70 Calibre confusion - will the real 38 please stand up
- 73 Adventures of the little fish knife

Australian Shooter

There hasn't been too much good news around of late so we're more than happy to oblige - from this month your favourite shooting magazine returns to normal! The initial confusion and upheaval brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic meant we were forced to drop the size of the magazine for the June-August period but, as of this edition, we're back where we belong with our regular content. Enjoy.

REGULARS

- 6 President's Message
- 7,8 Letters
- 7 Insurance Q&A
- 10 Open Season
- 12 Reloading
- 14 Clay Target Q&A
- 16 Top Shots
- 78 SSAA Shop
- 81 Members-only Competitions
- 82 Jumbunna



Our September cover
See page 28

NEXT ISSUE



Daniel O'Dea got his hands on the latest Mossberg MVD Light Chassis rifle which he found to his liking, telling us "the stocky barrel feels solid in the hands and the package is well balanced".

If you're in the market for a new pair of binoculars, Mark van den Boogaart has a tasty recommendation in the Steiner Predator 10x42s which he says are "quality European optics with a host of high-end features".

In the next instalment in our favourite rifle, cartridge and scope feature, Paul Miller outlines his selections which he has found to be the perfect combination for tackling feral pests.



LEUPOLD VX-3i

The **VX-3i** delivers what hunters want most in a riflescope: outstanding performance in low light, in an incredibly tough yet lightweight package.



To hunt until the very last seconds of light, you need more than light transmission. You need light management. Leupold's Extended Twilight Max lens system delivers the highest average light transmission in all wavelengths for exceptional contrast and low light performance in all conditions.

AUSTRALIAN Shooter

THE MAGAZINE FOR SPORTING SHOOTERS

MEMBERSHIP AND MAGAZINE INQUIRIES

Phone: 02 8805 3900

Fax: 02 9832 9377

PO Box 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

Email: mem@ssaa.org.au

EDITORIAL POLICY

To create a better environment and community understanding of all forms of hunting and shooting sports.

EDITORIAL INQUIRIES

Phone: 08 8272 7100

Fax: 08 8272 2945

PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

Email: edit@ssaa.org.au Web: ssaa.org.au

ABN 95 050 209 688

199,515

members strong
as of July 2020

This magazine is owned and published by the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of this Association.

EDITORIAL

MANAGING EDITOR.....	Allan Blane
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.....	Thomas Cook
ASSISTANT EDITOR.....	Dave Rose
CHIEF OF STAFF.....	Jennifer Martens
ART DIRECTOR.....	Mike Barr
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR.....	
& GRAPHIC DESIGNER.....	Elizabeth Tyson
GRAPHIC DESIGNER.....	Natalie Kuhlmann
MEDIA & POLITICAL LIAISON OFFICER.....	Nadia Isa
WEBMASTER.....	Mark Fieldhouse
ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS.....	Karoline Wasiak
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER.....	Sam Talbot
ADMINISTRATION.....	Debbie Wing
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT.....	John Dunn
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT.....	Rod Pascoe

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Barry Wilmut, Russell Mark, Mark van den Boogaart, Henri Lach, Joe Norris, Leon Wright, Luke Higgins, Gerard Shea, Elli Jura, Daniel O'Dea, John McDougall, Geoff Smith, Chris Redlich, Con Kapralos, Thomas Tabor.

STATE CONTACT INFORMATION

For SSAA inquiries please contact your state SSAA office:

NSW	02 8889 0400	WA	08 9497 7919
QLD	07 3281 3447	SA	0419 849 452
VIC	03 8892 2777	ACT	0423 043 663
TAS	0418 734 008	NT	0402 013 918

NATIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

SSAA National Chief Executive Officer
and Chief Editor **Tim Bannister**

Wildlife Programs Matthew Godson

PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

Phone: 08 8272 7100

SSAA National Accounts Office

PO Box 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

Phone: 02 8805 3900

Email: accounts@ssaa.org.au

SSAA General Insurance Brokers

Unit 1, 212 Glen Osmond Rd,

Fullarton, SA 5063

Phone: 08 8332 0281

Freecall: 1800 808 608

Fax: 08 8332 0303

Email: insurance@ssaa.com.au

President

Geoff Jones

Senior Vice President

Lance Miller

Junior Vice President

Denis Moroney

National Secretary

Kaye McIntyre

Treasurer

Alf Bastian

Please mail all correspondence for the SSAA National Executive to

SSAA, PO Box 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

Email: ssaa@ssaa.org.au



President's Message

WITH GEOFF JONES

200,000 mark in view for SSAA family milestone

We can now see our present goal of 200,000 members as part of the great SSAA family clearly on the horizon. Possibly the restrictions of recent times have given people the chance to breathe and take a moment to see the shooting sports for the healthy and safe activity they are. Certainly the increased activity at our SSAA shooting ranges and patronage at the network of firearms retail outlets across the country would indicate that.

Our regular surveys indicate members join SSAA for any number of reasons and once they're on board they develop awareness of the myriad of services and openings available to members and often become far more immersed than they ever thought they would so I urge you to become involved and get the most from your sport.

When we return to some semblance of normality, take the chance to explore the alternative and diverse array of shooting disciplines covered at your local SSAA branch. If your interests are not satisfied on their calendar then consider travelling to another nearby branch where your preferences can be met. SSAA is a broad church and it's not difficult to find something which might appeal to you. If it's not currently offered, lend a hand and you might be able to assist in expanding the options available.

While we've been distracted by COVID-19, another pressing issue has largely been forgotten or at least pushed down the priority list. Biodiversity conservation, a matter of critical importance to Australia and an area where Australian hunters can and do take an active and contributory role, is a topic which will be starved of proper attention, funding and resource allocation.

Historically, the left-leaning ideologists who appear to drive the ever-deteriorating conservation agenda in Australia have refused to acknowledge that ethical and legitimate hunters can play a key biodiversity role when engaged as the valuable resource they are. Recent scientific studies in Europe and

Scandinavia have agreed hunters play an important part in monitoring the biodiversity of an area and, more than anyone, can accurately provide information about the animals located in a particular area and even localised environmental changes.

This apparent revelation notes that much of the monitoring activity conducted by hunters is not readily accessible to scientists. It begs the question as to just how open-minded and really committed the science and purist conservation community is, or at least has been in achieving their stated goals.

Of course the long-established and successful engagement of legitimate hunters in biodiversity conservation efforts has been well documented in North America and Africa and any number of animal and plant species, previously endangered or threatened, have been returned to a status of stability and recovery, even abundance through well-coordinated strategies and efforts.

Even in Australia, SSAA Conservation and Wildlife Management groups have played a key role in some animal and plant recoveries but these successes have been downplayed or ignored by both extreme 'green' groups and governments who bow to this left-wing rubbish. The image of a threat makes great media headlines for them but does nothing to save our threatened flora and fauna, quite the opposite. We can only hope Australia won't be the last country to see the light.

If you have a particular interest in this subject I recommend you do some factual research, become an active part of one of the SSAA conservation groups and individually lobby any elected representative you can. It's just another positive way SSAA members contribute to a better Australia.

G.E. Jones

Geoff Jones
SSAA National President



SSAA - Protecting shooters since 1948

Culling, not charging

AFTER READING IN your April letters section 'Drought hitting farmers hard' I was moved to respond. I fully agree and commiserate with the frightful feed costs farmers face in time of drought - I and many others helped deliver free hay/feed and bottled water to local bushfire areas with no thought of reimbursement.

However, Grant's next point is one which requires comment when he suggests "too many hunters believe they should be reimbursed for fuel and ammo used for culling feral animals".

This is totally at odds with the viewpoint of the vast majority of true hunters.

I and all the hunters I've known during 40 years of hunting consider it a privilege to enter and hunt on rural properties and, in total contradiction of reimbursement, have happily supplied farmers in remote areas with fresh produce and/or alcohol in exchange for shearers' quarters and the chance to hunt and socialise with these salt of the earth people.

As a SSAA Farmer Assist member I'd be more than happy to extend that offer to any farmers with a feral pig problem and would certainly not seek the cost of a bullet or anything else.

Ivor Earl, SA

Not at home on the range

APART FROM BRINGING back many fond memories of shooting at the Hornsby rifle range, Don Armitstead's letter (*Shooter*, February 2020) also brought to mind a wryly amusing but somewhat contrasting experience in the mid-1980s. My fiancée and I were looking for somewhere to live and were shown a house quite near the range. This was an attractive attribute to me but without letting on I queried the location of the range with the agent.

Initially we were met with flat denial of its existence at all but on insisting, with the aid of a map, the baseless and hyperbolic reasoning used to convince us activities at the range would not be a problem, and the sheer ignorance displayed, was embarrassing to listen to and almost brought tears to my eyes.

He didn't make the sale as proximity to the range was the only redeeming factor (we ended up in Berowra). It just goes to show the level of ignorance and stupidity out there and how times have certainly changed from Don's experiences.

Louis Grosfeld - via email

Sensational Silverdale

IN THE WAKE of easing COVID-19 restrictions, I had the pleasure of return-

ing to the SSAA Silverdale range in NSW, something I hadn't done for months. I met Tony and Norm, employees of Abela's Gunshop in Campbelltown and we were there for some serious testing and sighting-in.

Silverdale has endured tumultuous times recently with some of the worst of NSW's driest and wettest spells in living memory, each in turn trying its best to wipe out what is a very good range, invaluable to shooters from near and far. I know for a fact Range Captain Andy Mallen has done a Herculean job in restoring it to its former glory - and it showed.

Another pleasure were the efforts of three friendly and helpful Range Officers who made it a virtual home from home. These guys know how to make you feel comfortable while keeping an expert eye on things, not something easily achieved at times in the company of strangers who come bearing firearms! Please pass our thanks to Andy and his team.

Dave Burt, NSW



Insurance Q&A with Trevor Jenkin

Send questions to: communications@ssaa.org.au

Q: I have a number of investment properties I need insurance for. You look after my home and contents but can you help with these as well?

Allison Jacobs, via email

A: First up thanks for being with us, we genuinely appreciate it. Yes we can assist with your investment properties, both commercial and residential. Firstly we can provide quotes for Residential Landlord's Insurance which offers cover for both the building and landlord's contents, and on top of this you can cover any shortfall in rent

due to a major loss, theft and/or malicious damage by tenants and your liability as property owner.

In relation to commercial properties we can arrange cover for you regardless of whether the property is an office building, workshop or retail shop. The insurance will cover your property against all the major perils including fire, water damage, impact, lightning as well as business interruption due to a loss and property owner's liability.

Remember it's vital to cover your investments for replacement value - you must consider what it would cost to rebuild at

today's value using the same materials and style of fixtures and fittings as well as any extra cost of rebuilding, such as professional fees. If you're unsure of your replacement values we can easily assist. For more information or to enquire about anything else, call us on (08) 8332 0281 or visit ssaaib.com.au.



A real Portuguese puzzler

I THOUGHT THIS obscure ammo sample might be of interest. Rummaging through a forgotten drum containing boyhood treasures I rediscovered this (ostensibly) .303 cartridge case. My Google search of head-stamp codes indicates it was produced by Arsenal do Ejercito in Lisbon, Portugal in 1934 (the date stamp is deformed, I assume it's a 9).

I found the case on the long-gone Bundaberg Rifle Range in the mid-1960s while scavenging with primary school mates for discarded brass (preferably three-oh), stripper clips and highly prized musette-style calico ammo bags (probably cheap and disposable but to lads of a certain age they were 'gold'). We'd also dig around the butts looking for lead - in pre-decimal days a full large Milo tin was worth sixpence at the 'scrappo' (no questions asked). Great times for free-ranging kids.

The case obviously failed, which is why it survived in my 'collection' as none of my cohorts would swap it - not even for a single .22 short! With so much Australian-made surplus .303 ammo available between and after the wars, it seems odd a Portuguese-produced 1934 vintage cartridge would turn up on an Aussie provincial range in the mid-60s.

Whoever can offer an explanation probably shuffled off this mortal coil long ago, so don't go diving down any metaphorical rabbit holes trying to solve this conundrum. I just thought it might be of interest to any ammo enthusiasts out there.

Ross, via email



Service worth celebrating

I WRITE TO express my thanks to Carl Walther Arms and Umarex of Germany for the product support and back-up service they provided to me here in Gippsland. After more than 45 years of hunting and shooting with various firearms, last year I bought a Walther Maximathor .22 air rifle.

I needed a low powered rifle for rabbit control on a rural property where a .22 rimfire was felt unsafe due to proximity of the public. The rifle has proved very effective with 150-plus rabbits humanely destroyed to date. My problem started when, during cleaning, I misplaced the O-ring which sat on the bolt that seals behind the pellet chamber. After searching for a replacement I approached the Australian importer of Walther parts to be told they didn't have one and there was a three-month back order.

I then contacted Carl Walther Arms in Germany direct and they referred me to Umarex whose initial response was to send me back to their Australian importer. This I did to be told there was still six weeks left on the back order. On relaying this, Umarex took my address and a few weeks later a package arrived from Germany containing a number of replacement O-rings, gun care items and a Walther trinket, all free. Both Carl Walther Arms and Umarex were most approachable, willing and helpful.

When large international firms such as these offer that kind of support it shows they're serious about their products and service. Hopefully the Australian importer can resolve its time delay issues for small items and not have them caught up for months in back orders.

Phil Ronalds, Vic.

Vickers on the web

WITH REGARD TO David Mottram's letter '303 ammo puzzler' (*Shooter*, March 2020). I did my National Service in the mid-1950s as part of a Vickers team and most of our ammunition came in web belts sealed in black cans with tear-off lids. I'm pretty certain the web belts were standard for the Vickers (we occasionally had the disintegrating links belts).

From memory I think each belt contained

250 rounds and if loaded belts were not supplied, we reloaded used webbing belts by hand. I fired many thousands of rounds out of the old Vickers and considered it much better than the replacement which I think was the M60 - whatever it was it wasn't as good in my humble opinion.

Trevor Armstrong, via email

Howa group solution

Ian Cameron in your Top Shots column (*Shooter*, April 2020) raised the issue of poor grouping with his Howa 1500 in .22/250 calibre. I have a very early model Howa 1500 in .308 for which I generally handload and worked up a decent load over time but the groups were still a bit too open.

I decided to seat the projectile out of the case a little so the overall loaded length of the round was longer than standard length for .308. This resulted in smaller groups and with further adjustment I eventually consistently achieved three-shot group sizes of 13-15mm at 100m.

Several years ago I started using what's now labelled American Eagle factory ammunition in the Howa, for use in a SSAA program, but again had the issue of poor grouping. As an experiment I started pulling the projectiles out of these factory loads and re-seating them to the same depth/length as my handloads and the groups pulled in much tighter straight away. This may be something Ian could try as I suspect the Howa has a long throat and benefits from having the projectile seated out closer to the start of the rifling.

Mal Sinclair, NSW

Katarina a rare talent

I loved Nadia Isa's article in your July magazine, 'Preparing for Olympics during a pandemic'. It was great to see Katarina Kowplos featured and her efforts to represent Australia at the Tokyo Olympics. Young Kata started in the SA Scouts shooting program about five years ago and displayed rare talent even then. She recently offered to help mentor our new youth members and encourage more juniors shooters to the sport, an offer I was most enthusiastic in accepting. Thanks for a great article.

Brett Kallin, Scouts Australia SA

ARGOS BTR GEN 2

The ever popular Athlon Argos Tactical series has just had a major upgrade. Same great optics, same great reticle design, same great warranty but now with ZERO STOP as standard on the 6-24x50 and 8-34x56 models. This along with the illuminated reticle makes this the best value First Focal Plane scope on the market.



6-24x50 | 8-34x56

TRUE ZERO STOP | MIL or MOA
First Focal Plane | Illuminated reticle
Argon Purged | Unconditional Warranty

6-24x50 **SRP \$990**

8-34x56 **SRP \$1,090**

NEW ATHLON ARGOS BTR MODELS



1-8x24 COMPACT

Second Focal Plane with illuminated Reticle

SRP \$990



10-40x56 TARGET

Second Focal Plane with fine
MOA BLR Reticle. This scope
also feature TRUE ZERO STOP

SRP \$1,090

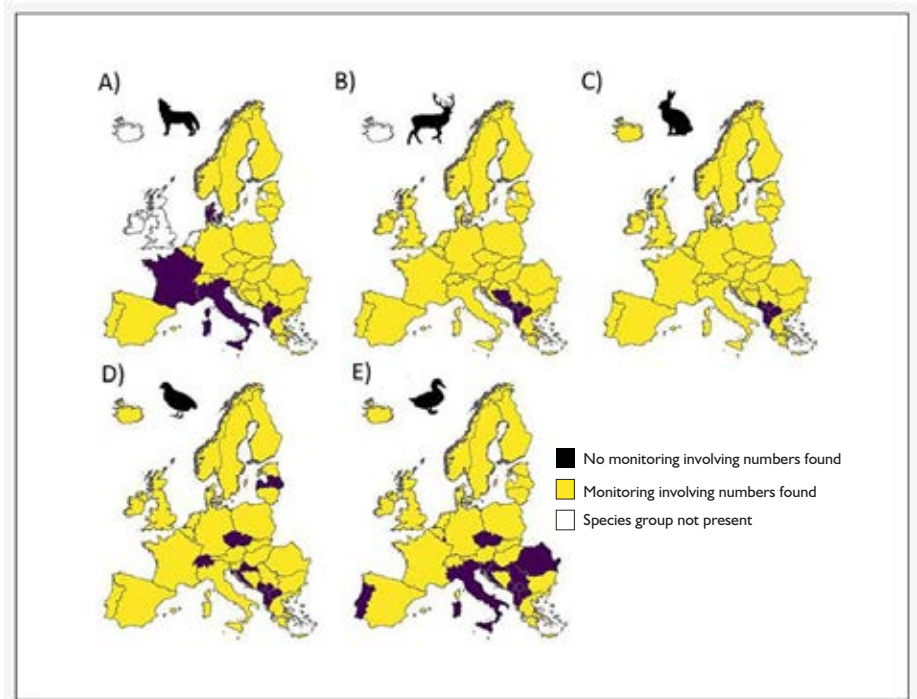
Hunters vital to Europe's biodiversity battle

A scientific study published in April this year by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Norwegian Institute of Nature Research highlighted the important role European hunters fill in monitoring biodiversity. European governments share the same limited resources when it comes to monitoring biodiversity as we do in Australia, but it has been found that working with and engaging hunters has been a highly valuable exercise overseas.

The study found hunters provide management authorities and researchers valuable information in four main ways. During their hunting activities and hunting grounds management, hunters can collect data relating to species populations and traits, genetics or community structure. This is collected over widespread areas ensuring the data is both adequate and larger-scale in resolution. The data provided by hunters can be time-series and cover different seasons or ranges and can even be across several decades which allow datasets to be useful for monitoring changes in ecosystems and biodiversity.

Hunters also collect characteristics on hunted species and others which are easy to identify with high accuracy, allowing hunter data to be seen as having a lower chance of misidentification and other uncertainty thus making it useful. Hunters can also deliver biological samples from harvested animals and this provides data on demographics and animal health which would not otherwise be known or obtainable.

The lead author of the report suggested a key point of the study was that collaboration between hunters and scientists is fruitful



Hunter-based monitoring per country and species group (source: Cretois et al, 2020)

and should be considered a standard partnership in biodiversity conservation. Hunters care for wildlife and that's why many game species are among the most studied wildlife species in Europe.

The study investigated hunters' contribution to the monitoring of five species groups including ungulates, large carnivores, waterfowl, other birds and small game. Results indicated hunter-based monitoring of at least one species group took place in 32 of the 36 European countries, that figure underlining the importance of the role hunters play in monitoring biodiversity and this role is now acknowledged by the scientific community.

The authors of the report believe this is only the tip of the iceberg in regard to monitoring activities conducted by hunters and if researchers seek broader engagement with hunters it will benefit both communities, something Australian policy makers and researchers need to realise sooner rather than later. Australian hunters are out in the bush and swamps and we too can monitor changes in biodiversity, wildlife populations etc. All we need is to be engaged with at a far higher level than we do at present.

Send questions to:
wildlife@ssaa.org.au



Need somewhere to hunt?

Register now for SSAA's
Farmer Assist program

Visit farmerassist.com.au for more details



DEALERS LICENCE NO: 409564311

Magnum Sports

we aim to please

PH: 02 9882 2689

Magnum Sports

\$15 flat rate post on any order anywhere in Australia

* Excluding firearms and dangerous goods and some bulky items to remote locations

SIGSAUER
when it counts



Sig Sauer BDX Combo
Sig Sauer Sierra 3 BDX
4.5-14x44 Scope
Sig Sauer Kilo
1400BDX Rangefinder
Just **\$1195**

Point the rangefinder, click, and a red dot shows where to hold in the scope. It works! Magnum tested.

PULSAR

Pulsar Thermal Shipment landed



Pulsar Axion
XM30 Key **\$2460**
XM30S **\$3190**



Pulsar Thermion
XQ38 **\$4990**
XQ50 **\$5680**
XM50 **\$6310**
XP50 **\$7910**



Pulsar Helion
XQ50F **\$4855**
XQ38F **\$4160**
Pulsar Helion 2
XP50 **\$7295**



Pulsar Trail 2
LRF XP50 **\$9110**
LRF XQ50 **\$6990**
Both come with QD
pic mount



BERETTA

Beretta APX 9mm
Cased with 2 mags, just **\$849**



Henry Frontier .22lr
24" Threaded octagonal barrel
Was \$1410, now only **\$995**



Henry Frontier 22WMR
24" Octagonal barrel
Was \$1540, now only **\$1049**



Henry All Weather was \$2370
30-30 now just **\$1395**
357magnum just **\$1449**
Pay in full and take an extra \$50 off
any All Weather



Henry Big Boy Steel Carbine 357 Magnum
Was \$2050, just **\$1310**

Lithgow arms



Lithgow LA102 308win or 6.5 Creedmoor
Cerakote Barreled action in TSP Chassis
with 10 round mag. Just **\$1695**
Available in Black or Titanium Cerakote



Lithgow LA102 Stocks
Walnut or Laminate with trigger guard
Just **\$299**. Grab a spare for your Lithgow



Lithgow LA102 Synthetic stock just **\$199**

sako
FINLAND



Sako 85 Black Wolf
Was \$3025, reduced to **\$2995**
Available in 6.5x55, .270win, .308win and
.30-06. Pay in full and take a further \$50 off



Sako Finnlight 9.3x62
2 only. Just **\$2595**

STEYR



Steyr SSG04-A1
Massively reduced from \$5170 now **\$3925**
Available in 300 win mag or 308 win



Steyr Zephyr now discontinued and
reduced to clear
Last chance to grab one of these
Available in 22lr, 22WMR or 17HMR
just **\$1235**



Steyr Pro Hunter 300 win mag
Massively reduced to **\$895**



Steyr L9-A1 Semi
Auto 9mm
Cased with 2 mags.
Reduced to **\$799**

MAUSER



Mauser M12 Pure 9.3x62
Was \$4455, now just **\$2649**



Mauser M12 Expert 30-06 or 300 win mag
Grade 5 stock with ebony forend tip
Was \$5940, now only **\$3599**

TIKKA
BECOME TO HOME

Tikka Clearance

2 month lay-by available. Pay in full to
receive a further \$50 off these amazing
prices. Flat \$50 freight to your dealer
Australia Wide.



Tikka T3x CTR 6.5 Creedmoor
24" threaded barrel. Bonus soft touch grips
Was \$2250, just **\$1849**



Tikka Lite 20" threaded 6.5CM
Was \$1215, now just **\$895**
Add a spare factory 6-shot mag for just \$55

SCHMIDT & BENDER



S&B PMII 5-25x56 DT/ST
FFP Illuminated German made
Just **\$4175** in P4FL
Just **\$4295** in GR2ID or MSR2 reticle



S&B Klassik 3-12x50 Illuminated L7
German made, just **\$1990**



S&B Hungaria 3-12x50 Illuminated
L1 reticle, just **\$1580**



S&B Hungaria 2.5-10x56 Illuminated
L1, L3 or L7 reticle, just **\$1580**



S&B Hungaria 8x56, A1, A4, A7
or A8 reticle, just **\$995**
L3 or L1 Illuminated reticle, just **\$1345**

Burris
FIND WHAT MATTERS

Burris Fullfield II 3-9x40
Ballistic Plex Reticle
Was \$400, just **\$299**
Bulk scope packaging,
no box.



CZ
CESKA ZBRJOJKA



CZ 455 MDT Carbon 22lr
Massively reduced to just **\$849**
AFG not included



CZ 457 Varmint 22WMR
Was \$1215, limited stock at **\$985**



CZ SP01 Shadow Black 9mm
Cased with 3 mags
Last 5 available, just **\$1249**

Magnum Sports Exclusive

CZ Shadow 2 Silver
Comes cased with 2 mags with
Silver Bases. 4 only, just **\$1995**



Magnum Sports Exclusive
CZ Shadow 2 Black
Black grips, cased
with 2 mags, 5 only.
Just **\$1995**



CZ Shadow 2 9mm
Cased with 2 mags
In stock now, just **\$1995**
Last available before the price rise



CZ Shadow 2
Southern Cross
Cased with 2 mags
and blue grips with
Southern Cross
Very limited stock at **\$1895**

Trijicon
"Brilliant Aiming Solutions"



Trijicon Accupower 3-9x40, green MOA dot
reticle. Was \$1385, just **\$795**



Trijicon Accupower 4-16x50, green duplex
reticle. Was \$1675, just **\$1145**



Trijicon Accupoint 2.5-12.5x42, green
duplex reticle. Was \$2175, just **\$1490**



Trijicon Accupoint 4-16x50, green Mil-dot
or MOA-Dot reticle. Was \$2345, just **\$1599**



Trijicon Accupoint 5-20x50, green or amber
duplex reticle. Was \$2560, just **\$1570**

ZEISS



Zeiss V4 3-12x56
Illuminated just **\$1295**

www.magnumsports.com.au

19 Babbage Rd
Roseville Chase NSW 2069

MON-FRI: 9am - 5pm
SAT: 8am - 3pm
PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Bolt-action centrefire rifles by Winchester

Although the Winchester Repeating Arms Company is best known for its lever-action rifles, they've been manufacturing bolt-action centrefire rifles since 1878. A bolt-action repeating rifle, patented by Benjamin Hotchkiss in 1876, was Winchester's debut in the manufacture of bolt-action rifles, after its design passed the US Army Ordnance Department's tests in 1878.

The Winchester Hotchkiss rifle was produced for the US Navy, US Army and several state militias and became the first bolt-action rifle to be adopted by any major military in the world. In 1881 the Chinese Empire also bought 15,000 of them.

By 1894, US Naval authorities were looking to adopt a modern, small calibre rifle which used smokeless powder so they leapfrogged other developments by deciding to adopt a 6mm semi-rimless cartridge. On August 1, 1894 the US Navy convened a naval test board at the Naval Torpedo Station in Newport, Rhode Island to test rifles for this new 6mm Navy government cartridge.

In 1895 after a series of tests, the Lee straight-pull rifle with its clip-loaded magazine was chosen as the winner by the US Navy, to be called the M1895 Lee Navy. In January 1896 the Winchester Repeating Arms Company was contracted to make



10,000 M1895 Lee Navy rifles with 1800 issued to the US Marines.

At the end of WWI, Winchester's Board of Directors, contemplating a decline in government orders for their rifles, encouraged their designers to develop new rifles for the civilian market and in June 1918, Thomas C. Johnson, one of their leading designers, developed the Model E rifle, later to be known as the Winchester Model 51 'Imperial' Sporting Rifle. Production of these high quality guns was assigned to the company's newly-established Gunsmith Shop but unfortunately only 24 were made before influential Vice-President Frank G. Drew, a lover of lever-action rifles, convinced the Winchester Board to axe production of the Model 51 which they did in February 1920.

In June 1924 when Drew became President of Winchester, he realised he was mistaken about the viability of bolt-action sporting rifles after Remington enjoyed strong sales of their Model 30, which they'd introduced in 1921. Drew countered the

Model 30 by commissioning Thomas C. Johnson and Frank F. Burton to develop the Model F rifle which was launched in 1935 as the Winchester Model 54. This was available for a variety of cartridges ranging from the .22 Hornet to the 9x57mm Mauser, and when production finished in 1936 just more than 50,000 had been made.

The Model 54 did have some faults, so when John Olin became President of Winchester in 1934 he enlisted the help of head designer Edwin Pugsley to produce a rifle encompassing all the best features available at the time. Designated the Model 70, it had a Mauser-type action with two front locking lugs and a Mauser-type non-rotating claw extractor with controlled round feeding.

Other features users appreciated were an action mounted three-position wing-type safety, a machined steel triggerguard and floorplate, a trigger adjustable for weight and travel and a one-piece bolt construction. These early models, made from 1936 to 1963, have serial numbers ranging from 1 to 700,000 and are called pre-1964 models, much sought after and commanding premium prices on the used firearms market. So popular was the Model 70 that by 1971 more than one million had been sold and it became known as the 'Rifleman's Rifle'.



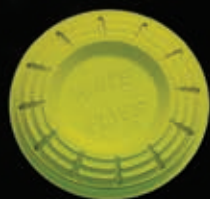


**AUSTRALIAN
WOMEN'S SHOOTER**

Issue 8 online now at
ssaa.org.au/women

- Deer hunting proves the perfect connection for young Victorian couple.
- Versatile Australian Hunter shirts well-suited for the whole family.
- Get the most out of shooting with our physical fitness tips.
- A terrific result at the 2020 Outpost Arms Women of Shooting event.

Currently in digital format



WHITE FLYER®



WORLD CLASS TARGETS
FOR WORLD CLASS SHOOTERS



WINCHESTER
AUSTRALIA

NOW AVAILABLE

WWW.WINCHESTERAUSTRALIA.COM.AU



SIFA



Clay Target Q&A

WITH RUSSELL MARK

Q I've taken a lot of interest in the art and science behind patterning my shotgun and been surprised by the results. There are plenty who suggest testing a shotgun on a pattern board is a waste of time and occasionally I'm seeing some inconsistent results which makes me feel that criticism is justified. I know you're a great believer in shotgun patterning but can you explain my inconsistent results? I'm using the same shotshells each time and generally like to shoot pattern paper at exactly 40m.

Michael Gauci, NSW

A Without actually watching you test your gun it's difficult but having patterned thousands of shotguns over the years, your inconsistent results are not unique. At the range in Werribee where I do the vast majority of pattern testing, I've hammered in a two-metre high steel fencing picket, 20m back from the pattern board and wrapped some soft rubber around the pole from the 1.3 to 1.8m mark. This rubber-coated pole has been a saviour for exactly the reason you describe.

Most shooters can't hold a shotgun steady to save their lives and I fall into this category. I suggest the person patterning the shotgun stand as close to this pole as possible and mount the shotgun *exactly* as you would at the range, paddock, riverbank or wherever you intend using your gun. Try to have the barrels as close as 5mm to the pole when mounting the gun to your shoulder, then gently lean sideways ever so slightly so the barrel is now resting against the pole. If you've mounted the gun in your natural position, this pole should remove any human error in testing the firearm.

Patterning your shotgun only translates to a meaningful test if you can duplicate at the pattern board what you're doing under pressure when using your shotgun for real. The problem, other than any unsteadiness which the pole should take care of, is that often shooters don't put their head on the stock with the same pressure when shooting at a stagnant steel plate or paper as they do when shooting clay targets or wild game. If you push your head down too hard the gun may shoot flatter and to the left (assuming you're right-handed), and if you don't push your head down hard enough it may well send your shot charge higher and further right than it normally would.

Try using a support such as a pole, stand a bit closer and I'm sure you'll eliminate those inconsistencies in your results.

Pattern testing as described here is a great way to check your shotgun is shooting straight. At 20m you'll have a good guide to the percentage of shot pattern above, below, left or right of centre and at this distance, regardless of the choke being used, you'll see the pattern open up enough for you to visually decide if you're mounting the gun in the same technical way each time regardless of where you're using it.

The further back you go the better chance you have of making small errors, exactly the same way your rifle works, and the closer you are the more accurate you'll be. In the US, 13 yards is a common distance to pattern shotguns for exactly this reason but I find that for people using really tight chokes, this distance doesn't allow the shot to spread far enough to give a great visual guide. Your distance of 40m is way too far unless you're trying to make a judgement on how your ammunition is performing at a range you may be trying to shoot targets at.

And I can't understand the criticism you're receiving from patterning your shotgun. If you were introduced to a professional shooter controlling vermin for a living, you'd expect that person to constantly sight-in their rifle to achieve continued accuracy for maintaining results. Why would anyone think it's any different with a shotgun? If you don't know by physically testing the firearm then you're only guessing.

I can't explain why some people can pattern a shotgun 'freehand' so much more accurately than others, but if you've ever had the misfortune to watch me shoot a pistol you'd have some idea - the target is rarely in danger! Try using a support such as a pole, stand a bit closer and I'm sure you'll eliminate those inconsistencies in your results.



Send questions to:
russell@corporateshootingstars.com.au

**Auction
No. 54
& 55**

Sat 10th - 11am & Sun 11th - 10am, October 2020

Viewing: Private viewings by appointment

Our current auction maintains our excellent variety of items presented for auction. We invite you to visit our website to view our online catalogue with additional items added early September.

15% + GST buyers' premium applies. Plus GST to lots where indicated.

**ONLINE LIVE
AUCTION**

+ **ABSENTEE & PHONE BIDS**
www.australianarmsauctions.com



AUSTRALIAN ARMS AUCTIONS

Antique arms, militaria, sporting arms,
edged weapons, investment

Contact: Roland Martyn 0428 543 377 PO Box 1142, Doncaster East, Vic Australia 3109

Cheryl Martyn - Admin P: 613 9848 7951 E: admin@australianarmsauctions.com W: www.australianarmsauctions.com



HECKLER & KOCH

NO COMPROMISE!

HK TRUSTED WORLD WIDE BY SPORT SHOOTERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MILITARY.

Cold-hammer forged barrel with polygonal profile featured as standard on all HK pistols.



SFP9L-SF-OR

SFP9 HIGHLIGHTS

**STRIKER FIRE
TRIGGER**



**MIL-STD 1913
PICATINNY
RAIL NATO**



DISASSEMBLY LEVER
Simple, quick and safe disassembly
without having to pull the trigger.



**LUMINESCENT
SIGHTS**
Featured on most
models



**COCKING
INDICATOR**



MAGAZINE RELEASE

Paddle
Ambidextrous



Push button
Switchable
right/left



**INTERCHANGEABLE
GRIP PANELS**



SFP9L-SF



Striker Fire Trigger
Interchange grip panels
LPA match sights
Ambi. slide release

P30L-SD



DA/SA Trigger
Interchange grip panels
LPA match sights
Ambi. slide release

USP Tactical



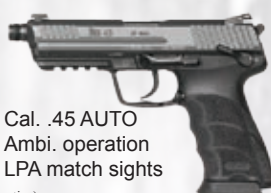
Target Trigger
Adjustable trigger stop
High intrinsic accuracy
LPA match sights

USP Expert



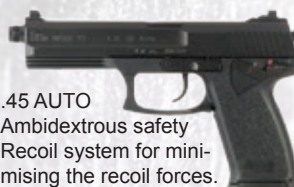
5" barrel
Target Trigger
Adjustable trigger stop
High intrinsic accuracy
Ambidextrous safety

HK45 Tactical



Cal. .45 AUTO
Ambi. operation
LPA match sights

MARK 23



.45 AUTO
Ambidextrous safety
Recoil system for mini-
mising the recoil forces.

USP Elite



6" barrel
Target Trigger
Adjustable trigger stop
High intrinsic accuracy
Ambidextrous safety



PH: (03) 56681940

E-mail: info@sportingguns.com.au

Web: www.hermannsguns.com.au

(All prices, images and information are subject to change without prior notice)

Got a question - ask our TOP SHOTS ?

• John Dunn • Paul Miller • Greg Riemer • Geoff Smith • Barry Wilmot • Rod Pascoe

email: edit@ssaa.org.au

Q We recently discovered among my mother's possessions a medal-ion issued to Frank C. Brewer (Captain) at the first International Rifle Match held in NSW in 1870. Frank has a connection to my mother's family through his son Geoff. Mum sadly passed away in February but had previously explained the family connection though was unable to provide any details on Frank or the medal. Are you able to point me in the right direction?

Jane McKinnon, via email



A Francis Campbell Brewer (October 21, 1826 to November 23, 1911) was quite famous in NSW, indeed Australia, having been described as 'the father of journalism' in this country. Born in Staffordshire, England he was heavily

involved in music, theatre and a wide variety of community life as well as being one of the founding members of the NSW Rifle Association, of which he was secretary for some years.

If you visit the Trove website you can see a photograph of Mr Brewer and a detailed obituary on P.23 of *The Freemans Journal* from November 30, 1911. I suspect the Geoff you mention may be a grandson since he isn't listed in the obituary, but one of the sons was also called Frank.

The *Australian Town and Country Journal* of December 24, 1870 (P.26-27) lists results and some information on rifle shooting results for that year, and includes a rather cryptic reference to the 'International Shooting Match' for which your medal was apparently awarded. It reports: "Match International: Rifle contest between England, Ireland, Scotland and Australia - trophy and five pounds. A protest was received on the ground from the Australian team objecting to Dr Ward as he was not born in England. This protest was not tendered by the Captain of the Australian Team and souvenirs of the match were therefore given to the shooting members of the English team. We are informed, however, that the protest will be placed before the committee during the week and should Dr Ward be disqualified, the prize will be given to the Australians."

In an attempt to clarify the outcome of the protest I contacted the NSW Rifle Association but have received no reply so far. My friend Charles Toohey loaned me his copy of J.E. Corcoran's *The Target Rifle in Australia* (R&R Books, New York, 1975) which sheds some light on this match and at the same time bemoans the loss of much of this history, as follows:

"An International Match was first placed on the programme of the 1870 NSW prize meeting, shot between teams representing England, Ireland, Scotland and Australia. These five-man teams were made up of resident riflemen, according to their country of birth. Great interest was generated by this match with 20 of the best shots in the colony competing. The competitors in each team wore a distinctive badge to show their nationality . . . where are these historic badges? Illustration 73 shows the gold medal presented to the Irish team which won the second match, shot one

year later. The first match, seven shots at 200, 500 and 600 yards fired with the Government rifle (Enfield muzzle loader) was won by the English team by a small margin."

So it seems Jane you have a very rare and historic medal, a souvenir from an event some 150 years ago, won by an extremely important early colonist.

Geoff Smith

Q I've recently returned to reloading after a 10-year break and find it most enjoyable to shoot ammunition I've thought about and put a lot of care into. My question is to do with accuracy, or rather group size, in relation to different brands of primers. I understand different primers suitable for the same case may have different ignition properties - better ignition should create a better and more even burn of the powder resulting in more even velocities across that group of loaded rounds.

Surely then a primer which was not as good as another brand at igniting the variety of powder being used would group on target as a vertical string, not horizontally. I know barrel harmonics change with velocity but would 50fps be noticeable? If I tried two different primers in identical loads and only had 20fps standard deviation with both, theoretically accuracy would be the same providing average velocities were close, or perhaps some things just seem to work together better than others. Good excuse to play around though. Your thoughts and experience appreciated.

Jeff Harrison, Vic.

A You're quite right Jeff, different brands of primers can produce different velocities and therefore different-sized groups even in identical cartridges. If the velocity spread of the cartridges being tested is large, say some hundreds of fps, then as you say a vertical string of shots will result, usually producing a large group size.

In my experience if you can find a reloading combination of powder, projectile and primer which produces cartridges that vary only about 20-50fps, then normally these cartridges will produce a nice tight group. It could take a while to experiment

and find that combination, but I'm sure in the process you'll have a lot of enjoyment.
Barry Wilmot

Q I'd like to know what a 'rotary magazine' is on Savage and Ruger rifles. I'm used to the normal loading 10-shot magazine but am unfamiliar with the rotary version - can you tell me if it's like the old six-shooter type of magazine? I've seen the rifles in the Horsley Park gun shop advertisement. Thanks for a great publication.

Allen Purse, NSW

A Traditional box magazines hold cartridges in either a single stack or staggered columns, one cartridge above the other, where each can be picked up and fed into the chamber by the forward action of the bolt.

Rotary magazines use a central, star-shaped sprocket which catches and stores the cartridges in a circular pattern parallel to the axis of the bore, an internal torsion spring pushing each cartridge into the feed position in the magazine as required. Rotary magazines are generally more squat than conventional box magazines, rarely protruding below the belly of the rifle they're being used in. Magazine capacity is usually 10 rounds or less, depending on the size of the cartridge they're designed to hold.

The first rotary magazine dates back to 1856, invented by one John Smith, then 10 years later another designer named Sylvester Roger came up with a variation which was subsequently used in the Savage M92. A rotary magazine was also used in the M1941 Johnson rifle. These days Ruger and Savage both still use the design, primarily in their rimfire rifles.

John Dunn

Q Which cartridge is better for shooting rabbits and foxes, the .22 Magnum or newer .17HMR? My old mate prefers the .22 but I like the look of the .17HMR as it's much faster. And have you any experience with the even faster .17 Winchester Super Magnum?

Shane, NSW

A Rabbits and foxes can both be taken very well at sensible range with all three cartridges you mention. The .22 Magnum shoots a much heavier 40 to 50gr projectile than the .17, which puts its energy figures ahead of the .17HMR at very close ranges and is about the equal of the 17gr projectile in the .17HMR at about 2550fps in terms of energy overall over longer ranges, but does not have as flat a trajectory.

The recently introduced .17 Winchester Super Magnum is at another level as it shoots a 20gr projectile at 3000fps which makes for amazingly flat shooting for a rimfire cartridge and comparable to the energy figures of a centrefire .22 Hornet with 45gr bullets.

The .17HMR has been a great success and the .17 Winchester Super Magnum is more accurate in some rifles than others. This accuracy thing was a problem for years with the .22 Magnum when compared to .22 rimfires and the .17HMR seemed to jump out of the blocks with good all-round accuracy and in some rifles it's just amazing.

Today with the use of high-end ballistically efficient, plastic-tipped projectiles all the cartridges mentioned enjoy increased performance and accuracy. The Hornet is much more expensive to shoot factory loaded cartridges but the .22 Mag and .17s are about the same price for 50 factory loads. Next step up the performance ladder are the fascinating .17 centerfire cartridges like the .17 Hornet, .17 Fireball and freakishly fast .17 Remington. These are very expensive to shoot as factory loads and really are a reloading proposition. The .17HMR is a great little cartridge but the .17WSM takes rimfire performance to another level if you can find a rifle that likes it.

Paul Miller

Q My 12-year-old son and I are new to shooting, I have my licence and Harri his minor's permit and he has become hooked on clay target shooting. My question is threefold: (1) We aim to help my father-in-law with vermin control on his farm and I wondered if we're also legally allowed to shoot clay targets on his property for practice. (2) My father-in-law

loaned me a shotgun and completed the NSW change of safe storage location to mine. Is there anything I must do to notify police/firearms registry on me now holding this in my safe and using it? (3) Is it legal to place spent shotgun cartridges and .22LR shells in our domestic recycling bin?

Ian Scensor, NSW

A In answer to your first question - and I believe this applies to all states and territories - you would not be able to hold a target shooting event or competition unless a range on the property has been specifically approved by the authorities. As this is not your intention, practising with clay targets is a great way to improve your shooting skills.

Your second question is NSW-specific in that each state has its own take on this. Your father-in-law has followed the required process in NSW. Your obligation is for you to have a firearms licence and storage facility appropriate to the firearm you're keeping on behalf of your father-in-law. You only have to notify firearms registry if there's a change to any of these circumstances. For other jurisdictions please refer to your firearms licensing authorities.

The third part of your question is one for your local council and most are pretty adamant as to what they will or won't allow in domestic recycling bins. I took a couple of spent cartridge case samples to my local resource recovery centre to confirm what I believed would be the case and was met with an emphatic "No!"

They said they're geared up for household paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass containers and bottles. Smaller objects such as bottle tops and jar lids, they say, just get in the way. I'm also told the rules may differ from council to council.

The good news is most scrap metal merchants will take, and pay for, spent brass cartridge casings and a lot of shooting clubs and ranges receive a small income from fired brass cartridge cases. As for spent shotshells, if you're not going to reload them it seems no one is interested in separating the various components found in shotshell hulls - paper, plastic, brass, aluminium, copper and steel - therefore they end up as general waste.

Rod Pascoe

HORNADY
G2 Electronic Scales
SPECIAL
NEW \$64.90



HORNADY
MI Tumbler
SPECIAL
NEW \$119



HORNADY
Rotarty Case Tumbler
SPECIAL
NEW \$329

HORNADY
Electronic Powder Dispenser
SPECIAL
NEW \$349



HORNADY
Lock N Load
Powder Thrower
SPECIAL
NEW \$129

PPU
New Unprimed Brass
223rem **\$34.90** /per 100
22-250 **\$49.90** /per 100
308win **\$49.90** /per 100
9mm **\$23.90** /per 100
38 Special **\$24.90** /per 100



WINCHESTER
USA 223rem
55gr FMJ ammo
SPECIAL
\$11.98 /per 20
\$59.90 /per 100
\$599 /per 1000

AUSSIE OUTBACK
223rem 55gr, ZMAX, Polymer Tip, Ammo
SPECIAL \$15.50 /per 20, **\$155** /per 200,
\$775 /per 1000



FEDERAL
Syntec Training Match
9mm, 124gr, TSJ FN, Ammo
SPECIAL \$23.90 /per 50, **\$239** /per 500



PPU
9mm 124gr LRN Ammo
SPECIAL
\$21.90 /per 50
\$219 /per 500
\$399.90 /per 1000



REMINGTON
Thunder Bolt
22lr, 40gr, Solid HV
SPECIAL
\$3.99 /per 50
\$37.50 /per 500
\$365 /per 5000



IBI
22lr Olympic match stainless barrel
23" Long Blank, 1" Bull profile
Non fluted **NEW \$399**. Fluted **NEW \$599**

IBI Heavy Palma Profile 31"
30cal 1 in 10" Twist
Stainless Steel **NEW \$499**



IBI
5R - match grade barrel
27" in length stainless steel
Medium Hunter, Remington Varmint, Heavy
Varmint, or Bull Mann Striaght profile
Available in:
223rem 1 in 8" **NEW \$399**
223rem 1 in 12" **NEW \$399**
6mm 1 in 8" **NEW \$399**
6.5cal 1 in 8" **NEW \$399**
30cal 1 in 10" **NEW \$399**



IBI
5R - match grade barrel
SPIRAL FLUTED
27" in length stainless steel
Medium Hunter or Remington Varmint profile
Available in:
223rem 1 in 8" **NEW \$599**
223rem 1 in 12" **NEW \$599**
6mm 1 in 8" **NEW \$599**
6.5cal 1 in 8" **NEW \$599**
30cal 1 in 10" **NEW \$599**



IBI
5R - match grade barrel
Stainless Steel - CARBON FIBER
VT Profile - 26" or 22" in length
Hand lapped, threaded muzzle
Available in:
223rem 1 in 8" **NEW \$899**
223rem 1 in 12" **NEW \$899**
6mm 1 in 8" **NEW \$899**
6.5cal 1 in 8" **NEW \$899**
7mm 1 in 8.5" **NEW \$899**
30cal 1 in 10" **NEW \$899**

www.cleaverfirearms.com
\$\$\$ Monthly Prizes !!! See the
specials first and subscribe today
EXCLUSIVE WEB DEALS!



EOTECH 512 Circle Dot
Holographic weapon sight
NEW \$949



WINCHESTER
USA Range Ready
6.5 Creedmoor, 125gr OT ammo
SPECIAL \$22 /per 20
\$110 /per 100
\$220 /per 200



RUGER Precision Davidson FDE
Folding stock, muzzle brake, two mags
Available in:
6.5 Creedmoor 24" **NEW \$2990**
6.5 PRC 24" barrel **NEW \$2990**
308win 20" barrel **NEW \$2990**

EOTECH 518 Circle Dot
Holographic weapon sight with QD mount
NEW \$1199



WINCHESTER
Active Duty
9mm, 115gr, FN, FMJ
SPECIAL \$29.90 /per 100
\$299 /per 1000



RUGER Precision Rimfire red threaded
muzzle with ruger tactical chassis
Red titanium cerakoted finish
Available in:
22lr 10 shot, 17HMR 9 shot **NEW \$949**

EOTECH 552 Circle Dot
Holographic weapon sight. Night vision
compatible
NEW \$1289

EOTECH XPS3-0 Circle Dot
Holographic weapon sight
NEW \$1375



TRIJICON RMR-06 3.25 MOA Red Dot
Available in:
Black **NEW \$1189**
Flat Dark Earth **NEW \$1279**
Coyote Brown **NEW \$1279**



HORNADY
Varmint Express 22lr
40gr, high velocity HP
SPECIAL \$11.98 /per 100
\$59.90 /per 500
\$239.60 /per 2000



RUGER American Rimfire SS
22lr, 10 shot, black walnut stock **NEW \$990**



RUGER American Bronze
350 Legned, 5 shot AR magazine
Burnt bronze cerakoted finish
16" barrel threaded muzzle **NEW \$949**



TRIJICON SRO Black Red Dot
Available in:
1 MOA **NEW \$1289**
2.5 MOA **NEW \$1289**
5 MOA **NEW \$1289**

RUGER 70th Anniversary
22lr, 40gr, standard velocity
SPECIAL \$11.98 /per 100
\$59.90 /per 500
\$239.00 /per 2000



CZ 457 AT-ONE Target
22lr, 5 shot, 24" threaded barrel
Adjustable laminated stock **NEW \$1299**



CZ 457 Pro Varmint Tactical
22lr, 5 shot, 16.5" Bull VT barrel
Threaded muzzle, black lam stock
NEW \$1190



TRIJICON ACOG TAIL
With Red Cevron Reticle
Available in:
223rem, 308win **NEW \$2729**



WINCHESTER
USA 9mm
SPECIAL
115gr FMJ
\$32.50 /per 100
\$325 /per 1000



CZ 457 Precision Trainer
22lr, 5 shot, heavy barrel
Manners camo stock
Available in:
16.5", 24" threaded barrel **NEW \$2290**
20" barrel **NEW \$2290**

124gr FMJ
\$35 /per 100
\$329 /per 1000



CZ 457 Varmint
Blued finish, walnut stock, 20" varmint barrel
Available in:
22lr, 17HMR, 22WMR **NEW \$1090**

145gr JHP
\$26.90 /per 50
\$269 /per 500



Libby Kosmala is the first shooter to receive the highest sporting award in South Australia.

Hall of Fame accolade for Paralympic great

Nadia Isa

Twelve Paralympic Games and 13 medals across four decades is no mean feat - but that's exactly what nine-time gold medallist Elizabeth 'Libby' Kosmala did to earn a place in the South Australian Sport Hall of Fame. The rifle shooter met rigorous criteria assessed by a selection committee which featured sporting identities including Bruce McAvaney.

"Libby met the criteria to a very high standard and was deemed worthy of induction," said Sport SA CEO Leah Cassidy. "Longevity was one of the things which stood out - 12 Paralympic Games is unparalleled - but also her contribution more broadly to the Paralympic movement and supporting people living with a disability."

Libby was overwhelmed with induction into SA's highest level of sporting achievement, describing the award as a "great honour". As the sole shooter in the Hall of Fame and the only person with a disability to receive the award, Libby is truly a unique athlete. "There were only seven of us awarded and I was the only disabled person. I was thrilled to bits," said Libby.

Ms Cassidy acknowledged the achievement of reaching such a high level of success in a niche sport in Australia. "We have a dominant sport culture with cricket and footy, netball and soccer so it's nice that she represents a sport which probably isn't as well celebrated," she said.

Never on the agenda

Believe it or not, rifle shooting wasn't something Libby initially considered, in fact sport of any kind looked unlikely from the start. Born in 1942 paralysed from the waist down, Libby has never had movement in her legs. "There was no sport for disabled people anywhere," she said speaking of her childhood. "At school I just watched, never threw any javelin or shot put, I did no sport at school. It wasn't thought a wheelchair person could ever play sport."

Then in her early twenties a chance encounter changed Libby's life. "I was at Royal Adelaide Hospital visiting a friend and the man beside my friend said 'you're in a wheelchair, you've got strong arms and shoulders, why don't you play wheelchair sport?' So I went out and had a go," she said.

Libby described her first experience at Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre in Adelaide's north to try sport for the first time as 'disastrous'. "There were four other guys in wheelchairs throwing javelin and discus at the hospital grounds in Northfield," she said. "I threw a javelin out the back of my hand and hit a man on the head!"

But with encouragement from friend and future Wheelchair Sports Association of SA president Kevin Bawden, Libby kept coming back. "If it hadn't been for Kevin's encouragement I don't think I'd have continued," she said. Eventually Libby was swimming and taking part in archery and field events but still hadn't considered shooting.

As secretary of the Wheelchair Sports Association of SA she was invited to a rifle range in Dry Creek in 1973 in the hope she could coax other people with a disability to try the sport. "I'd never seen a gun and had never been involved in shooting," she recalled, but was persuaded to have a go. "They gave me a rifle, showed me where the trigger was, put it into my shoulder and

said 'hold still and shoot that black dot 20 metres away'. I shot the black dot and it went straight through the middle."

Libby said everyone laughed and told her it was a fluke, so she challenged them to another go. "I took another shot and it went straight through the same hole." From that moment the then 31-year-old knew she was a natural shooter and had two coaching offers straight away so "that was the beginning".

Across 12 Paralympic Games (one as a swimmer, the rest in rifle shooting) Libby won 13 medals, nine of them gold, and was Australian flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the Atlanta Games in 1996. Paralympics Australia chief executive Lynne Anderson said no athlete has ever competed in as many Games as Libby. "To compete at that level in any sport for more than four decades is simply astonishing and something that should be celebrated," said Ms Anderson.

"Libby's record in Paralympic Games is likely to stand the test of time for many years and it's for that reason she has become a household name. There aren't many athletes who've had quite the impact Libby has and I know the Paralympic movement and para-shooting community are grateful for all her work in the sport."

An inspiration

Friend and fellow shooter Andy Summers has known Libby for more than 20 years

and describes her as 'absolutely remarkable'. "Libby has been an inspiration to the Paralympics over the years in all aspects, not just shooting. She's done an awful lot for wheelchair sports," he said.

Andy is also a member of the Wingfield Rifle Club where Libby coaches and said there was a huge round of applause when the award was announced. "This is going to be an inspiration for the shooting sports, not just rifle. It's going to have a huge flow-on for pistol and target shooting because how often is a shooter inducted into a Hall of Fame?"

And the sporting community agrees Libby is a role model for budding athletes, particularly young women and para-athletes. "Recognising athletes with a disability sends a strong message that, regardless of your ability, you can perform on the world stage and if you put your mind to it you can achieve anything," said Ms Cassidy.

Shooting and disability

The first Paralympics Libby attended was in 1968 as assistant secretary to the Australian team in Tel Aviv and a lot has changed since then. "The '68 Games had only wheelchair people, no amputees, no blind or cerebral palsy, no people with intellectual disabilities," she said. "There were maybe 500 athletes in that third Paralympics and in Rio there were 4500 disabled athletes. It has grown and grown and grown."

Libby has also seen the Paralympics being staged in the same city as the Olympics with para-athletes using the same facilities as able-bodied competitors. "It's good for everyone as it means disabled people can continue playing sport in those facilities," she said.

The future

Now 78, Libby says shooting keeps her fit and helps her concentrate. "I shot in a competition recently and came fifth which is not bad but I like to win," she said. "I enjoy winning, I'm a competitor."

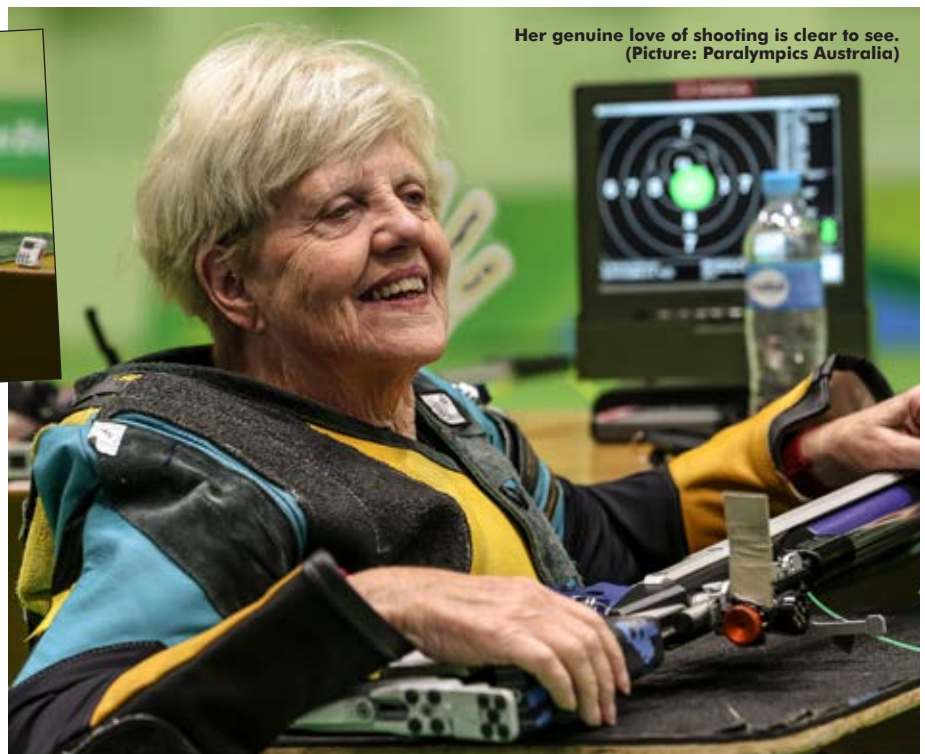
She has also been passing her skills and wisdom on to future generations of shooters, coaching 16/17-year-old girls and 12/13-year-old boys and has identified a couple of students good enough to reach the Olympics. "They actually listen to me and now I've made the Hall of Fame they say 'can we bow to you now?'" she laughed.

Libby is keen for shooting to continue to grow as a sport in Australia. "I wish the public had a bit more knowledge of shooting for pleasure," she said. "They just hear of guns and the dreadful things reported by the media and that's sad as ours is one of the safest sports. If you're mentally alert and able to do it you can shoot for years and years." And that's just what Libby plans on doing. ●



Libby was a natural shooter from the outset. (Picture: Paralympics Australia)

Libby at her induction with Adelaide media identity Mark Soderstrom.



Her genuine love of shooting is clear to see. (Picture: Paralympics Australia)



This early production rifle (top) is stamped 'Patent Applied For' on the left of the receiver. The bottom rifle carries no model designation but has the 1902 patent date stamped on the barrel, as is the calibre designation of .32 Short and Long. It has a smooth bore barrel for the .32 RF shot cartridge, indicating it was made after 1903.

Let's hear it for the boys

Senior correspondent John Dunn

At the end of the 19th century the Remington Arms Company of Ilion, New York had only one entry in the burgeoning boys' rifle market. Introduced in 1890, their solid frame No.4 rolling block rimfire rifle was widely regarded as one of the best available but hampered by the fact it was a little more expensive and couldn't be taken down like its main competitor, the 1894 Stevens Favorite.

A take-down version of the No.4 was in the wings but wouldn't be available until 1902 so in 1901 Remington introduced an entirely new model, the No.6 boys' rifle. Selling for the princely sum of \$5 it was \$3 cheaper than the No.4 at the time.

Remington No.6 boys' rifle

Though period advertising describes the No.6 action as "a modified type of the celebrated Remington system" there were a number of differences in terms of construction and the way it functioned. Instead of being forged the No.6 receiver was of laminated composition, consisting of a pair of side plates riveted to a central steel forging which incorporated the triggerguard

and housed the working parts of the action. This simple method of assembly was a design feature that significantly reduced production costs and the rivets generally weren't obvious through the colour case hardened finish. All primary working parts of hammer, trigger and breechblock pivoted on through pins in the receiver.

The No.6 had a 50.8cm (20") tapered round barrel made from decarbonised steel and fitted with what Remington called "plain open sights" boasting a simple notched rear sight and low, bead on blade fore sight, both dovetailed to the barrel providing hammer and drift windage adjustment. The rear underside of the barrel was machined to sit on the top edges of the receiver where it was located by a squared lug, the barrel secured by a thumb screw from the bottom of the receiver which engaged a threaded hole in the locating lug.

The two-piece stock was made from walnut, the forearm attached by a single screw into the bottom of the barrel, the head of the screw supported by a steel escutcheon cup. The buttstock was secured by a through bolt into the back of the receiver and fitted with a colour hardened,

curved steel, rifle-style buttplate. The earliest rifles were made in .22 calibre only with an overall length of 86.5cm (34") and weight of 1.58kg (3½lb).

To open the rifle the hammer was first thumbled back to full cock, the breechblock pushed directly down using a knurled thumb piece on the right-hand side causing the block to swing into slots on either side of the frame, exposing the chamber for loading.

As it was in the No.4 before it, this meant the rifle was cocked and ready to fire as soon as the breechblock was closed. To make it safe the hammer had to be held back while the trigger was released and the hammer carefully rolled forward into the half-cock or safety notch. It's not a difficult process and is easily learned but in terms of safety wasn't ideal for a rifle designed specifically for young and perhaps inexperienced users.

The earliest No.6 rifles had 'Patent applied for' stamped on the left of the receiver and 'Remington Arms Ilion NY USA' atop the barrel in front of the rear sight, the serial number stamped on the underside of the barrel in front of the forearm and, on the example I have in my



RELOADING CASES

Consistently the Best

The base, body and neck of all Lapua cases have been designed to maintain exact tolerances over multiple reloading cycles. Advanced metallurgical research and manufacturing techniques ensure that Lapua cases are leaders in uniformity, longevity and quality.

Base

The base section is hard and strong with dimensions that remain constant and will hold primers tight even after repeated reloading.

Body

The brass metallurgy and dimensions ensures that the case is easy to extract after firing even if only neck sized during reloading

Neck

Strict tolerances in concentricity and wall thickness are used during manufacture and necks are annealed to relieve stress and ensure longevity.

AVAILABLE IN:

32 S&W Long, 222 Rem, 223 Rem, 22-250 Rem, 220 Russian, 243 Win, 6mm BR, 6mm Creedmoor, 260 Rem, 6.5x47 Lapua, 6.5x55 Swedish, 6.5 Grendel, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5x284 Lapua, 7mm-08 Rem, 7x64, 7x65R, 7.62x39 Russian, 7.62x53R, 300 AAC Blackout, 308 Win, 308 Win Palma, 30-06 Sprg, 8x57 IS, 8x57 IRS, 300 Norma Mag, 338 Norma Mag, 338 Lapua Mag & 9.3x62



Let's hear it for the boys

collection, also on the underside of the stock wrist. My rifle is also fitted with a pressed steel, fold-down tang sight attached to the tang by a single screw, allowing for elevation adjustment but not windage and must have been added later as the tang sight wasn't introduced until 1903.

The No.6 was patented on July 22, 1902, the year after it was introduced and the 1902 Remington Arms catalogue lists the 'Remington No.6 Take-Down Rifle, New Model, Single Shot' as "our latest production, the No.6 rifle is especially designed to meet the demand for a lightweight and

Side view of the No.6 action open.



Top view of the action open.



reliable 'take-down' rifle at a moderate price". It looked much the same as the rifle introduced in 1901 except the shape of the forearm was slightly different, as were the markings on the rifle. My example of this marque doesn't have any markings on the receiver at all, top of the barrel forward of the rear sight marked 'Remington Arms - Union Metallic Cartridge Co' and 'Remington Works, Ilion, NY USA Patented July 22 1902'.

Behind the rear sight is stamped 'Remington (in script) Trade Mark', left side of the barrel just forward of the breech stamped '.32 Short or Long R.F.', dating

the gun as having been made after 1903, that being the year the .32 rimfire calibre was first offered in the No.6. The serial number is stamped on the underside of the barrel as are the words 'Smooth Bore', indicating the gun was made for .32 RF shot cartridges. In spite of that the barrel is fitted with standard rifle sights, the serial number also stamped on the wrist of the stock. Most of the original colour case hardening on the receiver and buttplate remains intact, perhaps indicating this particular firearm didn't see a lot of use. The buttplate is stamped 'Remington' and 'UMC' inside a circle with 'Trade Mark'

REMINGTON FIREARMS

25

Remington Number 6 Take Down Rifle

NEW MODEL, SINGLE SHOT



Our latest production, the No. 6 Rifle, is especially designed to meet the demand for a light weight and reliable "take down" rifle at a moderate price.

The action is a modified type of the celebrated Remington system. Material and workmanship the best. Decarbonized steel barrel, tapered, 20 inches long, accurately bored and rifled, case-hardened frame, genuine walnut stock and fore-end, rifle butt plate, plain open sights. Barrel detached from stock by loosening thumb-screw.

Made in 22 calibre, 20-inch barrel, about 3 1/2 pounds \$5 00
Adapted to the following cartridges: 22 short black, 22 short smokeless, 22 long black, C. B. caps, C. B. caps smokeless, B. B. caps, B. B. caps smokeless.

Each rifle is packed, taken down, in a strong and neat pasteboard box. Ten packed in a case.

Advertisement for the No.6 rifle from the 1902 Remington Arms catalogue.

For parts and prices see page 54.

Vixen®



ALL VIXEN
RIFLESCOPES
HAND CRATED
IN JAPAN

Only Vixen offers Japanese made optics at affordable prices.

2-8x32

Compact Profile
1" tube
PLEX or BDC

\$459 S.R.P



3-12x40

Compact Profile
1" tube
PLEX, BDC or MIL

\$489 S.R.P



4-16x44

Compact Profile
1" tube
PLEX, BDC or MIL
Side Focus

\$589 S.R.P



2.5-15x50

Euro illuminated
30mm tube PLEX,
BDC or MIL
Side Focus

\$1295 S.R.P



Let's hear it for the boys

around the lower part of the circumference outside the circle.

Remington Model 6 Improved

In 1928 Remington began shipping the Model 6 Improved boys' rifle and while it still carried the Model 6 designation, it was significantly different to the original. The blued receiver was smaller, made from a one-piece steel forging internally machined to accept the primary working parts of the action, none of which are interchangeable with the original Model 6. The flat springs used in the earlier model were replaced with coil springs and the Improved action could be loaded with the hammer at half-cock, a significant safety improvement, the triggerguard a separate component screwed to the bottom of the receiver.

Standard barrel length was still 50.8cm (20") and though it was secured to the receiver by a thumb screw from the bottom, the front of the receiver and underside of the barrel were machined differently to provide a more rigid fit when the rifle was assembled. The round lug that accepted the threaded end of the thumb screw was longer and screwed to the bottom of the barrel instead of being machined integral with the barrel.

The front sight on the example in my collection is a low bead on blade, the rear sight what various period catalogues describe as the 98½ - a small block dovetailed to the barrel, the flat-topped V-sight attached to the block by a single screw and the stepped elevator having a grooved wing on either to assist with adjustments. Research shows this type of sight was also available to fit octagonal barrels so I expect the sight on my rifle may be a replacement.

My rifle has 'Remington (in script) Trade Mark' stamped on the barrel forward of the breech with '22 Short, Long or Long Rifle' directly below it on the left of the barrel. The receiver is stamped on the left 'Improved Model 6 Remington Arms Co. Inc. Arms Works Ilion NY Made in USA Patents Pend. 47**28'. The two-piece stock is walnut with an oiled finish, the forearm slightly longer and slimmer than the first Model 6, the buttstock having a flat, shotgun-style steel buttplate stamped 'Remington UMC' in a circle with 'Reg. US Pat. Off.' around the lower circumference outside the circle.

While I haven't been able to find out how many Improved Model 6 rifles were made, they're nowhere near as common as the original Model 6 and went out of production in 1933 by which time 497,222 No.6 boys' rifles in both variations had been made. ●



The differences between the No.6 rifle (top) and No.6 Improved are obvious when viewed side by side.



Bottom view of the receiver showing the laminated construction. The slotted screw head is the take-down screw.



Rear sight on the Model 6 Improved.



Pressed metal tang sight used on the No.6.



The No.6 (top) and No.6 Improved actions compared.



The barrel shanks for the No.6 (top) and No.6 Improved are different and like the action parts are not interchangeable.





LEUPOLD SALE

VX-3i Scopes



VX-3i 1.5-5x20
Matte Duplex.....\$720



VX-3i 2.5-8x40
Matte Duplex.....\$720



VX-3i 3.5-10x40
Matte Duplex.....\$720



VX-3i 3.5-10x40
CDS Matte Duplex.....\$750



VX-3i 4.5-14x40
Matte Duplex.....\$900



VX-3i 4.5-14x40
CDS ZL Duplex.....\$995



VX-3i 4.5-14x50
Matte Duplex.....\$1200



VX-3i 6.5-20x40 CDS EFR Target
Matte Fine Duplex.....\$1295

VX-Freedom Scopes



VX-Freedom 3-9x40
Matte Duplex\$365



VX-Freedom 3-9x40 Rimfire
Matte with Rimfire-MOA Reticle\$389



VX-Freedom 3-9x33 EFR
Matte Duplex.....\$630



VX-Freedom 3-9x50
Matte Duplex\$445



VX-Freedom 4-12x40
Matte Duplex\$475

VX-5HD Scopes



VX-5HD 2-10x42 30mm CDS ZL2
Firedot Duplex.....\$1695



VX-5HD 3-15x44 CDS ZL2
SF Firedot Duplex.....\$1695



Bushnell Elite Tactical
LRH 4.5-18x44 FFP Illuminated G2H
Last of the Japanese Bushnell's
Was \$1550..... Now just \$1195



Adler Straight Pull IN STOCK NOW

Secure one while they last with a 20% deposit.
\$30 freight to your dealer Australia Wide.



Adler B230 Tactical
with 5 shot detachable mag.....\$799
Spare Mags \$80



Adler B220 All Weather 5 shot.....\$695



Adler B220 Pistol Grip 5 shot.....\$649



C35 Standard Velocity .22lr
Case Sale 5000 Rounds...\$499



Caldwell Rock Combo
Front Rest with
Rear Bag.....\$229



RCBS Chargemaster Lite ..\$599
WHILE STOCKS LAST



There's no denying he's a good Scout

Rifle: Ruger Gunsite Scout

Cartridge: .308 Winchester

Scope: Leupold VX-III 1.5-5x20

The Scout's first hog.



For the latest instalment in our favourite rifle/cartridge/scope series, **Mark van den Boogaart** outlines a project which became a labour of love

When asked to write about a favourite rifle I started with the sensible options, you know, 12-gauge and .22LR. Thing is, it was like I was trying to answer the question as would a knowledgeable gun writer and, for better or worse, that approach doesn't work for me. So I started again.

I have some really good rifles and shotguns in calibres I prefer along with a great selection of optics but if it came down to choosing one, it would be the Scout, and by the Scout I mean my Ruger Gunsite Scout in .308 Win with a VX-III 1.5-5x20mm Leupold on top. So let's give my choice some context. I like hunting marginal country as it's terrain I feel comfortable with. Maybe it's the big sky, maybe the lack of people but whatever it is I feel very much at home.

I've hunted marginal country for years, it's where I started, and for much of my hunting journey I relied on a lever-action. As a leftie, bolt-action options for a scrub gun were limited and the short, punchy characteristics of a .30 calibre, combined with good follow-up shot capability, meant I have owned and carried a number of lever-actions.

That was until the Ruger Gunsite Scout came along. As soon as I saw the first left-hand variant of the Scout, I bought one and sold my Marlin. With a true left-hand action, laminated stock, in .308 Win with a clunky box magazine and short 18" stainless steel barrel, the Scout was a rifle I'd been looking for. Why? It held the inherent benefits of a lever-action without the inherent ballistic limitations.

Now while the .308 Win isn't the sexiest calibre, there isn't much it won't trouble in

Australia. Sure, it's not really suited to NT buffalo but is powerful medicine for deer, goats and pigs. Looking back, I never had high expectations for the Scout and saw it for what I thought it was, an also-ran to the customised rifles in the safe. To me it was a scrub gun, a knockabout and not really in the same league as my European deer rifle.

With Scout in hand the first order of business was range time and, in showing my age, I ran in the barrel. I know it's a thing of the past - it's not needed any more - so humour me because that's what I did. By the end of that first day at Belmont I'd learned a few things about the Scout - it barked like an angry dog and the muzzle was a little jumpy off the bench but it wasn't fussy about factory ammo and, most surprisingly, was remarkably accurate. It's worth mentioning the Scout has never been



**Australia's most comprehensive
firearms and accessories trading website**

Rifles

Shotguns

Handguns

Reloading

Scopes

Accessories



**BUY AND SELL
NEW AND USED**

- Firearms, parts and optics
- Ammunition and reloading components
- Knives and hunting products
- Camping gear, vehicles,
boats and property

Take a look now!
ssaagunsales.com

There's no denying he's a good Scout

fed handloaded ammo as the idea was to be a workhorse, something that would function with whatever factory ammo was available and the Scout seemed happy with the diet.

By way of optics I chose a low-powered Leupold, an older VX-III in 1.5-5x20mm and a fine example of high-quality American-made glass. Being an older model with 25mm tube it also worked well with the factory rings supplied with the rifle, which saved a few dollars.

I'm no range shooter so as soon as I could I took the Scout hunting and over that weekend managed to take a number of goats with the rifle - and jam it. More accurately, the heavy box magazine moved a little while attempting a quick follow-up shot, which caused the rifle to jam. As I was used to the smooth action of my Tikka rifles I may have said some unkind things about the US-made Ruger but also decided to do something about it. To me, the problem was the metal box magazine and looking around for options I found a good aftermarket polymer magazine. I ended up buying both 5 and 10-shot magazines and have never looked back.

The goats fell in February and feeling a little bold I made the call that I wanted a deer, goat and pig in one calendar year with the Scout, meaning my special customised Tikka became a safe queen but hey, the things you do when you open your mouth without thinking. It took a couple of months but next to fall was a pig, a good short-legged angry boar. We followed him over a period of 36 hours and finally pinned him at a shallow scrape of a dam. Spotting him, he never made it past the lip of the dam wall - two from two for the Scout.

Both goat and pig had been taken at close range in scrubby country but my next target was deer and the place I usually hunted required some longer distance shooting, so it was back to the range. With some experimentation I found a factory load that worked well with the Scout and groups certainly became tighter, the bonus being it wasn't a premium brand and is readily available in most places.

Unfortunately, work got in the way and my planned deer hunt kept being pushed back, so much so I was fast running out of time to reach the Mary Valley. Luckily I had some knowledgeable connections and late in the year I was heading on a deer hunt. The weather didn't want to make things easy and just after dawn a storm blew in. I'd left home about 2.30am to make the drive but as we weren't going anywhere I did what any self-respecting hunter would do - took a nap. About an hour later I awoke to a strange day. While it was well past dawn the



Have gun, will travel!

air was still, the light dull and cloud cover didn't seem to be moving.

Heading out I wondered if the deer had shot through but, as luck would have it, they were out and about. It was as if their internal clocks had been upset by the storm as they were there in numbers and none too worried about the continuing rumble of thunder. Unlike the goat and pig I had to take a slightly longer shot and again to its credit the Scout carried the day - deer, goat and pig in one calendar year to the scrub gun.

From that first year of ownership I've

hunted a number of locations and species with the Scout, using it to great effect.

In fact, about three years ago I purposely put it away for a while so I could hunt with the Tikka again. It still runs exclusively on factory ammo and functions with minimal attention though I've continued to experiment with the set-up. At one point I changed the Leupold to an Aimpoint Micro Red Dot and back again, bought a GPO scope in 3-9x42mm to try that and, you guessed it, switched back to the Leupold. It wasn't because the Aimpoint or GPO



Lithgow arms™

**AUSTRALIAN MADE IN
REGIONAL COMMUNITIES**

SMALL GAME • HUNTING • TARGET • LONG RANGE

107 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED AUSTRALIAN FIREARMS MANUFACTURING



LA101 Crossover™

Available in Walnut, Laminate or Polymer stock (pictured). Titanium or black Cerakote finish.

Calibres: 22LR, 22WMR, 17HMR



LA102 Crossover™

Available in Walnut, Laminate (pictured) or Polymer stock. Titanium or black Cerakote finish.

Calibres: 223REM, 243WIN, 6.5 Creedmoor or 308 WIN



LA105 WOOMERA

Calibres: 6.5 Creedmoor, 308 WIN

LITHGOW ARMS
BATTLE PROVEN SINCE 1912

Cerakote™
FIREARM COATINGS



SUPPORT AUSSIE JOBS

USE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK AND OSA AMMO

AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK
Extreme performance - whatever the weather

OSA BUFFALO
RIVER

OSA
OUTDOOR SPORTING AGENCIES

Find your local Lithgow Stockist at:
www.osaaustralia.com.au



There's no denying he's a good Scout



The latest version of the Scout - and a good chunk of bacon; Aiming up on a red deer; Scout with Swarovski scope. The finished product - maybe.

were inferior, it's just the low power set-up worked so well with the Scout, the quality, eye relief and compact design made, and continues to make sense - and provides a great handle.

I've never tried to *forward* or *scout* mount a scope on the rifle. Again, it's a personal choice but I'm not sold on the idea of a scope all the way up front on a rifle that might take the odd knock. I've changed slings a few times and for a while carried the Scout with a Safari but some time ago I fitted a black leather Dingo sling and have stuck with it. Another change was

to Cerakote the Scout. The finish is matte black and while the process has added another layer of protection and slicked up the action, I did it primarily for the looks to make the Scout a complete package.

What's next for the Scout? Maybe it's time to look at a different stock or at least a new recoil pad as the rifle uses a system of supplied spacers to help achieve the right length of pull on the stock. While it's a worthy effort by Ruger the pad itself is too spongy for my liking. So that's my choice, a short barrel Ruger roughie in plain vanilla .308 Win with an older Leupold scope I've

had for ages - a rifle which proves the old adage that something can be greater than the sum of its average parts.

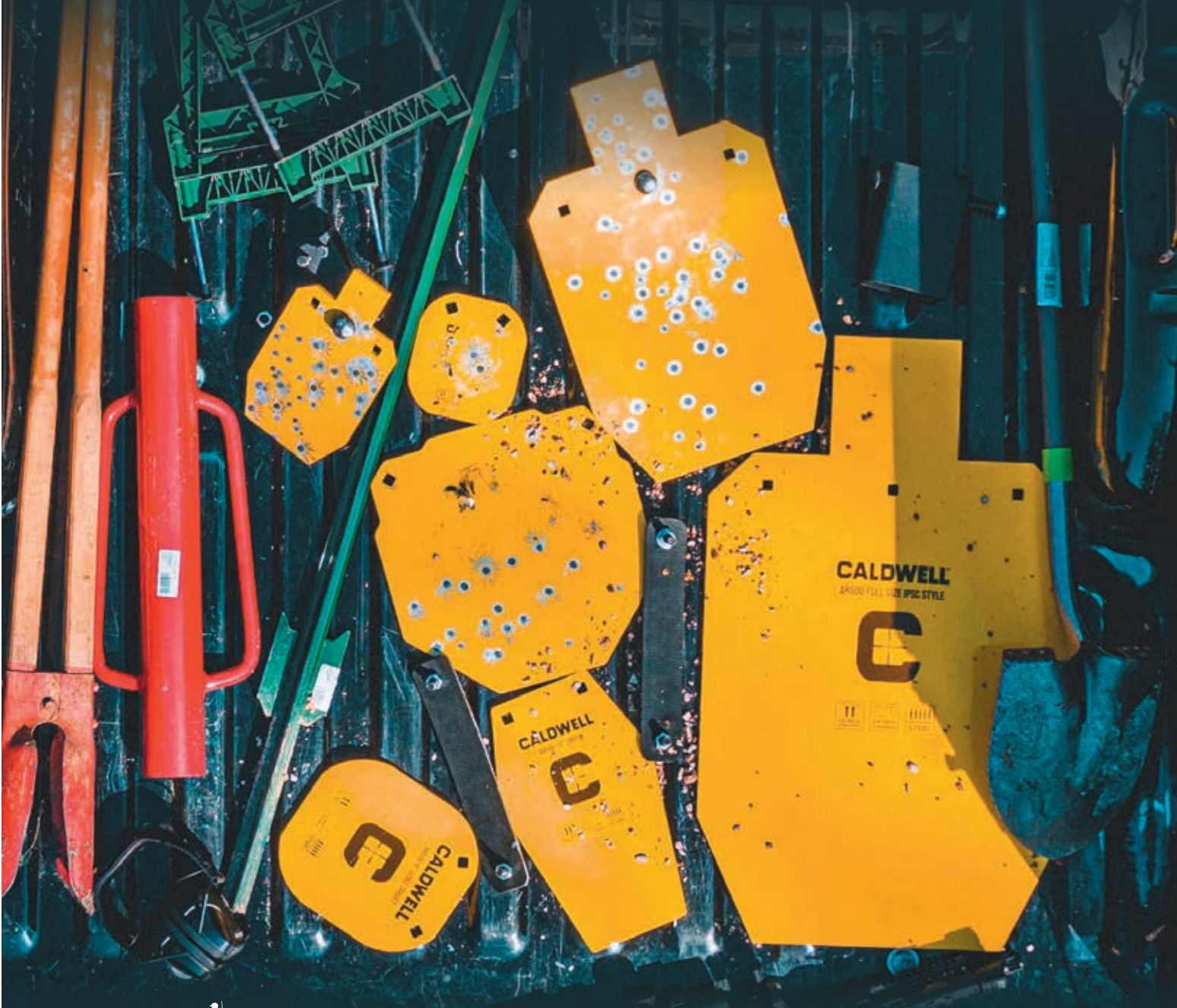
Postscript

Having completed this article I happened to buy a new scope for my Tikka .30-06, meaning I had a spare Swarovski Z6 1-6x24mm and thought it would make a great 'hand me down' for the Scout. After buying new 30mm scope mounts to suit, I fitted the Swarovski and went about dialling it in and can now declare my Scout project finished. Maybe. ●

CALDWELL[®]

NEW AR500 STEEL TARGETS

BUILT TO LAST. 10,000 ROUNDS AND COUNTING



NMD351



SIFA

Shooting
Industry
Foundation
Australia

www.nioa.com.au | www.caldwellshooting.com



Game on

a tasty solution to the pest problem

Nadia Isa

An Australian shooter is planning to tackle the issue of feral pests with the creation of a new business. The founder of a feral animal control service is set to open Australia's first mobile processing plant for feral pests in regional New South Wales, helping address the environmental and economic scourge caused by the animals.

Shooter and company director of Australian Feral Animal Control and Management Services, Rob Gallina has recently completed the online *Statement of Attainment in Game Harvester* with TAFE NSW. The course covers the hygiene and sanitation requirements to harvest game, dressing procedures, knife-sharpening and maintenance, how to communicate with land holders and processing facilities, and the vehicle requirements for harvesting.

TAFE NSW teacher and butcher-by-trade Shannon Walker said the course is one of the oldest running courses at TAFE, first offered more than a century ago to train the iconic Sydney 'rabbiters'.

Rob decided to pursue a career in feral pest eradication after witnessing first-hand the environmental and economic impact of wild animals. Wild dogs alone are estimated to cost Australian farmers \$66.3 million a year, while the damage to agriculture by

feral pigs is put at more than \$100 million. But Rob reckons there aren't enough processing plants around and good meat is being wasted. "Feral animals and, unfortunately, kangaroos are fighting with livestock for feed, so for farmers there's no alternative but to cull both feral animals and kangaroos and let them lie," he said. "We're wasting up to three tonnes of roo, pig and deer meat every day because there just aren't enough game meat processing plants around."

"Ultimately I want to establish a couple of these plants in each state, with each facility employing up to 30 or 40 shooters. This would create a lot of work for local communities and boost economic stimulus to areas which don't have big employment rates."

Each processing facility would create 31 full-time positions and contract up to 30 licensed and accredited harvesters from local areas, creating a more sustainable industry and a great opportunity for shooters to learn about harvesting and recreational shooters to become professional harvesters. "This will not just create jobs but give farmers a return for animals being harvested on their properties while helping the environment," said Rob.

The company's plan is to open the first plant in regional New South Wales, eventually expanding to other states,

Rob maintaining that due to the lack of processing plants, good game meat is often left to rot. "For my company to go out and shoot hundreds of animals then see them rotting in the paddock is really disheartening," he said.

The keen shooter also runs popular bush-tucker tours to educate people about the best ways to hunt and cook game but, more broadly, he has noticed a bit of stigma around the food. "People are not educated on the amazing table quality of wild animals - it's not looked at as a source of protein," he said. "Educating the public on the health benefits of eating this resource will turn a wasted product into sustainable table-quality and pet food, removing waste from paddocks and creating a sustainable industry."

Shannon is hoping that with added exposure, game meat will become more widely accepted. "Much of the game meat processed goes to pet food but there's a growing market for restaurants and supermarkets, especially for roo meat," he said. "Game meat is a great source of protein which really does need to be available at more butchers and restaurants. Unfortunately, most advertising dollars are taken up defending the industry, not promoting it." ●

POLARIS GENERAL[®]

4 1000 EPS DELUXE

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

Adventures are unpredictable in nature which is why the right gear matters. GENERAL gives you many options to carry all your gear and enjoy the experience.

SPOIL YOUR FRIENDS

Get ready for your next adventure with GENERAL Deluxe, delivering a powerful and comfortable off-road experience with additional features like performance shocks and sports roof.

DELUXE DETAILS

The performance, comfort and versatility for every off-road adventure with additional features that help provide an unreal experience.

POLARIS GENERAL[®]

4 1000 EPS DELUXE



100 HP



ON DEMAND TRUE
ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE
(AWD)



VERSATRAC TURF
MODE



DUMP BOX
CAPACITY - 454KG



ROCKFORD
FOSGATE AUDIO



FOX 2.0 PODIUM QSS
SHOCKS



ELECTRONIC POWER
STEERING



SEATS 4



POLARIS HD
4500 LB WINCH

Howa 'mini-me' a maxi attraction



Daniel O'Dea

The Howa 1500 Mini Action APC shown here in .223 Remington is a relatively light, compact option for those who prefer the ergonomics of a chassis-style rifle.

In February's *Australian Shooter* I reviewed Southern Cross Small Arms and their new TXP X chassis system and made mention of the APC (Australian Precision Chassis) they make as OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) for Legacy Sports/OSA for sale here and in the US.

The Howa APC rifle has proved popular in both, with the ever-reliable Howa 1500 barrelled action mated to this modern modular chassis rifle system. I also wrote that I'd given my older Howa 1500 in .223 a new lease of life by removing it from its original stock, dropping the barrelled action into a Howa APC chassis and adding the 10-round detachable magazine kit. It has proved to be a handy package so I was enthralled when I received from OSA the 'mini-me' version for review.

In turn the Howa 1500 Action has been around in its many forms for decades with a long list of companies such as Smith & Wesson and Weatherby lending their names to the rifle. My first centrefire rifle was a CMC Australian Mountaineer in .308 Winchester and I had the same gun in 22/250 which I had the chamber reamed to 22/250 Ackley Improved, both rifles Howa 1500 variants. The Howa 1500 Mini Action

scales down the standard Howa Short Action rifle by 12 per cent and is purpose built for smaller cartridge length calibres in the .223 Remington class such as .222, .204 and even 7.62x39.

Generally, most firearms manufacturers only produce one or two action lengths, a standard to handle longer traditional cartridges in the 30-06 length such as .270 Win, 25-06 Rem, .280 Rem, .35 Whelen and even some of the shorter Magnum calibres. Then there's a 'Short' action to handle .308 Winchester length cartridges or smaller - think anything from .222 Remington up to .308 Win including 22-250, .243 Win, 6.5CM and 7mm-08.

In most cases where cartridges shorter than action length are used, you'll find a block of some description in the magazine or floorplate to take up the leftover space not used by the cartridge length. Likewise, sometimes a bolt stop will shorten unnecessary bolt stroke travel and in these cases you literally can have wasted space, materials and bolt cycle beyond what the cartridge requires.

From a manufacturing standpoint it has traditionally made more economic sense to use just one or two actions to accommodate all cartridge lengths, but with the

ever-growing popularity of smaller calibres such as .223 Remington it now works well to have a more compact, lighter, purpose-built action and some companies such as Sako have been doing it for years.

I'd also note smaller doesn't necessarily mean weaker with such Mini Actions having ample material left in the breech/receiver ring area to contain the pressures created by cartridges they're designed to use. If anything, chambering a small cartridge such as .223 Remington in a standard action is overkill as logically the smaller the diameter of cartridge case, the thicker the chamber wall when using the same receiver ring diameter.

Comparably the Howa Mini Action is 29mm shorter than the standard Howa Short Action at 150mm, the receiver ring diameter measuring 29.5mm against 34mm and bolt length reduced to 152mm (6") from 175mm (6.9"), and when you add up all reductions the results are quite tangible, producing a lighter and more compact package.

Last year I met a stockman on a large NT cattle station who was carrying a Howa Mini Action .223 Rem on his travels. He said he'd accounted for 42 pigs with it the previous week and was very happy with it since purchase - it had proved a light and effective

Have you got Business Insurance?



Call now* for an obligation FREE quote.

Before you renew your Business Insurance or ANY other policy call us for an obligation FREE quote. We can arrange all types of personal and business insurance with coverage obtained from Australia's leading insurance companies. Add up how much you spend each year on all your premiums - it's BIG money. SSAA General Insurance Brokers are SSAA members working for you.

Here's why it pays to get a FREE quote:

- We understand your business and insurance needs.
- We make sure everything is correctly covered.
- We manage your claims, taking care of the details.
- We offer professional advice and we are SSAA members.

NSW / QLD / ACT

Call: 0455 777 685

insurance@ssaains.com.au

SA / WA / VIC / TAS & NT

Call: 08 8332 0281

insurance@ssaains.com.au



SSAA
General
Insurance
Brokers

**All General
Insurances**



A SSAA member advantage



***Office Hours** SSAA Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd | CAR 315403 | ABN 86 077 822 970 is a Corporate Authorised Representative of PSC Connect Pty Ltd | ABN 23 141 574 914 / AFSL 344648

Howa 'mini-me' a maxi attraction



Howa 1500 rifles come with a five-shot 1 MOA guarantee. During testing on a wet and windy day groups were in and around that and showed potential for better.



This three-shot group shot in bad weather measures 0.7 MOA and was not uncommon during testing.



The standard (short) length Howa 1500 Action .223 magazines (top) are longer than required for .223 Remington or similar length cartridges and are blocked at the required length. The Mini Action (bottom) is perfectly scaled.



The Howa 1500 Mini Action APC (top) is the 'mini-me' version of the standard actioned Howa APC.

option for him. One criticism of chassis-style rifles is they're no doubt heavier than the myriad of modern synthetic stock options and many don't feel they make good carry rifles for general hunting. Others don't quaff about humping a few extra pounds and are happy to sacrifice the weight advantage of a synthetic stock in favour of the modern ergonomics and features of a chassis rifle. The Howa Mini Action APC in effect can give you the best of both worlds, providing the calibre is adequate.

A standard Hogue-stocked Howa 1500 .223 Rem rifle weighs in bare at 3.55kg (7.8lb), my own Howa APC registering 3.8kg (8.4lb). The Howa .223 Mini Action APC with stainless 20" heavy barrel, received for review, weighs 3.3kg (7.3lb) including bases, so in effect you can have a heavy barrelled .223 chassis rifle at the same weight or less than the standard synthetic stocked option. Of course, these comparative weights may vary slightly dependant on barrel weight and profile options.

The APC chassis itself is machined from aircraft-grade alloy with black Cerokote finish, the main APC body acting as a solid, free-floated, bedding platform for the Howa barrel action. The ventilated octagonal-shaped handguard has the flat-sided slots at 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock machined as M-Lok compatible for attaching accessories and it comes with an M-Lok sling swivel installed on the handguard for sling or bipod fitment.

The system runs a stand MSR (Modern Sporting Rifle) AR-style pistol grip and six-position buffer tube, the APC having a Hogue rubberised pistol grip featuring stippling and finger grooves for a sure grasp in all weather. The six-position Luthar stock is well featured including an adjustable cheek riser, other small details like an on-board Allen key and short rail section at the buttstock heel for a rear monopod there if required. The stock is also compatible for QD swivel cup installation, though sadly in NSW the Firearms Act considers collapsible stocks as prohibited so the stock has to be fixed in place for sale in NSW.

The rifle comes with a compact 10-round polymer magazine marked for use with .222, 204, .223 and .300 Blackout. The magazine slots nicely into the black polymer trigger housing which incorporates an easy-to-operate magazine release catch at the front edge of the housing. The magazine catch is not fenced or recessed in any way and I've heard it argued the exposed position could lead to accidental release, though I can honestly say I've never had an issue with it on my own rifle and find it easy to locate and use in low-light conditions such as spotlighting.

RIMFIRE RIFLES

CZ 457 SERIES

NEW



CZ 457 THUMBHOLE

.22 LR (1:16) | 5

With artful design and perfect ergonomics, the 457 Thumbhole has a sturdy laminate stock in a classy grey/brown colour scheme. With symmetrical features, this modern thumbhole is equally comfortable for both right-handed and left-handed shooters and the stable nature of the laminate stock and varmint barrel allow shooters to engage medium and long-range targets.

NEW



CZ 457 LRP

.22 LR (1:16) | 5

Built for shooters who want to exploit the extraordinary accuracy potential of the CZ 457 to its fullest, the LRP is tuned to enable hits on target at extreme distances – assuming the shooter does their part!

TECHNICAL DATA

MODEL	LENGTH	BARREL LENGTH	WEIGHT	CALIBER	MAGAZINE CAPACITY	SIGHTS	TRIGGER	STOCK	THREAD
CZ 457 THUMBHOLE 20"	1010 mm	525 mm (20")	3,5 kg	.22 LR (1:16)	5	No	Adjustable	Polymer	1/2"20 UNF
CZ 457 LRP	1010 mm	525 mm (20")	3,8 / 3,9 kg	.22 LR (1:16)	5	No	Adjustable	Polymer	1/2"20 UNF



Howa 'mini-me' a maxi attraction

Daniel lines up with the Howa 1500 APC Mini Action.



Built-in M-Lok rail slots for accessory fitment.



Luthar fully adjustable collapsible MSR stock.



Standard MSR pistol grip and rubberised Hogue clasp.



The magazine release makes removal a simple one-handed operation.

The Howa 1500 Mini Action shares all the familiar features of its big brother including a three-position safety and Howa's HACT two-stage trigger system. HACT is an acronym for Howa Actuator Controlled Trigger and is claimed to both eliminate creep and lighten trigger pull. In use you have an initial light take up for about 3-4mm of travel before you hit a wall, from there on you have a crisp trigger break which averaged around 3lb on my Lyman trigger gauge.

It's a safe system to use in the field as there's always a controlled trigger take-up before the final break, though naturally the best trigger practice is not to touch it at all until you're safely on target and ready to fire. Even so, two-stage triggers have long been recognised as less conducive to operator-caused accidental discharge and is why they're favoured by military and law enforcement.

Unfortunately you can't choose the weather and the day I had the little Mini

up for testing was blustery with driving rain, yet down on the range performance remained predictable. As mentioned, I've owned several Howa 1500-based rifles and have reviewed and fired many more. Generally I find groups around the 1" (25.4mm) mark or better at 90m are readily achievable with good factory ammo, likewise in my experience Howa rifles have proved capable of outstanding accuracy once run in and tuned up with a favoured handload or with a factory recipe your rifle likes.

The TSPX Howa 6.5 CM I recently built up will deliver ½ MOA groups or better all day with its pet load. Back to the Mini and even with the prevailing conditions, most five-round groups were still a few points plus or minus the 1 MOA mark and I had at least three shots into ½ MOA.

The Howa 1500 barrel action is an accomplished, accurate and reliable rifle base. Complete rifle variants are generally available at a good price and this latest

rendition as a Mini Action in the APC chassis format will be perfect for those looking for a way into a chassis rifle platform without the weight deficit associated with a standard-length actioned rifle. More at osaaustralia.com.au ●

Specifications

Rifle: Howa 1500 Mini Action APC
Action: Bolt-action
Trigger: Howa HACT two-stage trigger
Trigger pull: Adjustable (3lb as tested)
Calibre: .223 Remington tested
Capacity: 10-round detectable polymer box magazine
Barrel: 508mm (20" barrel)
Twist rate: 1:9
Sights: Compatible Remington 700 bases.
Stock: APC with Luthar adjustable stock

OPEN 7 DAYS



www.nyati.com.au

NYATI Hunting Supplies

Sporty's Warehouse, 32 Strathaird Rd Bundall QLD p: (07) 5531 6511
fax: (07) 5504 5357 email: sales@nyati.com.au

D/L 50000305



Instagram

follow us @nyati_hunting_supplies



CAMX A4
from \$1995



CAMX x330
from \$1495

RIDGELINE
TORRENT 2
JACKET
rrp \$299.95
now \$165



RIDGELINE
MALLARD
JACKET
rrp \$139.95
now \$89.95



SUPER SPECIAL
rrp \$149.95
now \$95.00



ELITE
RITUAL
33"
rrp \$1699
now \$1550



APACHE
BOOTS
rrp \$219.95
now \$145



CAMLITE
BOOTS
rrp \$189.95
now \$119

MULE
DAYPACK
rrp \$159.95
now \$109



ARAPAHOE
BOOTS
rrp \$199.95
now \$125



TRUE-SHOT
DAYPACK
rrp \$159.95
now \$109



GARRETT METAL DETECTORS

	NOW	WAS
ATX	\$3960	\$4399
AT Max	\$1349	\$1499
AT Gold	\$1215	\$1349
AT Pro	\$1065	\$1185
ACE 400i	\$ 652	\$ 725
ACE 300i	\$ 495	\$ 549
ACE 200i	\$ 339	\$ 375
AT Pro-Pointer	\$ 242	\$ 269

AMMO SPECIALS

FRONTIER 223	\$ 625.00	1000PK
PPU 223	\$ 16.50	20PK
PPU 243	\$ 24.95	20PK
PPU 270	\$ 29.55	20PK
PPU 308	\$ 25.50	20PK
PPU 30/06	\$ 30.50	20PK
PPU 300 WIN	\$ 36.10	20PK
PPU 9MM	\$ 24.50	50PK
357 MAG	\$ 34.50	50PK
44 MAG	\$ 48.60	50PK

PIG STICKERS



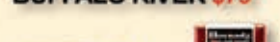
OSPREY \$55



BUFFALO RIVER \$49



BUFFALO RIVER \$79



PROJECTILES ALWAYS
ON SALE. CHECK ONLINE
FOR BEST PRICES

CHRISTENSEN ARMS MPR



.308 6.5CM \$5590

MIROKU MK 70



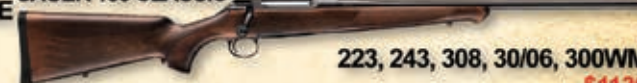
12G
FROM \$1650

SAUER ELEGANCE GRADE 10



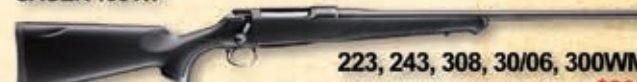
308, 30/06, 300WM, 375H&H
Includes Sauer hard case & sling \$8895

SAUER 100 CLASSIC



223, 243, 308, 30/06, 300WM
\$1130

SAUER 100 XT



223, 243, 308, 30/06, 300WM
\$995

INSTORE TRAINING

NSW & QLD A & B FIREARMS COURSE
QLD CROSSBOW LICENCE COURSE
NSW STATE FOREST R-LICENCE

These specials and more on our New Website- www.nyati.com.au

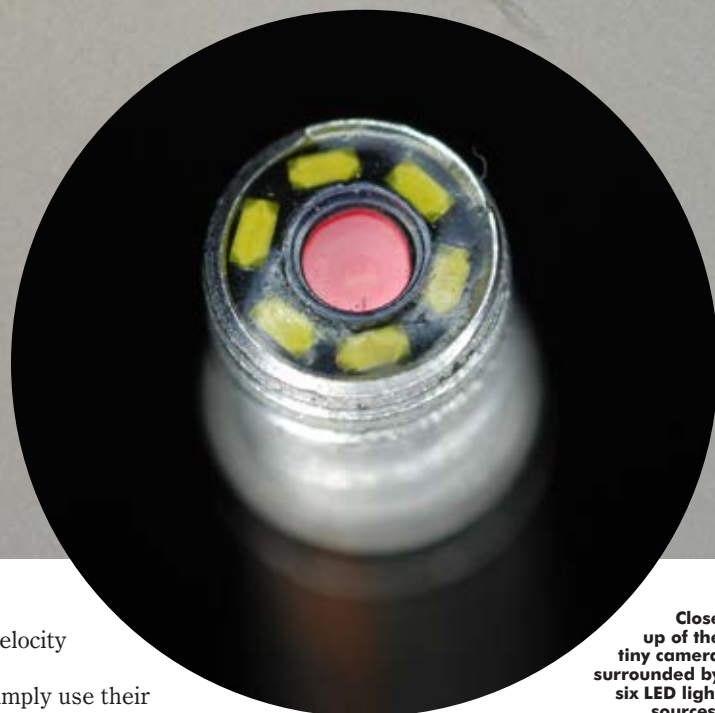
*Prices Subject to change without notice

Keep tabs on barrel behaviour

the AUPRO-90 borescope

Geoff Smith

Camera probe about to enter the muzzle of a flintlock pistol.



Close up of the tiny camera surrounded by six LED light sources.

There are few places where pressures and temperatures are greater than those inside the chambers and barrels of firearms, these extreme conditions meaning each time we fire our guns, we damage them. The extent of the damage depends, of course, on the levels of heat and pressure and the times over which they are applied. Firearms which accelerate their projectile to high velocities over short spaces of time do so by developing temperatures, ever so briefly, higher than the melting temperatures of the steel from which the barrel is made.

While barrels don't usually melt, their inner surfaces are exposed to extreme conditions and it's only because the surrounding metal quickly conducts the heat away that they survive at all. The extent of these torturous conditions, coupled to careful maintenance and cleaning, are key factors affecting barrel life.

Competitive rifle shooters in particular, find accuracy starts to fall away after a certain number of rounds have been fired and this is because of erosion, or burning away of the throat around where the bullet leaves the chamber and enters the rifling, and more especially erosion at the muzzle as the bullet leaves and is enveloped in a

cloud of hot, high-velocity escaping gases.

Most shooters simply use their firearm for whatever purpose then, if they're conscientious, clean it and store it in compliance with local laws. Periodically, no doubt, the bolt will be removed and the shooter will raise the firearm up to the light and peer down the barrel to ensure it's clean. You'd hope all shooters check their barrels before use to ensure there are no obstructions, since barrels containing anything to block the bullet's path will cause excessive pressures and possible danger, but this type of inspection doesn't tell us much about the surface of the bore directly.

It's of great interest to be able to actually examine the barrel wall surface to see how it's standing up to regular use, as just looking through the barrel is only useful to detect obstructions, serious corrosion or other obvious damage. Various types of borescopes have been developed to enable barrel examination and the best of these allow viewing of the bore perpendicularly towards its surface. Until having access to such a borescope, my own direct studies of bore surfaces has been limited to milling a window into condemned barrels to gain an

understanding. Naturally enough this then converts the former barrel into an object which may have future value as a teaching aid but is otherwise scrap metal.

Since the majority of my shooting these days involves the use of cast bullets in my centrefires, my interest in what goes on inside the bore has heightened, as accumulation of lead and other metal fouling can dramatically reduce accuracy. The AUPRO-90 bore camera system that's the subject of this review is especially good at revealing lead and other metal fouling as well as erosion, corrosion and damage. Curiously enough, I've discovered through use of this camera system that what I thought was a perfectly adequate cleaning protocol is nowhere near good enough. Another important personal discovery thanks to this system is that Hi-Tek bullet coatings which are becoming popular with cast bullet shooters actually work well in reducing metal fouling.

Described as a 'high performance industrial endoscope', the AUPRO-90 camera

HORSLEY PARK

AVAILABLE ONLY WHILE STOCKS LAST

Mail Order Specialists Australia Wide

GUN SHOP

Australia's
Gunshop

WHERE EVERYDAY
IS A SALE DAY!

NOW YOU CAN SHOP ONLINE - www.hpgs.com.au



SAVAGE RIFLE SPECIALS

A22 RF 22LR BLUE SYNTHETIC\$450
A22 RFS 22LR STAINLESS SYNTHETIC\$560



A22 RPV 22LR PRO VARMINT BLUE SYNTHETIC.....\$675
A22 MRF 22WMR BLUE SYNTHETIC.....\$640
A17 RF 17HMR BLUE SYNTHETIC\$640
93 FVSS XP 22WMR VARMINT STAINLESS SYNTHETIC
WITH FACTORY FITTED 3-9x40 SCOPE\$825



MKII FSS 22LR STAINLESS SYNTHETIC.....\$675
MKII F XP 22LR BLUE SYNTHETIC
WITH FACTORY FITTED 3-9x40 SCOPE\$575
MKII GL 22LR BLUE WOOD LEFT HAND.....\$495

RUGER RIFLE SPECIALS



RUGER AMERICAN STAINLESS 223\$850



RUGER AMERICAN RANCH RIFLE 300 BLACKOUT
16" THREADED AR 10RD MAG\$880



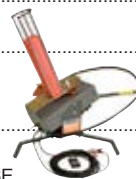
RUGER AMERICAN 22LR LAMINATED THUMBHOLE\$895
RUGER AMERICAN 22LR BLUE WOOD\$750
RUGER AMERICAN 22WMR STAINLESS SYNTHETIC.....\$640

OTHER GOODIES



AKS30E AKKAR CHURCHILL 30" SPORTER 5 CHOKES CASED
5 YEAR WARRANTY\$1195
AKTR30E AKKAR CHURCHILL 30" PORTED TRAP 5 CHOKES
CASED 5 YEAR WARRANTY\$1185
AKTR30ELH AKKAR CHURCHILL 30" PORTED
TRAP 5 CHOKES CASED 5 YEAR WARRANTY\$1195

CHAMPION EASYBIRD AUTO 12V
50 CLAY THROWER + 15M FOOT RELEASE\$1150
CHAMPION WHEELYBIRD 2.0 AUTO 12V 50 CLAY
THROWER WIRELESS REMOTE & FOOT RELEASE\$870
CHAMPION WORKHORSE AUTO 12V
50 CLAY THROWER 2.5 SECOND RESET 8M FOOT RELEASE\$595
CH40913 EASYBIRD OSCILLATING BASE\$550
CH45324 EASYBIRD WOBBLER ATTACHMENT\$550



PELICAN VAULT PV770 50" SINGLE RIFLE CASE\$295
PELICAN VAULT PV800 53" DOUBLE RIFLE CASE\$345

BUSHNELL TROPHY XTREME 20-60x65 SPOTTING SCOPE KIT\$440
BUSHNELL NITRO 10x42 GREY BINOCULARS\$490
BUSHNELL 743333 PROFESSIONAL
BORE SIGHT KIT WITH 17-45 CAL ARBORS.....\$175



LEUPOLD LE172368 VX-5HD 3-15x44 CDS ZL2 SF FIREDOT DUPLEX
SCOPE\$1850
LEUPOLD LE170885 VX-3i 6.5-20x40 EFR CDS TARGET MATTE FINE
DUPLEX SCOPE.....\$1420
LEUPOLD LE17455 RX-1300i TBR DNA
RANGEFINDER BLACK GREY\$595
LEUPOLD LE173783 BX-1 MCKENZIE 10x42
SHADOW GREY BINOCULARS.....\$350



LYMAN LY-BSCTX BRASS SMITH
CASE TRIM XPRESS\$340
LYMAN CYCLONE ROTARY CASE TUMBLER\$520



RCBS UNIFLOW POWDER MEASURE\$190

1848 The Horsley Drive HORSLEY PARK NSW 2175 **PHONE** 02 9620 1313 **EMAIL** sales@hpgs.biz

LIKE US



ABN 85 003 914 850 DLN 410 582 683 • ALL PRICES INCLUDE GST AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE • WWW.HORSLEYPARKGUNSHOP.COM.AU

Please Note: Some items listed above may sellout before ad is released. While this is unavoidable we will endeavour to keep prices as marked but may change without notice.

Mike Williams checks an antique air rifle barrel.



is optically similar to the medical devices used to look inside human bodies, though the makers stress this product is certainly not designed for medical purposes. It's available as a basic system whose central element - the 'light pipe' and its camera - can be bought individually with connecting cable and software and used directly with a laptop or tablet via a USB connection, or as a complete system with a five-inch portable liquid crystal display unit.

The flexible, metre-long optical cable shines light to illuminate the inspection area then 'looks', at short focus via the angled mirror, at the surface in question using a tiny one-megapixel camera. The camera has a depth of field between 10-15mm and the image is illuminated by a ring of six tiny LEDs located radially around the even tinier camera lens. When used in conjunction with a computer, power comes from the USB and images are controlled by the supplied software, quoted resolution of the camera probe being 1280x720 pixels.

The image is focusable by unscrewing the mirror head relative to the cable to gain the clearest picture. This uses the thread on the mirror head to alter the distance between camera lens and bore surface as light levels adjust to ensure a good picture. Images displayed on the computer screen



The display can call up images with probe disconnected, in this case showing the muzzle of an Enfield .380 revolver.

may then, through software supplied on a USB stick, be saved to the computer's memory either as still pictures or video, thus enabling the shooter to examine and record the inside of the barrel. Then after taking remedial action for say, metal fouling, you can check to ensure the problem has been solved.

Keith Anderson of ozzistraightshooter.com says: "I've found an additional use for the bore camera in checking case length. If you insert a case into the chamber you can pass the camera down from the muzzle and see the case neck in the chamber and I find that

the best way to trim to optimum length."

The unit comes with two 5mm diameter mirror heads but a further set of four mirrors can be had which vary in size from 5 to 12.7mm in four steps, thus enabling good clear images in various calibre barrels right up to shotguns and big muzzleloaders if required. The better alternative is to buy the camera cable along with the AUPRO-90 portable five-inch liquid crystal display unit. This solidly built and neatly designed device weighs 307g, is 180mm wide x 100mm high and about 30mm deep. By having an internal 3500 mAh lithium ion



// DESIGNED + TESTED IN AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

PROVER
PROVER
PROVER
PROVER

SCAN HERE



DISCOVER THE FULL DROVER PACK RANGE
// [DROVER.SPIKA.COM.AU](https://drover.spika.com.au)



nrover
DROVER
UKOVER

Keep tabs on barrel behaviour - the AUPRO-90 borescope



Flash hole of a flintlock pistol seen from inside.



The cylinder gap in a .44 S&W revolver.



The set of four different diameter mirrors (12, 8.5, 7 and 5mm).



Camera unit with liquid crystal display (LCD).

battery that's charged via a USB connection, this offers a portable system which allows the camera to be used on the range, in the workshop or in the field.

The fully charged internal battery will give up to four hours of continuous operation, charging time for the battery about 3-4 hours. The screen resolution of the display unit is 1280x720 pixels and features a micro USB port and a TF memory card slot, the colour display clearly revealing copper and brass fouling where present. Controls on the display unit are relatively simple to understand, the on/off switch clearly marked with the universal 'power' symbol and this must be pressed and held for several seconds to activate the unit.

Other control buttons sit right of the screen and these control image brightness, a shutter button for activating the camera to record images, mode switch to select still, video or playback, a settings button

to enter or change such things as time, date and navigation controls (up, down and OK). At the lower edge of the unit to the left of the on/off switch is a rubber cover which when pulled open reveals the USB charging/data download mini-USB port and Micro SD card slot.

On the upper edge is a separate light source in the centre with its switch to the left and camera cable plug on the right, this cable plug being a round five-pin with screw collar and foolproof locating lug to ensure it's correctly inserted. Video footage includes sound recorded via a microphone on the lower edge of the unit with the speaker at the back and there's a tiny switch at the rear to enable a system software reset should the memory go haywire.

The display unit can be recharged directly from the 240 volt mains via its USB plug to mini-USB cable or by connecting to the USB socket on a PC or laptop, and

connecting to a computer in this way allows picture files to be downloaded, viewed and stored separately. Images viewed on the screen of the portable display unit can likewise be saved as still pictures or video files on to the supplied 32Gb Micro SD card and, by going into viewing mode, reopened and examined again. Removing the memory card and placing it in a card reader enables images to be viewed, stored and saved on a PC or laptop (it will work with Android 4.4 or above, Windows XP, 7, 8, 10, Mac OS X and Chromebook).

When bought as the cable unit only it comes in a padded nylon wallet, while the full system includes a moulded plastic case with relevant accessory cables, cleaning chamois and spare mirrors. Recommended prices from ozzistraightshooter.com are \$270 for use with laptop or PC, \$545 with portable display unit and the set of four mirrors is \$45. ●

What does the SSAA do for the environment?

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA), along with its states and members, has introduced many beneficial and long-lasting conservation and wildlife projects in Australia, including:



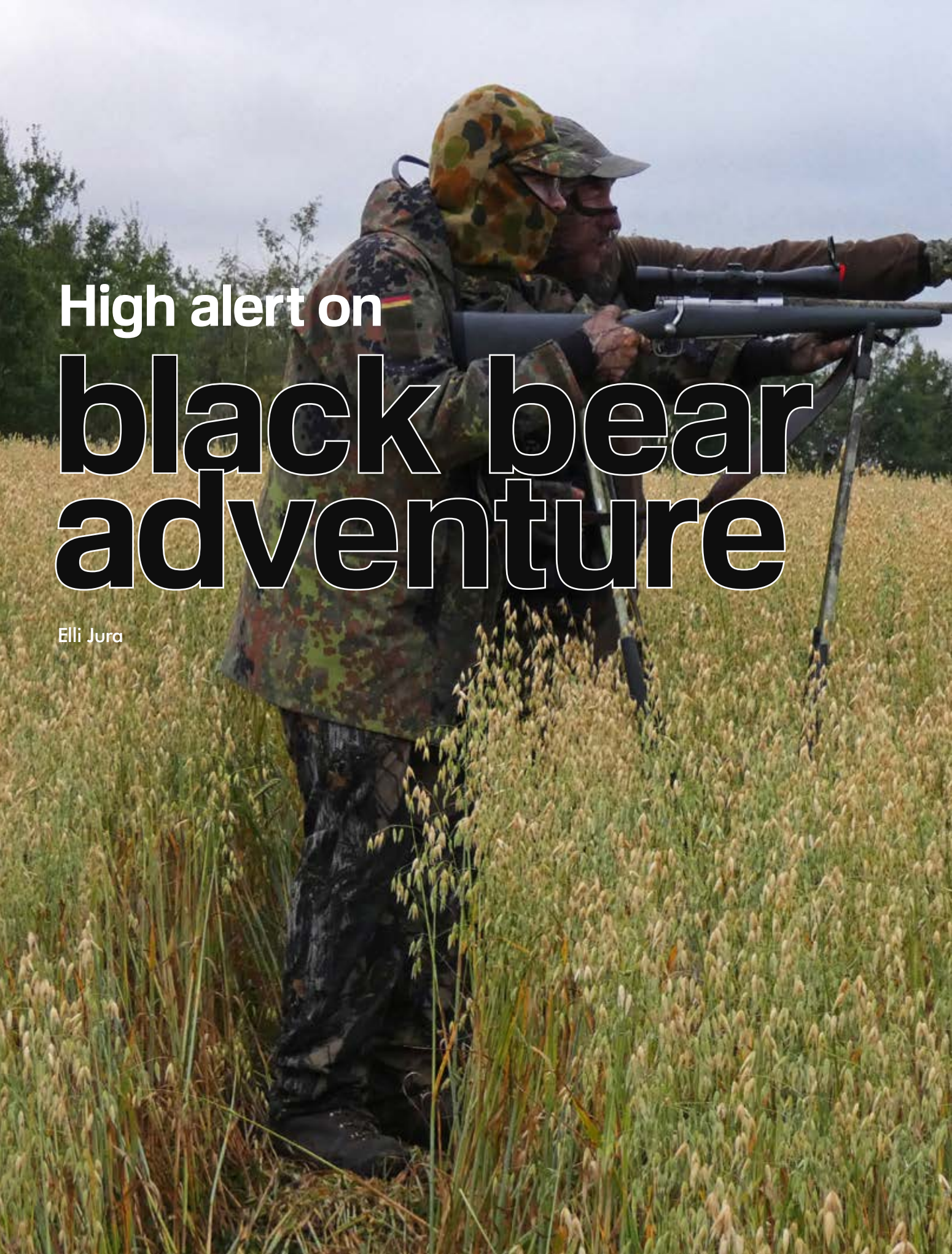
- a **KOALA** habitat in Queensland
- the reintroduction of the **WESTERN QUOLL** and the protection of the **YELLOW-FOOTED ROCK-WALLABY** in South Australia
- assisting with a **TASMANIAN DEVIL** breeding program in New South Wales
- **DEER** research in multiple states
- raising community awareness about **PEST ANIMALS** in Western Australia
- ongoing removal of **CAMELS, DONKEYS** and **WILD PIGS** in the NT



We have worked alone and in collaboration with government and environmental organisations for decades - all in the name of conserving Australia's rich and varied wildlife.



SSAA



High alert on black bear adventure

Elli Jura



In September of 2018 I spent six days on a spot-and-stalk black bear hunt in Canada with my dad and younger brother, Robert, travelling to Grande Prairie, Alberta in time for the opening day of the autumn bear season. We were well looked after at Red Willow Outfitters with hot showers, bunk rooms and cooks who kept us fed and our guide, Taylor, had plenty of experience with bears, in fact if a farmer had a bear damaging crops the guides at Red Willow would be contacted to employ hunters like us.

The first area we explored was a crop of peas which was completely flattened for several metres in from the tree line due to bears rolling around and feeding there, with no shortage of prints in the mud. We were hunting paddocks often no larger than 100 acres which were separated by hills, fences or patches of scrub, meaning we had to carefully plan how to cover such a small space so the bears wouldn't be pushed out of the area for the next day's hunt.

Less than five minutes after stepping into the crop field in mid-afternoon we spotted a bear running into the trees and another on the far side of the field, so Taylor and Robert set off to stalk in on it, dad and I hanging back to watch while observing a coyote by the far tree line. Soon after, Robert and Taylor returned having lost track of the bear.

We walked the top boundary again and spied a smaller bear Robert was keen to creep in on, having decided to save his second tag for a trophy animal. Robert set up on the quad shooting sticks and dropped the bear on the spot with dad's Winchester in .30-06 and while Taylor took the bear back to the truck, we kept glassing the field hoping Robert's shot hadn't disturbed the remaining bears.

The coyote reappeared on the far tree line at the edge of the pea crop and while it was occupied, dad and I slipped in to 200m when I placed my shot and dropped it. I was

ecstatic to have taken my first Canadian animal - and a beautiful grey coyote skin to take home.

An hour before dusk we walked carefully along the top boundary and spotted a brown-coloured bear feeding in the crop, dad and I moving in slowly to make sure this was definitely the black bear species (*Ursus americanus*) and not a grizzly (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), this being especially important as grizzly bears are protected by law in Alberta. I'd read up on black vs grizzly before our trip and knew the key difference was the hump between the shoulders on a grizzly's back, something absent on a black bear. Furthermore, grizzly bear snouts are concave or dished in shape while black bears have flat, rectangular noses.

We studied the bear in front of us, balancing time pressure of the setting sun with identifying our target and having decided it was definitely a black bear I set up for the shot. I rose slowly and settled the rifle on the quad sticks, giving me elevation above the crop. I favour shooting sticks mainly because they provide more height than a bipod and more stability than shooting off the shoulder.

The bear was standing on all fours about 10m from the tree line and I was aware it could disappear into the woods in a flash and with it my chances, so I moved slowly so as not to startle the animal we were only 70m from. The bear picked us up eventually, rising on its hind legs and staring straight at us. It looked like a giant meercat with front paws framing its chest, a beautiful sight to see such an impressive animal in the setting sun with ears pricked and body tense.

My heart was racing as I could sense the bear assessing the situation as it prepared to seek the safety of the trees and while I'd never hunted bears before I'd seen many deer in a similar state of alertness, moments before darting to safety. I took the shot and watched the bear recoil slightly,

Dad points out a bear in the oats crop as Robert makes ready.

High alert on black bear adventure

confirming I'd hit where I intended, and as it ran into the trees dad motioned me to stand still and wait - he'd heard bears often emit a 'death moan' with their final breath. We stood in silence for about 20 seconds then heard a deep groan from beyond the tree line, dad looking at me excitedly, clapping me on the back and congratulating me as a new bear hunter.

The next challenge was to find my bear in the thicket of trees after the sun had set. We searched by torchlight for more than half an hour until we found the blood trail which led us to the bear and lying under a fallen tree was an incredible animal with massive paws and brown-coloured coat. I was especially pleased to have managed a clean kill with one shot to the centre of its chest.

After a sleep and a feed we discussed the plan for the next few days. It was Robert's turn to target a trophy bear so we set out for an oats field which was being damaged by several of the animals. We spent most of our second day glassing the oats field, every now and then seeing a pair of bear ears poke from the oats then disappearing again, making it incredibly hard to gauge the size of animal you were looking at.

We eventually locked on a large black-coloured bear moving through the oats so we stalked in and set up within range. After close to an hour of squinting into the oats we had to make something happen before we ran out of daylight. Robert set up on the quad sticks as dad let out a small whistle, hoping to encourage the bear to pop out enough to land a shot. Two or three times the bear poked his head up to look around after a whistle only to drop down again so dad and Robert decided on an all-or-nothing move - dad let out a massive roar and the bear stood up on his hind legs, squarely facing us.

Robert was ready, he fired and the bear dropped immediately but to our surprise rose up and ran into a thicket of trees. We waited for a death moan but heard nothing so the next step was to follow the blood trail and wary of spooking a wounded bear we didn't rush. After an hour of following a trail of tiny drops of blood by torchlight we found Robert's bear. His bullet hadn't exited but had lodged under the skin, which explained why the blood trail was so thin and hard to follow. Projectile exit wounds typically lose a lot more blood than entry wounds.

Robert had taken a beautiful big black bear and was as thrilled with his experience as I'd been the night before. Now we had to move the bear from the middle of a tree thicket after dark. My bear had run about



Dad checks the wind with his scentless powder.



A white-tailed doe with fawn by the roadside.



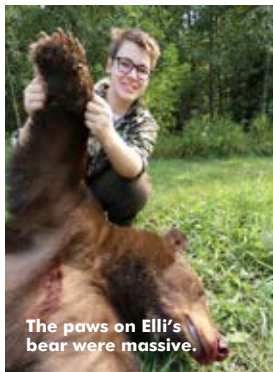
A great grey owl the group watched hunting the field.

50m into the trees so wasn't too hard to carry out but this one was in the middle of a small patch of forest with at least 500m of dense undergrowth on all sides. Taylor and another guide soon went to work, bringing the four-wheeler crashing through the small trees and literally trail-blazing to reach the bear.

We went back to hunt the oats field the next day but didn't see a single bear and tried other fields over the next few days, spotting a few but never being in position for a shot. While glassing for bears we saw all sorts of incredible animals including coyotes, white-tailed does and fawns, cow and calf elks travelling together, squirrels,

chipmunks barking at us to leave their territory, beavers and their dams, my favourite watching an owl hunt in the grass at dusk.

Robert and I were keen to try bear meat which is safe for humans so long as it's well cooked, otherwise you risk catching trichinosis. Robert put his chef skills to work and made a gorgeous bear steak for us to share. It had a gamey and earthy taste and I was glad to have tried it. Even now, with years more experience at home and abroad, our trip to target black bears in Alberta sticks out as arguably my favourite hunting memory. ●



CENS Digital custom electronic hearing protection. Amplifies the sounds around you and cuts off when sound is detected above 81dB then sound returns when it's clear & safe. Up to 5 different modes for all disciplines of shooting plus wireless communications.



True Class 5 Hearing Protection

Agents throughout Australia & New Zealand

Ph: (07) 3820 2533 - Email: info@earmold.com.au

True custom made shooters hearing protection. Custom made on the spot & ready the same day. Ultimate in comfort & highest rated protection with up to 40.5dB reduction at 4000Hz. Removes background noise & the crack from the shot while still having situational awareness.





View of the receiver showing excellent metal-to-wood fit.

Gas system and bolt along with double arm connector taken apart.

Fabarm's fabulous five-shot

John McDougall

Having met the designers of Fabarm's self-loaders many years ago during a visit to Brescia, the heartland of gunmaking in Italy, I was highly impressed by their products. At the time Fabarm were just developing their Tribore system of barrel configuration and the performance was, in my opinion, second to none.

In this modern age Fabarm have gone beyond even that by offering their hyperbolic choke tubes and superior proofing to 1630 Bar, these just a few of the innovations the designers at Fabarm have introduced which I believe puts them at the forefront of self-loading shotgun design.

This is not surprising when you know the designers were originally from the Franchi stable of gas-operated self-loading shotguns, so Franchi live on through the craftsmen now working at Fabarm and the gas-operated Fabarm XLR5 Velocity is a sporting gun which will provide great service for many years.

The elevated rib with its pattern distribution adjustment is just one of the many features that would suit the competition clay target shooter, combined with its Monte Carlo stock and adjustable comb-piece. For the farmer or professional vermin eradicator, the five-shot capacity and proofing to 1630 Bar found with other Fabarm XLR5 and L4S models enable a variety of 76mm loadings to be used whereas the XLR5 Velocity on review is a dedicated clay target shooter with its 70mm chambering.

Barrel

Measuring 735mm (29") the barrel is well finished with a semi-lustrous blueing, the amazing design of the XLR5 Velocity incorporating a floating top ventilated rib which can be either raised or lowered. At its highest position the rib shot a 50/50 pattern - 50 per cent above point of aim and 50 per cent below when measured at 30m - and with the rib fully lowered, the

gun shot 90 per cent above and 10 per cent below, this clever set-up controlled by a threaded dial which moves the rib upward and downward at the muzzle. The tapered rib, from 11mm at the receiver end to 9mm at the muzzle, instantly draws the shooter's eye to the target.

It's also fitted with a mid-bead along with a white bead front sight - ensuring the gun is mounted correctly and the shooter's eye well aligned - which can be easily adjusted by shifting the comb across either way as required for perfect eye alignment. This is a full-on competition self-loading shotgun catering to the most demanding of clay target shooters.

Removing the barrel is achieved by simply unscrewing the fore-end retaining cap. This has also been well designed to accept a selection of weights included with the gun, three supplied all weighing 42g (1½oz) which can be attached together or mounted individually to alter the forward balance.

Once the cap is removed, with the bolt



Overall view of the XLR5 Velocity with raised rib and stylish lines.

Left-hand side of the receiver with stylish triggerguard, operating buttons and identification.

Three counterweights are supplied with the XLR5 Velocity.

Close-up of the innovative chequering on forearm woodwork.

forward the walnut fore-end can be gently removed and the barrel simply slides out from the receiver housing where it mates with the sliding bolt. Chambered for 70mm cartridges or 2¾" loads and proofed to a superior level, the XLR5 Velocity is capable of shooting light and heavy loads due to the design of the gas operating system. I found 21-gram loads to be close to its lower limit with heavier 28-gram and 32-gram loads a breeze.

Receiver

Made from an aluminium alloy with superior strength, the receiver is quite plain with the exception of some gilt insetting on the loading port side to designate the model number. A stamped inscription on the left of the receiver identifies the XLR5 Velocity as being proofed to 1630 Bar and suited to steel shot loads which would be high performance due to the over-proof of the gun.

The receiver is adorned with a multitude of gadgets for working the gun safely. The

bolt can only be held open when the small release button on the left underside of the receiver and forward of the triggerguard is pulled out. This releases the cartridge carrier and allows the bolt to be locked to the rear of the loading/ejection port on the right of the receiver. The button which closes the bolt is left of the receiver and with the gun loaded is easily operated by pressing it with the palm of your left hand. Simple and efficient - as the right hand loads the left hand closes.

Format of the triggerguard is generous and held in by two pins extending the full width of the receiver and once the barrel is removed along with the bolt, the pins can be pressed out to reveal the trigger mechanism. This is ideal for cleaning, especially a gas-operated shotgun where the gases from combustion when the gun is fired are harnessed to work the action and it's good to see the triggerfoot adjustable to cater to those with longer or shorter fingers.

The gold-coloured trigger is a nice

contrast to the dark blueing and complements the overall design and toning extremely well, placement of the safety catch to the rear of the triggerguard being traditional and functioning positively. Trigger release is around 2.27kg.

Stock and fore-end

Made from Turkish walnut and completed with an oiled finish, the stock and fore-end woodwork matched perfectly, chequering about the stock and fore-end not quite as extensive as I'd have preferred. The fore-end chequering is quite sparse and somewhat state-of-the-art innovative while the pistol grip is also lacking in a more complete coverage. This is the only fault I found and I concede was just personal preference, whereas others will be content with the inscribed chequered surfaces of both fore-end and pistol grip.

I was pleased to see a substantial and comfortable recoil pad fitted to the stock, ideal for good gun mounting although at

John McDougall puts the Fabarm XLR5 Velocity through its paces.

15" for the length of pull I'd need the stock to be shortened by half an inch or so for a comfortable fit. There are adjustable spacers fitted between receiver and stock to further alter stock cast and height, three of these included with the gun. The adjustable comb-piece on the Monte Carlo stock is necessary to couple with the high rib, the Micro-Metric 3D system excellent and enabling the user to adjust the stock perfectly. An Allen key for adjustment is included.

In the field

Taking the XLR5 Velocity to the clay target ground was a real pleasure and while on the heavy side as far as self-loading shotguns are concerned, I found it devastating on most of the targets I shot with only a handful missed. I chose the Modified choke for the Frankston ground during practice and went with the Improved Modified for shooting on my home ground at Westernport Field and Game on Phillip Island. I'd owned a lighter self-loader before testing the Fabarm and found the gun a little harder to get moving as, after three back operations, I tend to shoot from my shoulders rather than pivoting at the hips.

Overall I was impressed by the Fabarm XLR5 Velocity, enjoying the high rib and adjusted comb-piece to allow good gun fit for my style of shooting. Recoil was minimal as I used a selection of Remington Sporting loads travelling at 1290 and 1350fps with even a couple of slower 1235fps loads demolishing close targets, the combination proving lethal. I've always believed Fabarm's Tribore system of barrels to be exceptional and their research into long, hyperbolic choke tubes also seems to have paid off as targets were destroyed and I have no hesitation in highly recommending the XLR Velocity.

At 3.86kg the gun is not light to carry and swing and I'd have preferred it around 3.2kg for improved handling. The added weight is to cater for heavier magnum loads which the Velocity is quite capable of handling, but for those seeking a lighter model the Fabarm L4S might be an option, although as mentioned it's more suited to the field and doesn't have the specialised features of the XLR5 Velocity. Whatever your desires, Fabarm make excellent self-loaders for all types of shooting and their Tribore barrels and chokes are second to none. ●

Specifications

Make: Fabarm XLR5 Velocity self-loading shotgun

Manufacturer: Fabarm Spa, Brescia, Italy

Distributor: Raytrade

www.raytrade.com.au

Overall length: 1290mm/50½"

Overall weight: 3.86kg/8lb 7½oz

Barrel length: 735mm/29"

Barrel weight: 1.135kg/2lb 8oz

Bore/chamber: Tribore 0.737", 70mm/2¾" chamber, 1630 Bar proof

Chokes: EXIS HP Hyperbolic Profile, Skeet, Improved Cylinder, Modified, Improved Modified, Full

Trigger pull: 5lb, adjustable trigger foot for length of pull

Length of pull: 380mm/15"

Drop at comb: Adjustable comb

Drop at heel: Adjustable comb

Price: RRP \$3650 with accessories and hard plastic ABS case

Warranty: Five years

Generosity opens door to dream deer excursion

Joe Norris



The buck where he fell showing the type of country hunted.

As a deer hunter, access to private property is something to be cherished. Being from north Queensland admittance to fallow and sambar country isn't easy and after my daughter and hunting partner Jessica moved to NSW, I never thought the switch would result in me being given entry to a prime fallow block.

It turned out her neighbour is a hunter with his own block in fallow country and when Pete visited her one day, he saw Jess's red deer mount proudly displayed in her lounge room. He soon found out she'd hunted the deer herself and I had mounted it for her. As their friendship grew she was given permission to hunt on Pete's block and after asking if her dad could go with her and receiving the green light, she contacted me and a plan was put in place.

By the time we got round to it Jessica was seven months pregnant with her first child but that didn't stop her. As we hadn't been to the block before we had a mud map Pete had given us along with use of the house and a four-wheeler bike to scout around the block. The first afternoon was spent checking out the area and while we did see some deer they were all does and yearlings, not what we were after. As the sun went down and the April weather bared its teeth we retreated to the house and lit a fire.

Next morning clouds still blanketed the area and I was thankful we'd explored the previous day. After parking the bike, Jess and I set out to where we'd seen lots of scrapes and rutting pads the previous afternoon and as we crept along there came the deep guttural burping sound of a croaking buck just up ahead. Now we really went into stealth mode and as it was Jessica's shot she was in front as we made our way to a ledge I hoped would overlook the buck which by now was really making himself heard.

I could see Jess shake slightly as we inched up to the edge and peered over,

Generosity opens door to dream deer excursion

movement much further away revealing a big chocolate buck prancing around beneath a couple of large trees. Jess crawled forward and, using a rock as a rest, settled in behind her Remington 700 in .243 Winchester and as she wound the Burris scope up to 9, I saw her take several deep breaths before chambering a round.

The buck was about 250m away and we had no way of going closer due to the virtual cliff we were on. My little huntress squeezed the trigger until the bark of the .243 made me jump involuntarily and I saw dirt flying left and low of the buck which took off round the hill and out of sight. I couldn't believe it and neither could Jess as she was rock steady when the trigger broke so I climbed down the cliff to make sure she had indeed missed, as the last thing you want is to leave a wounded animal. I searched carefully but there was no evidence of a hit.

The whole time I'd been searching for blood my daughter had been replaying the shot in her mind, trying to figure out how she missed. Then she recalled: "Last time I had my rifle out, Nick carried it back to the house with a bunch of other stuff and I saw him knock it against the wall. I'd forgotten about it or I'd have checked my scope."

That was the end of our hunt for the morning so we checked her scope and sure enough it was about 6" low and more that 14" left at 100m, so that explained what had happened. We readjusted the scope and soon had it shooting about an inch high at 100m - we were ready for the afternoon outing. We hunted hard and although we



saw several deer we didn't spy any mature bucks. Due to Jessica's advanced pregnancy and the steepness of the terrain she was absolutely worn out that night so I took her home, ready to return on my own.

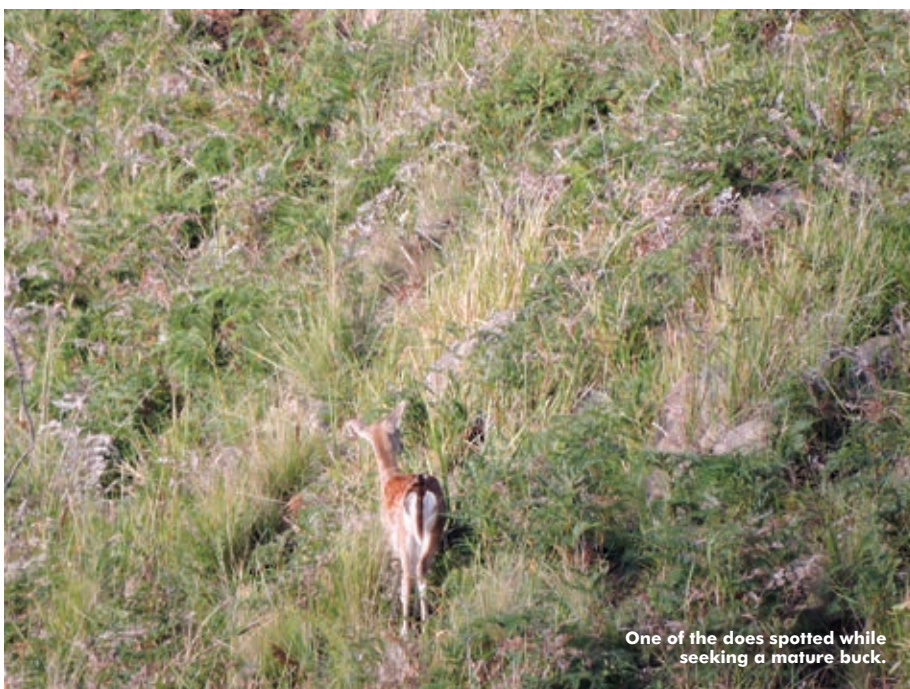
The next morning brought more heavy fog and I made my way slowly up the extremely steep hill. As the fog started to lift I was able to put my binoculars to good use and spotted a lone buck a few hundred metres further round the hill. I tried to stay above where the buck was but lost sight of him as soon as I moved, but if I couldn't see him he couldn't see me, so all good. As I climbed out of a second gully I spotted the buck coming over the ridge towards me. I sat down, rested my custom Ruger in

.243 Winchester on my knees and looking through the Leupold VX3 scope noticed one of his antlers was broken.

The young buck was still walking towards me so I sat and watched him approach and every few metres he'd smell the ground, lift his head and sniff the slight breeze before moving on. I waited until he was directly below me at 80m before placing the cross-hairs tight behind his shoulder and squeezing the trigger. The 85gr Barnes TSX bullet sitting in front of 37 grains of AR 2208 did the rest as the buck collapsed on the spot and rolled down the hill for a few metres before coming to rest on his back. I made my way down and took some photos then gutted the buck before making a Kiwi-style backpack out of him for the carry out so I could use the whole animal and not just the prime cuts. I was a tired but satisfied hunter when I finally made it to the house to spend the rest of the day fleshing and salting the skin and boiling the skull while the meat set in the shade.

The next morning I again set off in dark and foggy conditions in search a trophy buck. I retraced my steps from the previous day and found myself high on the ridge, sitting down to glass the area. There was a dam at the bottom of the gully system I hadn't noticed previously and a couple of does were coming from that direction up the ridge in front of me, so I was hopeful a buck would be following. As I waited, the two does became several and finally a huge pale buck stepped into view but I couldn't edge any closer as they'd have seen my movement instantly.

The mob of does made their way down into the gully system and I began to believe I might just manage a safe shot instead of having the buck skylined with no backstop.



I rested my arms once again on my knees and, using the Boone and Crocket reticule, placed the second dot down from the cross-hairs on the buck's shoulder for a 300m shot and touched off the lightened trigger when the sight picture was right.

The big buck leapt high with the shot and the thump of a solid hit carried back to me but the animal took off around the basin I was sitting in. I began to think my shot wasn't good when the buck started to slow then did a couple of circles and collapsed into the bracken fern - I'd finally fulfilled a dream and taken a mature fallow buck.

I gutted the buck and tried to do the backpack thing with him but as he was considerable bigger than the previous day's, I decided to cut him in two and cart both halves down the hill to a track where I could bring the four-wheeler to recover the meat. I caped him out for a shoulder mount then processed the meat from yesterday as the buck cooled off. After fleshing out the cape the buck had cooled enough to cut up and pack into my now over-filled Engels for the trip to Jessica's place then back to Queensland. None of this would have been possible without the access I was granted to someone's property and I'm extremely grateful for the privilege and trust of the landowner. Thanks Pete. ●



**IMPROVE YOUR
PERFORMANCE**

**EASY SELF INSTALLATION
ON MOST MODELS**

Visit our website for the full range



02 9698 8725
sales@grycol.com.au
www.grycol.com.au
D/L: 400014321



Make yourself a **BETTER** shotgunner

Thomas Tabor

Unlike rifle and pistol shooting, firing a shotgun is more of an instinctive process. In many cases when shooting rifles and pistols there's ample time to carefully align the sights before squeezing off the shot but shotgunners are seldom afforded that luxury. In the world of shotgunning, fast-moving targets intent on escaping is more the norm and if the shooter isn't capable of pulling off the shot quickly, the chance is gone.

To be consistently successful the butt of the gun must meet the shoulder in precisely the same manner each time, the cheek must be firmly anchored on the comb of the stock and stay anchored, the eyes focused not on any sights but in the distance and on the target and any necessary target lead must be quickly calculated and allowed for.


And all of this must take place in a matter of microseconds as the target quickly tries to avoid the shot, only then can the trigger be pulled as opposed to being slowly and deliberately squeezed as is often the case with other firearms. Even the clay target shooter faces many of these challenges and in one fluid movement if all those elements aren't accomplished in an expedient and

consistent manner, the scoresheet will reflect a disappointing zero.

No peeking

'Peeking' is a term Trap and Skeet shooters sometimes use when a shooter subconsciously raises their cheek off the comb of the stock in anticipation of a better look at the target, yet as prevalent as this problem is, it often goes unrecognised. We're not talking about a huge movement or elevation of the head, on the contrary, only a millimetre or two is all it takes to miss your chance. For decades I've struggled to overcome it and in so doing have discovered things which helped me keep the problem at bay.

Alas, peeking frequently goes unrecognised by the shooter as in this case he or she believes they were on target yet the bird, whether feathered or clay, flies away unharmed. I found by standing up straight, keeping my head as high as possible as the gun meets my shoulder and bringing the comb to my face rather than having to lower my cheek to make contact all help, as does mounting the butt of the stock as high on your shoulder as possible.



For best performance the shooter should either stand totally upright or as shown here, slightly lean into the shot.

Does your stock fit?

Proper gun fit is crucial to good shooting. If the stock fits properly there's no need to adjust your head position to align the shot and, as your cheek meets the comb, the bore should be perfectly aligned with your line of sight. When it comes to shotgun fit, improper stock length is frequently a concern as most manufacturers make stocks to fit the shooter with average build and length of arms.

This equates to length of pull (distance between the trigger and rearmost part of the recoil pad or buttplate) of about 37cm for a sporting field gun. If that measurement deviates a few centimetres or if you're not average in size and stature, it may be necessary to have your stock altered. Another way to determine if your stock is the right length for you is, after ensuring the gun is unloaded, wrap your hand around the pistol grip as you would normally to fire the gun.

Following that, the side of the stock should rest against the inside of your forearm. If the length is close to being correct your arm should be snug against the stock, the butt tight against the inside bend of your elbow and crease of the trigger finger centred on the trigger. After checking the stock for proper length there's another easy self-exercise that can help evaluate stock fit. Again, making sure the gun is free

of ammunition, pick a target about 10-15 metres away, it can be anything from a rock, tree limb, bush or even a wall-hanging in your home.

To begin, hold the shotgun at your side much as you would in a field-ready situation, focus your eyes intently on the target object for five or six seconds then bring the gun to your shoulder as you would to fire. As the shotgun rises to your shoulder the only movement you should experience is that of your arms - your face, head and body should remain motionless.

Move your eyes around to check the relationship between the barrel, rib and beads and whether the bore is pointing directly at the target - if everything aligns well, that's good. The next step begins by staring intently at the target for several seconds. Close both eyes then bring the gun to your shoulder and once confident the shotgun is pointing directly at the target, open your eyes to check if that's actually the case.

If, after performing this exercise several times you find the gun is not consistently pointing at the target, that's an indication there could be improper fit. In this case it might be an idea to have a gunsmith with a trusted background in stock fitting to conduct a more thorough evaluation.

Finger position

This may seem a minor issue when it comes to efficient performance but really isn't. In this case, the place your finger contacts the trigger can have an effect on the timing of your shot. Take a close look at your fingers and you'll notice the flesh is much softer between the finger joints as opposed to the joints themselves. As subtle as that difference is it can affect the timing of a shot, particularly on a fast cross-flying bird, so for the highest degree of shot consistency the trigger should be centred precisely at that first joint of the trigger finger.

Practice and preparation

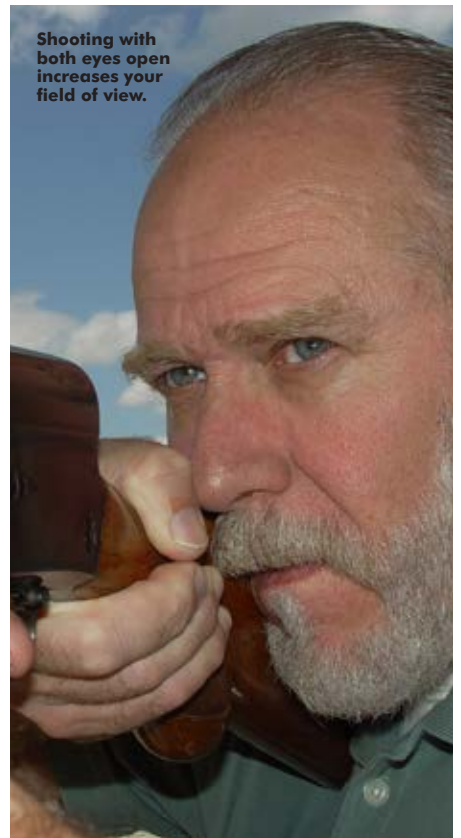
A good place to practise is as close as your own backyard as tracking songbirds with your shotgun is a great way to become a more proficient shooter. Be sure to dress as you would in the outback and wear shooting glasses and hearing protection just as you would do in a real hunting situation. Then, with snap caps in place, concentrate on properly mounting the shotgun, follow through on the target and practising leading the target as you pull the trigger. For best depth perception and peripheral vision, a good habit to get into is to keep both eyes open while shooting, difficult for some but in the long run it will benefit you in a higher

An easy way to judge stock fit is by evaluating length of pull.



The trigger should precisely make contact at the first joint of the shooter's finger.

Shooting with both eyes open increases your field of view.



Make yourself a better shotgunner

percentage of strikes. Even though under actual hunting conditions it's not always possible, the ideal shooting stance includes having your feet slightly apart and standing upright or leaning forward only slightly. For the most efficient swinging ability it's best to be turned at about a 45-degree angle to the target, which allows you to smoothly follow a moving target either right or left of your position and, of course, never stop your swing on a crossing target.

Understanding pattern


Considerable emphasis has been placed on patterning a shotgun on a flat sheet of paper and while this is a good exercise, it's important to understand your shot charge doesn't arrive on target in that same flat, pancake manner as it appears on paper. On the contrary, as the shot leaves the bore of the shotgun it travels to its target in an elongated string which can span five or six metres.

Appearing somewhat like an elongated egg, the shot string encircles the target. When it comes to crossing targets, sometimes this works to the shooter's benefit while other times it may not. Because the shot arrives at the target in this elongated manner, a bird angling away from the shooter could be impacted with less shot


than one moving straight away. For this reason it's better to err on the side of being slightly ahead of the bird rather than behind it, as not only does this make it more likely

the bird will be impacted in the head, it also encourages a higher concentration of shot impacts. ●






Smith & Wesson®




- M617 4\" .22LR 10 SHOT
- PERFECT FOR ENTRY LEVEL I.S.S.F.
- IDEAL FOR RIMFIRE STEEL CHALLENGE





Australia's only Authorised Smith & Wesson Dealer

Visit our website for the full range



GRYCOL
INTERNATIONAL



02 9698 8725
sales@grycol.com.au
www.grycol.com.au
D/L: 400014321

Your will and the National Firearms Agreement

Gerard Shea



When the National Firearms Agreement was implemented, its purpose was to ostensibly regulate and control the types of firearms available to members of the public and the individuals who could possess and use such firearms. Although the NFA was targeted at the living, it's often not appreciated the reach of that legislation extends beyond the grave to the estates of deceased firearms owners.

The drafters of the NFA appear to have taken up the challenge expressed in the unofficial slogan of the US National Rifle Association: 'I'll give you my gun when you pry it from my cold, dead hands'. The NFA gives police the power to do just that.

Firearms are chattels, meaning they're personal possessions which can be passed on to an individual of your choice after your death. In theory at least. This is an area which can be easily overlooked when drafting a will as the fate of your firearms may not be at the forefront of your mind when contemplating what you want to happen to your home, financial assets, superannuation or even your children. However, given the severity of the implications of the NFA, including your firearms specifically in your estate planning is essential.

An incorrectly drafted will could leave your executor or executors in legal peril and your cherished firearms collection at risk of seizure, obviously something you'd

like to avoid at all cost. The NFA imposes special requirements on estates containing firearms and these affect both beneficiaries as well as executors and administrators (which I'll hereafter refer to collectively as executors for simplicity).

Executors must follow a specific process outlined in the relevant legislation and guidelines. They must notify the Firearms Registry of the death of the firearms owner and continually liaise with the registry regarding disposal of the individual firearms in question. Exemptions are allowed from having to apply for a Permit to Acquire (PTA) for a firearm bequeathed to a beneficiary as part of a deceased estate.

Executors must also ensure at all times they're able to comply with safe storage requirements for the types of firearms included in the estate and this could be a deciding factor in your choice of executor and may require you to rule out an otherwise favoured, trusted and competent candidate. Joint executors could be an option but as executors owe a fiduciary duty to the estate equally, it would be legally hazardous to appoint one executor specifically to deal only with firearms.

When it comes to beneficiaries, the overriding principle is to ensure the recipient of any firearm from your estate is legally entitled to take possession of the type of firearms involved. This requires the beneficiary to hold an appropriate

licence at the time the estate is distributed or be able to obtain such a licence prior to taking possession of the firearm. As previously mentioned some crumbs of benevolence have been shown by drafters of the legislation and guidelines, in that beneficiaries receiving firearms under a will do not need to apply for a PTA to take ownership of the firearm.

Ensuring your chosen beneficiaries hold the required firearms licences at the time you draft your will is only the first hurdle as problems may arise if your will hasn't been updated for a prolonged period of time. Your appointed executor may no longer hold a licence or may no longer hold one that's adequate to deal with the firearms in your estate. Similarly, individuals you've previously nominated as beneficiaries may no longer hold the appropriate licence or may be reluctant to receive the firearm. Such a refusal of a bequest is known as a disclaimer.

Unfortunately unlike other chattels, firearms cannot easily be substituted for other items of equivalent financial value in an estate due to the stringent licencing requirements. Given the complexity of administering an estate involving firearms, a wise selection of both executors and beneficiaries is essential if the testamentary wishes expressed in your will are to be fulfilled.

Where firearms are involved, dying without having made a will presents a range of problems beyond those normally encountered in intestacy situations. Succession law provides a formula for determining the dispersal of estate assets in cases of intestacy and this formulaic approach would not be viable insofar as firearms are concerned as it does not factor in the licencing issues.

The information contained in this article is of a general nature only and does not constitute legal advice. If you're worried your will may be out of date or you have concerns regarding the ability of your executors or beneficiaries to adequately deal with the firearms in your estate you should seek legal advice.

gerard.shea@mjcortbetlawyers.com.au
(New South Wales) ●

Predator

AF 10x42mm binoculars

IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN

Mark van den Boogaart



I recently had the chance to review a range of Steiner binoculars and while the HX and Predator roof prism varieties are what I'd describe as *typical* hunting binoculars, the Predator AFs, though sharing a lens configuration with the others, are something entirely unique. Thing is, the Predator AF 10x42mm binoculars look so different, being Porro prism rather than the now standard roof prism design, which means they're wider though slightly shorter.

As with the entire Steiner stock, along with the binoculars you receive a protective carry case, both a neoprene neck strap and carry strap for the protective cover, cleaning material and instruction manual. There's also a silicon rubber eyepiece protector, while the front objective lenses are protected

by pressure fit, individual flip-down covers.

First impressions of the Predator AFs are they're an updated interpretation of a more traditional style of binoculars. They have the same build quality as both the standard Predator and HX ranges, making use of Steiner's Makrolon housing system and N2 Injection dry nitrogen sealing to prevent fogging in both hot and cold conditions.

While Steiner lenses are coated to improve light transmission and reduce glare, the Predator AFs also make use of Colour Adjusted Transmission (CAT) technology, the special lens coating specifically designed to make certain colours stand out. In the case of the Predator AFs the lens coating softens greens and highlights earthy tones with the intention of making game more obvious against cover.

While it sounds a little odd, once you look through the AF Predators you have a better understanding of what it means. After an initial scan, foliage does appear a little less bright while tones such as reds and browns are more noticeable to the eye.

Setting them apart from other Steiner binoculars is the AF focusing system - what Steiner calls Sports Auto Focus - and to make use of it you adjust the binoculars to both your left and right eye through the corresponding ocular adjustment rings. Once set, the binoculars are rated as always in focus from 18m onwards with no further adjustment necessary out to infinity, the obvious advantage being it's a 'set and forget' approach to tuning them to an individual user which makes one-hand operation much easier.

Predator AF 10x42mm binoculars in a world of their own

After some 'front deck' testing I was impressed with these binoculars which certainly have a different look and feel and provide a clear alternative to the roof prism variety, so I decided to take them with me on a hunting trip. In the field you can better understand the CAT lens coating, not so easy to describe but there's definitely a slightly different colour pallet through the AF Predators compared to other binoculars. Unfortunately I didn't manage a genuine chance to see if they helped me spot game more easily, as black pigs and dark-skinned goats tend to stand out once you spot them.

I had to slightly readjust the left eye ocular for hunting as it seems my left eye is a little awry from my right, so a quick fine-tune was needed but, once done, I had full benefit of the Sports Auto Focus function. What that meant was initial observation was a lot easier - you just pick them up and look. Another not so obvious advantage is you're able to pass them around and on our hunting trip I could hand them to my son and not worry about them being in focus, an advantage if, for whatever reasons, you're sharing gear.

In a hunting situation I felt the Predator AFs were at their best when operating on the move. Bumping around in a ute it



The Predator AF binoculars.

was easy to just pick them, check out an area and keep moving and when game was spotted it was simple to track and keep tabs on them as they moved.

While not overly heavy, being wider than roof prism optics the AFs didn't sit so well on my chest and with that in mind I think they'd be a great asset when hunting from a stationary position, on shorter hunts or stalking from a vehicle. In assessing their

best practical use, it would be the type of hunting where the game is closer, for instance searching creeks and riverbanks for pigs or deer under heavy cover.

As with the entire Steiner catalogue, the AF Predators are well made, feature-packed binoculars with superb optical performance. Distributed by Beretta Australia, the Steiner AF Predator 10x42mm binoculars as reviewed have an RRP of \$749. ●

GOLD COAST SHOOTERS SUPPLIES PROUDLY FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR 30 YEARS

30th Birthday Celebrations! Open Saturday September 19th 9am - 1pm.*
Reps and specials from Beretta, Powabeam, Raytrade, Infinity and more...
*dependant on current COVID restrictions, see our FB page or website for updates

MAGAZINES - OUR SPECIALTY IS RARE AND OLD MODELS FOR HANDGUNS AND RIFLES

Sportco 62a 22 cal 10 round **\$120** | S&W Model 41/422 22 cal 10 round **\$100**
Remington 7600 .243/308 and 30/06 10-rnd mags **\$80** | Remington 511/CBC 10-rnd mags **\$55**
Triple K 1911 9mm 9-rnd mags **\$55** | High standard military/non-military 10-rnd mags **\$85**
MecGar CZ75 9mm 10-rnd mags **\$70** | MecGar Beretta 92FS 10 round **\$70**
Anschutz .22 Mag 8-rnd mags **\$120** | Anschutz .22LR 10-rnd mags **\$120** | Voere .22LR 10-rnd **\$130**
Brno/CZ 10-rnd polymer **\$50** | Winchester 320 10-rnd mags **\$85** | Lithgow/Slazenger .22LR 10-rnd **\$120**

Check out all our magazines including current specials through our online store.

IN STORE + ONLINE

Hogue rifle and shotgun stocks pillar bed **\$260** | Full alloy bed **\$330** | Grips rubber **\$40** | Wood from **\$60**
Synthetic ivory from **\$60** | Holsters Right and left hand Glock 17, Beretta 92, 1911 and more from **\$60**
Starline brass - shotshells, rifle and handgun brass Many calibres available online
HiViz front and rear sights in store now from **\$50** | Uzi brand Rangefinder Plus 600. **\$150** While stock lasts
Cerus Gear Pro Mats, Handgun and rifle cartridge Pro Mat combo **\$50** | CZ Shadow 2 Promat grey or tan **\$25**

NEW

Hyskor fixed 6-9" Bipod **\$50** | Steiner MRS Micro reflex sight 3MOA **\$595**

Prices of some commodities can increase beyond our control at short notice. Unfortunately we have been experiencing significant delays with all our US suppliers. We appreciate your patience.

Sign up online
to our newsletter

SEPTEMBER SPECIALS

New website launch - free postage
on all online orders over \$199.00
in September.
Plus freebies and samples with
every online order!



DLN: 50000106

15/34 Dominion Road Ashmore Gold Coast 4214 | 07 5597 3220 | gcss@gcshooters.com.au
Secure online shopping www.gcshooters.com.au | Mon - Fri: 8.30am - 5pm



One of the finest, the
English Pointer – poetry
in motion.

Loyal dog

adds extra dimension to the hunt

Leon Wright

"I'll have two ice-cream cones please, one double chocolate and one single strawberry," I said to the young lady behind the counter. "I just want a single scoop of strawberry as she'll only make a mess of it." The lady smiled and said: "Yes, children have a habit of doing that."

I paid the lady, retreated to the bench outside and started eating my ice-cream. Missy, my Murray River curly coated retriever, was quick to go to work on her strawberry treat. A passing couple stopped and said, somewhat surprised: "You're feeding your dog ice-cream?" I replied: "Yes I am and if you come duck hunting with me in all sorts of weather, retrieve my ducks no matter how cold the water is, I'll buy you one too."

I've always hunted with dogs, especially when out with the shotgun, and have used a number of different breeds from whippets to German shorthaired pointers to

a Murray River curly coated retriever, a breed I intend sticking with from here on in. My family has had curls going back to the Second World War as we've all been keen duck hunters.

My brothers are Labrador owners and why wouldn't they be, they're an extremely popular breed among duck hunters. I wonder if Mr R.A. Austin realised how admired the Labrador breed would become in Australia when he imported two dogs, Liddy Cowslip and Liddy Celandine, in 1910.

Like many hunters I fell under the spell of the German shorthaired pointer when they were introduced here in the early 1960s. I can't think of a better way for a hunter to spend a day than following a German short-haired pointer as it busily roams a quail, until the dog finally freezes into a brilliant point, nose down and one paw up.

It's absolutely fascinating like the English pointer, Brittany spaniel and

numerous others who'll put in a good day in the field. The one drawback with the German shorthaired pointer is they're dreadful whingers, hence the reason I went back to the curly. I found Missy relatively easy to train, especially for my needs, and make no bones about the fact I'm far from a good dog trainer but have guided her up the best I can.

When she was a pup I used to fire a cap gun near her, not too close, each time I fed her, to make her used to loud noises and while I didn't work her during her first season she always accompanied us duck hunting. I taught her to retrieve with a dummy then a dummy wrapped in rabbit skin, then with a cold dead rabbit and on to a cold dead duck.

She was taught to sit, come and walk to heel and with all verbal instructions I used different hand movements to the point that now all instructions are done by hand with

no words uttered. I can take her out calling up foxes and she'll sit quite still while I tempt foxes in with a loud Scotch Predator call, which surprises me. She loves watching the foxes come in with a response to my call, but I can see in her eyes she's a bit peeved when I don't let her scruff a fox after we take one. If you're a dog lover and are unaware of it, unfortunately that's a great way for dogs to pick up mange - easy to catch and hard to be rid of.

Fairly recently Missy and I were calling up foxes and one was quick to respond to my efforts. I wanted to see how well Missy could contain herself so lured the fox right in and as it drew closer I could feel Missy, who was right beside me, start to tense up. With the soft noise coming from the call the fox kept going until it was no more than a couple of metres away from a rigid Missy who finally cracked and had a snap at the fox when it stretched out its nose, trying to identify her.

On numerous occasions Missy has proved invaluable when searching for downed ducks. I've watched her road a duck through a stubble paddock with what seems like ridiculous ease, only to find it anything up to 200m away, hiding in a thick patch of stubble, grab it and come trotting back as though it was nothing. Or she'll pull off an extra-long water retrieve on a duck which kept diving every time she got near it.

When putting in a stalk on a dam, Missy has been trained to sit back and wait for instructions nearing the bank. She'll sit and watch as we sneak up on ducks and, after we've finished, will come forward to



Leon's Murray River curly coated retrievers - Missy and Cobber.

do her bit retrieving them. A friend told me last year that while he has done a lot of duck shooting over his 85 years with lots of different hunters and dogs, he'd never experienced one doing what Missy does - "It's as though she's sitting there playing cards," he said. I'd love to teach her to do a blind retrieve under hand instructions from afar and while Missy is smart enough, I'm not a good enough trainer.

A few rules I abide by when out with another hunter and his dog, leaving mine

at home, are never pat another man's dog without asking permission of its owner; under no circumstances do I give another hunter's dog any sort of instruction, especially on retrieving; never criticise another dog's working ability; and lastly never lay a gun on the ground as the dog will inevitably step on it.

On a lighter note, all dogs have their little idiosyncrasies and mine is no exception. I've trained her to move into her kennel when I'm off to work by waving my hand in a sweeping motion, Missy readily obliging as she knows she'll earn a wafer biscuit. But only if I'm going to work. If I'm off hunting without her she'll go into the kennel but flatly refuse the wafer biscuit, even to the extent of turning her head away when I literally shove it under her nose.

It is a sad fact of life that you'll only have about five really good seasons out of your dog and it's for this reason, myself included, that we have two dogs. When the first is nearing eight years of age its really good working life is drawing to an end, so if you want to continue hunting over dogs it's time to find a pup. When the second dog is approaching its working life your older dog is nearing retirement, which brings me to buying a pup.

These days the cost of a gun-dog pup is moving into big money territory, for instance a Murray River curly coated retriever is in the \$1000-\$3000 price bracket. I don't know about you but to me that's expensive, especially for a dog which could suffer a snake bite on its first hunt, so here are some important points to consider



Curly coated retrievers are among the oldest breed of duck dogs in Australia.

Loyal dog adds extra dimension to the hunt

when buying a pup.

- Is the breeder you're buying from registered and with what organisation?
- Ask for and expect to be given the lineage of both sire and bitch.
- Have both sire and bitch been hip and elbow scored?
- Have both sire and bitch been DNA tested for genuine health problems?
- Has the pup had a vet check, immunisations and been microchipped?

Most vets are unable to hip and elbow score your dog as it's a specialist field, but the local State Dog Association, like Dogs Victoria, will provide you with a list of those who can do this. Due to improper breeding by some breeders, defects will appear in certain classes, for example hip dysplasia is terrible and can mean the dog will have to be euthanised in extreme cases.

But forget the negatives, nothing can beat hunting with your loyal four-legged friend. I realise not everyone is in a position to own a gundog but if you are and are not hunting over it, you're missing out on one of the greatest companions in the hunting world. ●



If you've never hunted over a pointer you're missing an exhilarating experience.

The Hungarian Vizsla, another popular breed among hunters and one of the oldest hunting dogs.



Leon's brother Mick and his Labrador, Jack. The Labrador is one of the most popular breeds of dog used by duck hunters.

Presbyopia and the shotgunner

Luke Higgins

As sports shooters it's worthwhile having an understanding of presbyopia as it does have optical implications, but before we go into the detail of farsightedness, it would be of benefit to summarise the eye overall to provide anatomical landmarks to work from, then we can focus on specifics of the condition.

Figure 1 shows a cross-section of the human eye. If we work from left to right at the front of the eye is the cornea, the clear transparent dome which covers the front of our eye. Behind this is the iris, the coloured part of the eye we see when we look at one another and in the centre of the iris is the pupil, the black circle/aperture which allows light to pass through the iris.

Just behind the iris is the structure known as the lens, responsible for our near vision, and it's changes in the lens which cause our reading ability to drop off as we go through life. This change in the lens is medically defined as presbyopia. The lens is a remarkable structure made up of little cells similar to the skin cells which cover our body, except in the case of the lens they're transparent to let light pass through.

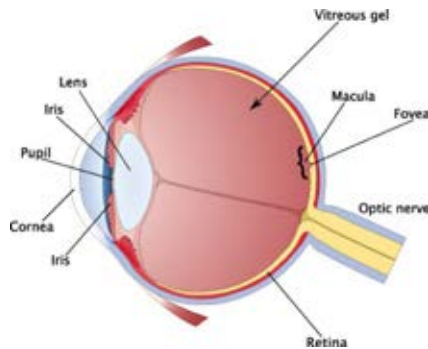


Figure 1 - Cross-section of the human eye.

Similar to skin cells we grow a new layer of cells every four weeks, unlike skin cells which flake off and drop into the environment, lens cells have nowhere to fall as the lens is in the middle of the eye, the result being a slow build-up of cell layers in our lens, analogous to the layers of an onion.

This process occurs from the moment we're born, so the lens becomes thicker and thicker as we go through life. If we compare the size of lens in a newborn to someone 60 years old, the lens will be three times the size in the latter, the clinical implications being a reduction in the ability of the lens to focus on near objects.

When we look at a distant object (anything greater than 6m), the lens is completely relaxed but when we change focus to objects closer than 6m the lens changes focus. Medically this process is called 'accommodation' to allow the object to be seen clearly, so when the lens accommodates it changes shape, becoming more convex which allows it to turn more optically powerful and focus on the nearer object (see Figure 2).

As an individual goes through life and the lens becomes thicker with increased layers of cells, it turns less flexible/pliable and loses that ability to change shape, resulting in our loss of ability to read as we go through life (Figure 3). The process is not pathological and doesn't harm our eyes, being a natural part of the eyes ageing. Fortunately, presbyopia is a condition easily corrected optically, usually with a set of reading glasses (Figure 4).

There is currently no cure for presbyopia though a lot of research is occurring worldwide and the company which does come up with a treatment will be worth having shares in, as this condition affects us all. Clinically the symptoms are currently managed by three main

Presbyopia and the shotgunner

treatment options - spectacles, contact lenses or laser refractive surgery and each option deserves an article in its own right as there are many positives and negatives which warrant discussion.

For clay target shooters and shotgun shooters in general, the best clinical advice I can give is to visit your optometrist and have your distance vision corrected to its optimum resolution. This can be done with spectacles and contact lenses most readily and laser refractive surgery if the patient is a good candidate. Most choose the less invasive options of contact lenses or spectacles and there's a marvellous range of sport shooting spectacles available which will give excellent vision outcomes and good eye protection.

There's also an extensive range of contact lenses and lens materials to suit almost everyone. If a patient does decide on contact lenses I strongly recommend they wear some form of protective spectacles, as I've seen too many ocular trauma cases over the years which could have easily been avoided with adequate protective eyewear. You only have one pair of eyes and for a sports shooter they're among your biggest assets.

If you're over 40 your optometrist will most likely have the presbyopia discussion with you and report that your lens has reached the point where it no longer effectively 'accommodates' to focus on near objects such as reading. The optometrist will offer management options such as spectacles, contact lenses or referral for laser refractive surgery.

If spectacles are offered they'll usually be one of three options - reading glasses (just worn for reading), bifocals (lenses with a line/segment, one for distance and one for reading) or progressive multifocals (the lens is made up of multiple segments for distance and reading, blended together so there's no defined line on the lens).

Bifocal and progressive multifocal options have excellent all-round lenses which allow the wearer to use spectacles continually for everyday wear. Neither of these lens options are ideal for shotgun shooting as optically the best here is to have single vision distance spectacles (if required to correct distance vision) - glasses designed for distance vision only, the reason being both progressive multifocals and bifocals are made to be used when an individual is in normal primary gaze and primary, normal posture and looking through the right part of the lens.

Both these lens types have different prescriptions in various parts of the lens, aimed to be used for different tasks. When

shotgun shooters mount the firearm to the shoulder and put their head on the stock, they'll end up looking through a part of the lens not designed for clear distance vision.

This is why the shotgun shooter is better using a set of single vision spectacles which allow clear vision across the lens and for the unusual head posture. If a shooter is struggling with near vision due to presbyopia, particularly over the age of 60, they'll report that when using distance spectacles

the rib and bead(s) are not particularly clear.

This is to be expected and is not an issue as the bead(s) are only a reference when mounting your shotgun and once the gun is correctly mounted, the shooter should merely be interested in seeing the clay target as clearly as possible, which optically is provided best with single vision spectacles or contact lenses. ●

• Luke Higgins is a clinical optometrist and SSAA member.

Normal

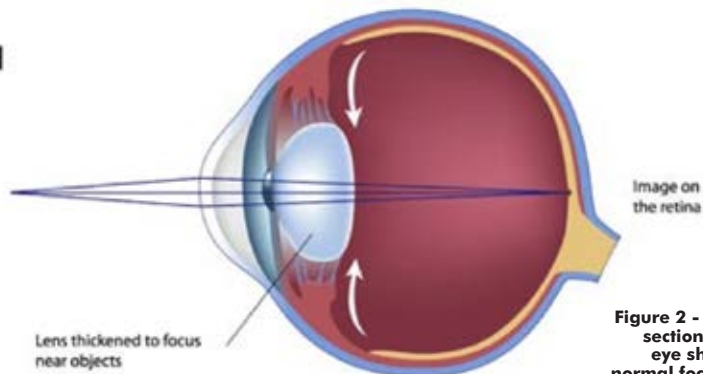


Figure 2 - Cross-section of the eye showing normal focusing/ accommodative ability.

Presbyopia

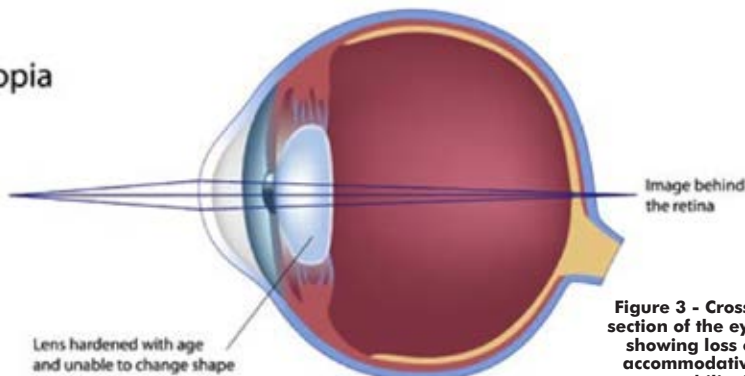


Figure 3 - Cross-section of the eye showing loss of accommodative ability in presbyopia.

Presbyopia corrected

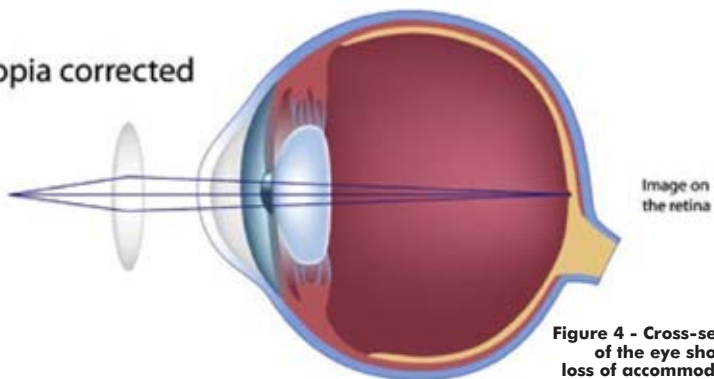


Figure 4 - Cross-section of the eye showing loss of accommodative ability and use of a convex lens to correct the issue.

MAKE KNIFE SHARPENING less of a chore

Con Kapralos



The Knifemate tool is a great ally if you use traditional sharpening stones for edgeware maintenance.

As children we were always told there was more than one way to skin a rabbit and, in similar vein, there's also more than one way to sharpen a knife. From traditional sharpening stones which employ a lubricant such as oil or water to electric-powered units which are used extensively in commercial applications, the end result is having a razor-sharp edge restored to your favourite knife be it hunting, camping or kitchen.

For the average hunter, using the traditional sharpening stone would be the method which most appeals and while this is a little labour intensive and a manual one at that, the most challenging aspect of it is maintaining a consistent angle of the blade against the stone surface. Enter the Knifemate sharpening tool.

Australian designed and made, the Knifemate is made of highly polished aluminium and is very easy to set up and use. The unit, which weighs only 283g, consists of a cam (attached to the main jaw-bar) which holds the knife blade in place and a jack-bar and lock nut which is

adjusted to achieve the desired sharpening angle.

The tool pivots on a flat working surface through a bearing located in the base of the jack-bar. Instructions on how to set up the cam and jack-bar are supplied on a leaflet which comes with the tool, all enclosed in a handy storage pouch. The disassembled tool stores compactly in the pouch and takes up no space in your vehicle utility box or kitchen drawer.

While I do use other methods of sharpening my knives, I decided to break out the old sharpening stones and gathered up a few blunt edges which escaped my last sharpening session. Setting up the jack-bar on the Knifemate tool to give an approximate blade angle of 20 degrees, it was a simple matter of the right hand holding the knife handle and the left hand the jaw bar. Slowly sweeping the blade from the base to the tip in an arcing-motion, the knife blade maintained excellent contact without having to apply excessive pressure. Changing over to sharpen the other side of the blade was easy - just ease off the cam, turn the blade



A razor-sharp result is guaranteed.

around, tighten the cam and repeat the process for a razor-sharp result.

The Knifemate tool is a great ally if you use traditional sharpening stones for edgeware maintenance. It won't rust, needs no lubrication whatsoever, is an all-Australian product and there's an excellent website featuring instructional clips and information to make your knife-sharpening chores that little bit easier. The Knifemate sharpening tool retails for \$197 and is available from the online store at www.blademates.com.au ●



All these cartridges are 38s though none have a bullet diameter of .38".

Calibre confusion

Will the real 38 please stand up

Rod Pascoe

Since the invention of self-contained metallic ammunition in the 1800s, there have been thousands of cartridges developed all over the world for police, military, commercial and sporting purposes. Of course not all of these cartridges, and the guns they go into, have survived the test of time and many have fallen out of favour for one reason or another.

It seems the demise of this *older* ammunition is more than made up for by the introduction of new varieties, usually starting life as a wildcat in someone's shed, and some of these wildcats became commercial propositions as firearm and ammunition manufacturers saw marketing potential in the new offering.

What do the numbers mean?

These days it's normal to hear shooters refer to a number, such as 308 or 22, and most will know what they mean. In this case it's more than likely they're referring to .308 Winchester and .22 Long Rifle but of course there are other 308s and 22s apart from these two examples. You could say this is where calibre confusion began and the numbers by themselves don't mean much.

Back in the mid-1800s every man and his dog was manufacturing guns, due to huge technological advances made in moving from muzzleloading firearms to those using the new self-contained metallic cartridge

loaded into the breech end of the firearm. In the US names like Maynard, Sharps, Colt, Ballard, Peabody, Wesson, Remington, Stevens, Winchester, Bullard and Marlin were all moving into this emerging and lucrative business thanks mainly to the Civil War, buffalo hunting, the opening up of the American West and Indian conflicts. Often the firearm maker's name is used in the cartridge description - .45 Colt for example - or it could be a place name as in 6.5mm Creedmoor, a country (.303 British), something abstract (.38 Super) or even more obscure (5.5mm Velo Dog).

In black powder days in the US, a common way of describing a cartridge was to use the bullet *calibre* or its diameter, for example .45 followed by the amount of black powder used, say 70 grains, hence: .45-70. Sometimes bullet weight would also be added and, to make sure there was absolutely no confusion, a name attached .45-70-405 Government for example. Other early US makers would often add the cartridge case length as in .44-100 2⁵/₈" Sharps or .44-90-2.6" Remington.

A major confusion in this era was that a .40-70 cartridge made by Frank Wesson for example would have a bullet diameter of .392" whereas the .40-70 made by Remington has a .403" bullet and the .40-70 by Maynard for the 1873 Model has a bullet diameter of .425". Big differences but all categorised as .40 calibre cartridges - and none of them were interchangeable.

Every manufacturer of the time was doing their own thing and not comparing notes with competing gunmakers, making both the guns and ammunition to fit them. No one saw any reason to standardise calibres or cartridges although, as you can see from the .40-70 examples, you had to be careful you were buying the right brand of ammunition for your type of rifle. It's different now as not too many rifle manufacturers have their own special or unique ammunition - I say not *too many* but Winchester, for example, went back to the days of exclusive ammunition with their WSM and WSSM experiment.

Where are we now?

Despite the large number of cartridges in use today there's only a dozen or so standard diameter rifle projectiles produced, even fewer for handguns, which greatly assists barrel and bullet manufacturers in their production process. Organisations such as the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) in the US and Commission Internationale Permanente (CIP) in Europe to regulate the technical aspects of ammunition, firearm, ammunition manufacturers and component makers now have a standard set of figures to work with. We know for example the bullet diameter of a .223 Remington cartridge and groove diameter of a .223 Remington barrel is .224. What? Yes, even with standardisation the confusion persists.

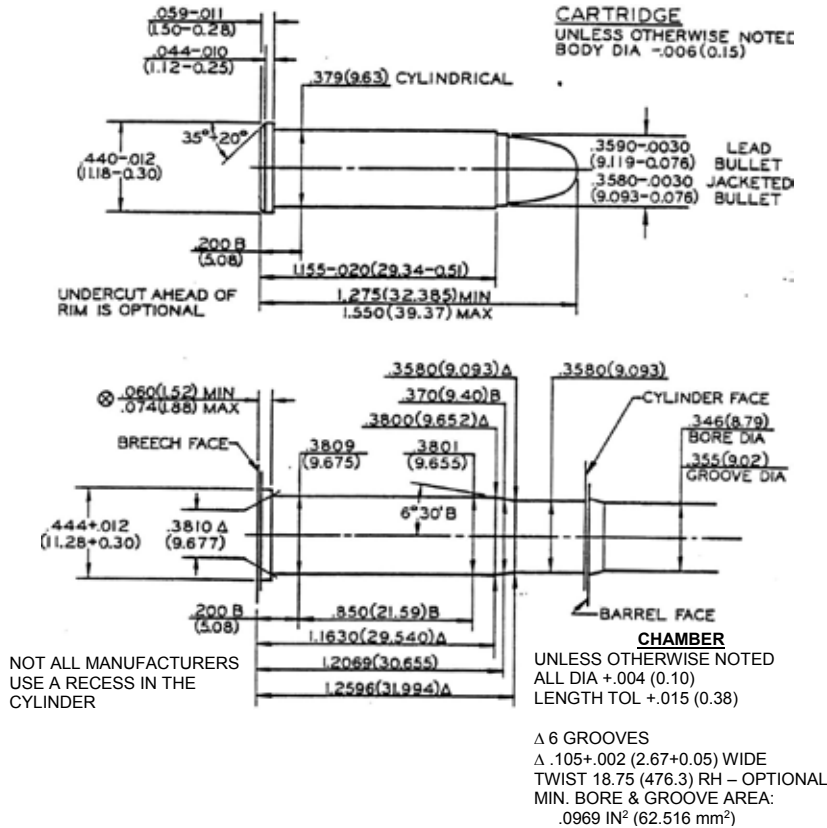
Calibre confusion - will the real 38 please stand up

SECTION I - CHARACTERISTICS
CENTERFIRE PISTOL & REVOLVER
SAAMI VOLUNTARY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

CARTRIDGE AND CHAMBER DRAWING 38 SPECIAL / 38 SPECIAL +P

NOTICE: This drawing is subject to change.
Current version is available at www.saami.org.

MAXIMUM CARTRIDGE / MINIMUM CHAMBER
38 SPECIAL / 38 SPECIAL +P



And the winner is: The 38-50
Remington-Heppburn with a
bullet of .376" is closest to .38".

Popular Calibre Name
38

Registration certificate - how vague is that?

The SAAMI specification for the .38 Special cartridge.

Firearm chambers cut to fit
the .357 Maximum cartridge
(left) will also accept the .357
Magnum, .38 Special, .38
Long Colt and .38 Short Colt
cartridges.



Globally, the convention for cartridge measurement can be in imperial units such as .264" or metric as in 6.5mm and the US used imperial measurements exclusively until recent times when European calibres began to proliferate the American shooting scene. Many are familiar with the pistol calibre simply referred to as the .38. Generally speaking, to a pistol shooter, the number 38 means either .38 Special or .38 Super. Here the 38 refers to the bullet diameter of .38 of an inch which are actually .357" and .355" respectively.

To a black powder rifle shooter it may be a .38-55, meaning a .38" calibre bullet sitting in a case holding 55 grains of black powder, while to a single action shooter it may be a .38-40, again a .38" diameter bullet in a cartridge case holding 40 grains of black powder, or does it? More on that later.

The same cartridge labelling conventions apply to all other calibres - .308 Winchester

Calibre confusion - will the real 38 please stand up

being a bullet diameter followed by a name to indicate this is a proprietary cartridge of Winchester. The same cartridge may have more than one name and in its military form the .308 Winchester is the 7.62x51mm NATO (where 7.62 is bullet diameter and 51 the length of the case in millimetres).

The main photo (Page 70) shows a line-up of cartridges which all have two things in common - all are named 38 something yet none have a bullet calibre of .38", the descriptions of these cartridges taken from their headstamps or packets. From left: .380 Corto, .38 Auto, .38 Short Colt, .38 Super, .38 Special, .38 WCF, .38-40 Remington-Hepburn, .38-50 Remington-Hepburn, .38-45 Bullard, .38 Extra Long, .380 Long, .38 Long Colt, .38 ACP and .38 S&W.

There are many more in the 38 family not on display here but for the sake of the exercise let's look at these examples more closely. Also note the additional zeros as in the .380 Corto and .380 Long are redundant, although the manufacturers probably wanted to make the zero a point of distinction from other cartridge makers.

Confusion persists

Some of the rounds pictured have the same dimensions but different names, the .38

S&W (Smith & Wesson) also known as the .38/200 when it was used in Commonwealth service during World War Two. Three cartridges in the main photo, the .38 Auto, .38 ACP and .38 Super, share the same dimensions with minor differences in the rims. The most important aspect to this line-up of 14 cartridges is none of them have a .38" diameter or calibre bullet, the closest being the .38-50 Remington-Hepburn at .376", the rest ranging between .355" and .375" and, for some reason unknown to me, the .38 WCF (also known as .38-40 Winchester) has a bullet measuring .401". Maybe they should have called it the .40-38.

As can be seen, ammunition and firearms manufacturers simply picked a 'ballpark' number in describing their invention, 38 being a nice round figure which rolls off the tongue and, in the early days at least, no one was forecasting the possibility of future confusion.

On a personal note I'd like to see the word *calibre* used to describe the diameter of a bullet and groove diameter of a rifled barrel, leaving *cartridge* or *ammunition* to describe what is fired from a particular firearm. Price tags in gunshops and official registry documents could follow the same practice so when someone asks: 'What

calibre is that rifle?' and the answer: '6.5', a follow-up question then has to be asked: '6.5 what?'

The passing of some elements of the Ammunition Bill in NSW a couple of years ago highlighted issues around how ammunition for a particular firearm is described, registration certificates issued by NSW Firearms Registry listing: Popular Calibre Name. In NSW, under the Ammunition Bill, shooters looking to buy ammunition for handguns must produce their registration certificate as proof they do, in fact, own a handgun for which the ammunition is required. Presenting a registration certificate to gunshop staff simply marked .357 would imply .357 Magnum ammunition is required, though the buyer may want .38 Special ammo instead.

This situation is now being rectified and the registry will issue a new certificate, on request, with correct ammunition description. Of course it's the dealers who initially describe the firearm on their paperwork to the registry and registry copy that information to the buyer's registration certificate verbatim, without questioning what ammunition is actually used in that firearm. In this example, the new ammunition description now, more correctly, reads: 38 Special/.357 Magnum. Are we clear? ●

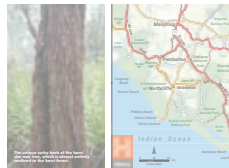
Big Issue 2 OUT NOW!

We uniquely consult with environmental experts, farmers, fishers and those charged with protecting Australia's landscape to take an in-depth look at issues affecting Australia's outdoors, along with showcasing beautiful destinations and providing travel tips, reviews and more.

In the valley of the jolly green giants

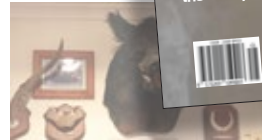
Thomas Gault

...a larger than life experience among towering timber



A dangerous adversary provides the perfect

Villain of Oz the rise of the feral pig



110 Great Australian Outdoors



186 pages



2019 International Creative Media Awards AWARD WINNER

the Way



Member price
\$9.95
posted
in Australia

onlineshop.ssaa.org.au



Adventures of the little fish knife

Henri Lach

The tiny fish-shaped knife with genuine tortoiseshell scales I'm holding in my hand is the same knife which nestled between my fingers in the spring of 1956. It was in near mint condition then but is now showing the signs of many adventures since - and what follows is the tale surrounding just a few of them.

The story begins in the lunch room of a school college in the Victorian city of Wangaratta. This was an all-boys' school and there was a distinctive social division between 'boarders' and 'day boys', boarders being live-in students whose well-heeled parents paid big money in those times to be shot of their beloved male offspring for the duration of a scholastic year. The day boys like me were church-subsidised pupils whose parents probably thought the smell of an oily rag was the hint of an entrée item.

One lunchtime at an adjoining table I noticed a lad I knew to be a boarder dismembering an apple using a little fish-shaped knife he opened with his teeth (my eyesight back then could pick out a fly at 100 yards). I could tell this knife was a special type of folder, missing a spring, so I made overtures to its owner by waving a fistful of two-shilling coins at him. Rich kids love money so the knife was soon mine.

With real tortoiseshell scales it was a handsome item which deserved to be lovingly restored to near mint condition. In due course it was and became my companion on all youthful fishing and hunting expeditions from then on. Despite its diminutive size this was an ideal companion as it could be opened quickly with one hand and had a sharp carbon steel blade. It bore no maker's name but its previous owner assured me its origins were

in Germany - so the knife was a present from the land of his forefathers. When the time came to spread my wings, Perth was my launching pad for what I knew fate intended me to be: a newspaper reporter. After a transcontinental journey with the knife tucked away in an inside pocket, I headed south for some apple-picking experience in the Bridgetown region of WA where I met kindred spirits. Most of the pickers and shed hands had a pocket knife of some sort as part of their equipment and those who didn't wished they had. English William Rogers double-bladed folders were the go in those days. Japanese bladeware hadn't made its intrusion into the WA apple orchards at that stage, so the choice of pocket knives was limited though there were some locally made offerings around but at prices way out of the league of a young apple picker or shed hand.

Adventures of the little fish knife

As I moved north, the wheat fields north-east of Geraldton provided experience in stump picking and general tractor work. An itinerant I befriended decided he'd found greener pastures so we parted with a hand-shake and next day when I made a regular check of my equipment I discovered the fish knife was missing. He was the obvious culprit.

It took me three days to track him down and I caught up with him as he was working on a tractor. He held out his hand to me, I ignored it and after a walk to the homestead he sheepishly produced my knife from a dilly bag. He was about two-thirds my size so had good reason to look awkward.

I harboured no serious ill will though and just wanted my knife back, assuring the anxious farmer's wife he was a good kid really, not an axe murderer, he just had an uncontrollable passion for this knife and could have pleaded that as mitigation in a court of law.

There's quite a gap in the story now. The fish knife and I made it back to my parents' home in Wangaratta where I established myself as a junior reporter on the local five-day daily newspaper, the *Wangaratta Chronicle Despatch*. This was a publication fully in tune with its rural roots with the

community, stock prices, weather reports, the upcoming duck season and price of shotgun cartridges being standard subjects. I was happy to be assigned a story on the status of the local rabbit population, which at the time was shrugging off the myxomatosis virus like a minor cold and breeding again like, well, rabbits.

Heading out on a shoot, literally, with a photographer to report on the rabbit population problem is the sort of job a bloke like me dreamed of and we went fully armed for the task. My cameraman Bruce had his Graflex and I carried a Lithgow bolt-action single-shot .22 with efficient open sights and naturally kept the little fish knife in my pocket.

It wasn't long out of town before we found what we wanted. Bruce had photos of multiple bunnies on a warren and I executed a head shot on an attractive candidate for Sunday dinner. My fish knife performed the obligatory field dressing and we checked our gear into the boot of my VW Beetle (we were encouraged to use our own vehicles on jobs in those days). It all provided a fitting story for the next day's edition.

However, when I checked my gear later that same morning there was something missing and you get no points for guessing what it was. I leapt into the VW and

searched the area where I'd field dressed the rabbit. Nothing. A second search the following day also drew a blank and I resigned myself to the loss. Some months later I had occasion to lift the spare wheel out of the boot of the VW and there in the wheel well, blade open ready for action, was the fish knife winking at me. I almost burst into tears.

But my personal treasure had been languishing in a moist environment for quite a while. There's no stainless steel in its make-up, it was heavy with rust and I did the best I could with the various oils and solvents available. What you see now is its current condition. It never came hunting with me after its resurrection as it passed into early retirement and from then on I carried other useful blades, like small pouch knives or one-handed opening pocket pieces if I could find them in a highly restrictive market.

Today, as I don't go hunting or fishing any more, the modest fish knife rests on my work desk where it does a great job cutting paper into memo-sized pieces. When I look at the knife now I find it hard to believe we've been together for more than six decades and a codicil in my Will declares it should be cremated with me. ●

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND

HANDGUN

Issue 18

106-pages
of handgunning
gold!

\$11.95

posted -
member-only
price

Order your copy online now

onlineshop.ssaa.org.au



Smart device puts you in the picture

Chris Redlich



As hunters we're often lucky enough to visit some beautiful parts of the Australian bush and come across wildlife many people only ever see in an enclosure. Now I don't consider myself a great photographer but I like to experiment. Most modern phones have marvellous built-in cameras capable of taking great photos but the lenses are usually limited to close range and good light conditions.

Owning a high-end spotting scope had me thinking how I could use my phone to take quality photos with it from afar and I was left wondering no more when Swarovski released their new Variable Phone Adapter (VPA), a product which bridges the gap for operators to use their spotting scope as a zoom lens extension on a smartphone - what some refer to as digiscoping. With the roar closing in fast I wasted no time in ordering a VPA for use with my Swarovski ATS-65 spotting scope.

About the VPA

On receipt I set up the VPA to suit my Samsung Galaxy phone. Swarovski Optik designed the VPA for their spotting scopes and binoculars to be compatible with most smartphones including Samsung, iPhone

and LG. The fully adjustable frame is light but durable, made of fibre glass reinforced polymer and is black. The width and height adjustments are self-explanatory and once you have the right dimensions for your phone, it's secured to the adapter by a large cam-lock fastening clasp. It's important to note the phone must be removed from its cover or case regardless of how slim before seating to the VPA frame and, once secure, the phone won't fall from the adapter.

Attaching

To attach the VPA to your spotting scope or binoculars you'll need an adapter ring, sold separately to the VPA which is useless without the adapter. Swarovski offer the AR-S adapter ring to suit their array of spotting scopes including the ATX, STX (59mm eyecup), ATS, STS, ATM, STM, STR (55mm eyecup).

For the EL, CL and SLC range of binoculars you'll need the AR-B adapter ring and the BTX (adjusts 37.2-42.8mm). I needed the AR-S adapter ring for compatibility with my Swarovski Optik ATS-65 spotting scope. It's made of alloy, threaded to suit the VPA and once fastened to the VPA make sure the centre of the adapter ring is centred to the lens of your phone camera. Be careful

to not over tighten the alloy adapter to the polymer VPA, finger firm is sufficient.

Failure to centre the lens correctly will result in an offset image as I discovered initially while zooming at a subject. The VPA and phone assembled are placed on the spotting scope by mating the adapter ring to the optics lens cup, it's a snug but firm fit and won't fall off. For added security Swarovski supply a detachable wrist lanyard adjustable to suit your spotting scope or binoculars. For a stable rest the spotting scope should be mounted to a sturdy tripod which will help you maintain a steady image, particularly on full zoom when ranges are extended.

Field testing

After many a lost opportunity to take great photos on previous hunts, I made sure the VPA was part of my kit and the first chance arose to take landscape photos of a rocky feature off the top of a mountain. I zoomed in on the rocks from about 2km and combining the Swarovski ATS-65 with the VPA gave a nice landscape picture and one which wouldn't have been possible without the VPA.

A few weeks later my son and I were deer hunting with a mate when I managed

Smart device puts you in the picture

VPA attached and ready for use with the supplied wrist lanyard that secures it safely to the optics.

VPA AR-S ready to be attached to the spotting scope eyecup.



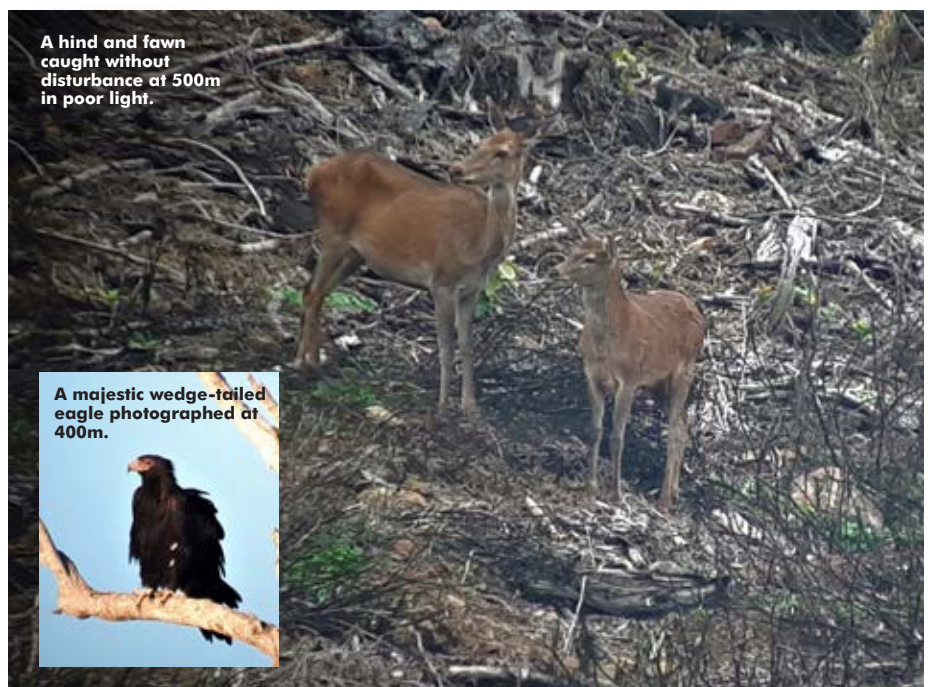
to jag some impressive photos before being washed out by the weather. On an early morning hunt we approached the top of a mountain which opened up to a clearing of felled pines and looking across the valley my son Carl spotted a deer. Ranging it at around 500m and undetected, I set the VPA on the Swarovski spotter mounted to the tripod. I zoomed in on the deer which was totally unaware I was watching through my camera screen and taking photos.

Taking photos

The following steps are what I followed to photograph the deer:

- Firstly, I prefer to find my chosen image on the lowest zoom setting of the spotter and fix it using the spotter focus wheel. It's easier to locate the image with a large field of view particularly at long range and the minimum zoom on my Swarovski ATS is 25x.
- Secondly, adjust to the correct zoom whether it be 40 or 50x of your desired

A hind and fawn caught without disturbance at 500m in poor light.



A majestic wedge-tailed eagle photographed at 400m.

image and focus the spotter again.

- Thirdly, ensure the image is full screen on your smartphone display by using the touch zoom on the monitor then touch focus the image. You're now in business and can watch the image through the phone and take photos or videos. If your chosen image moves significantly you'll have to repeat the above processes to capture a clear image.

The best results are achieved when you don't have your hands on the camera, spotter or tripod. I realise this may be unavoidable when videoing a moving object but for still photographs the vibrations from touching these items can affect image quality. I set my camera with the timer at five seconds so any felt vibrations which may arise from touching the screen will be eliminated during the timing process.

Meanwhile, as the deer fed further along the hill they slipped in and out of view behind the trees. I relocated to take more photos and from the new position was able to capture other red deer going about their business. I was enjoying the experience so much my mate gave me a nudge and reminded me we were there to hunt. I've also taken photographs using the above steps of kangaroos and a wedge-tailed eagle at long range, all unaware of my presence.

Conclusion

The Variable Phone Adapter by Swarovski Optik is a fantastic way to capture images on phone cameras that would otherwise be impossible. As hunters we're conscious of the weight we haul around the hills and with a heavy load of spotting scope, tripod and binoculars already hanging off our shoulders, the modern-day hunter would be hard pressed to find room for additional camera gear and zoom lenses.

The VPA and adapter ring combined

weighing a mere 148g is barely noticeable and its compact design takes up little room in your daypack. Alternatively, it sits nicely in the pocket of your hunting trousers. The VPA is not intended to replace a top-notch camera and zoom lens, rather to boost the capability of your smartphone camera. Retailing at \$239 for the VPA alone plus \$49 for the AR-S or \$59 for the AR-B adapters, it's a small price to pay for the chance to capture that once in a lifetime image. More on the Swarovski Optik website. ●



Kangaroos unaware they're being watched.

Don't be a mug!



Get your name in to win a rare
SSAA COFFEE MUG

Yes, it's true - all the best shots are members of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia. Now you can be the proud owner of one of a limited number of Maxwell & Williams coffee mugs emblazoned with exactly those words to tell the world and be the envy of your mates.

You can't buy this mug, no matter the size of your wallet. So if you want your shot of coffee in the SSAA Best Shots mug, you better get your entry in for your chance to win one! SSAA members only.

Enter online at ssaa.org.au/win

SSAA Member Alert

Please be aware that state and territory police firearms registries regularly cross-check firearm licences and your member status. To support your genuine reason and keep your firearms licence and to make sure that SSAA can support you, make sure you renew your SSAA membership.

CLAREMONT
FIREARMS
City store, Country Service

M39's from \$750
No1 MKIII from \$950
Ask for parts range and shipping !

claremontfirearms.com.au
(08) 9494 1380

• IPSC • ACTION
• COWBOY • SILHOUETTE



Bobber

Aussie Step
Pty Ltd

1800 809 427

Full range online
www.aussietargettechnologies.com.au

FIREARMS LAWYER

Get help from 4-time Olympic shooter
and lawyer, Glenn Kable

Get the right legal advice!
Available Australia-wide.

Having spent a lifetime around the sport, I have an intimate knowledge of the workings of all the bodies affecting the decision-making process, whether it is police or courts, local councils or governments, clubs or associations.

For a no-obligation assessment, phone 0407 962 200 or email glennkable@yahoo.com
mail@hartmann.webcentral.com.au



onlineshop.ssaa.org.au

Shop now for exclusive SSAA products, including clothing, camping, accessories, knives, books and more.



SSAA bush kettle

These custom-made bush kettles run on a few twigs and leaves and will boil water in less than 10 minutes. Simply take a handful of twigs/leaves and kindling then place under the kettle and light it - the clever design directs heat into the kettle to boil the water. The kettle can be used with gas stoves and has a stain-less construction.

3L Kettle

\$84.95



SSAA Cool Dri JB polo

Made with a moisture wicking material that will leave you feeling dry and cool. Comes with an embroidered logo. Colour - navy blue.

\$42

SSAA pistol key ring



\$7.95

SSAA rechargeable knife sharpener

Sharpen every knife or blade you own with the SSAA rechargeable knife sharpener. The sharpener is battery operated so you can take it anywhere with you, just charge the batteries before you go.

\$89.95



Extra belts available

SSAA card holder



The new SSAA card holder is a slim, lightweight and stylish leather-look wallet and features four card holder slots, two large slots and a clear slot.

Folded approximately – 10x14cm.
Opened approximately – 20x14cm.

\$24.95

SSAA hunting cap



Navy cap



SSAA camo cap

\$19.95

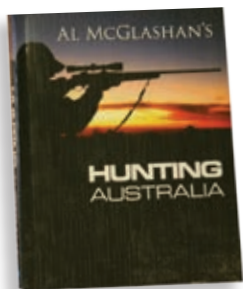


Cap - with traditional logo



SSAA pink ladies mesh cap

Great gift ideas



Al McGlashan's Hunting Australia

Al is one of Australia's favourite outdoorsmen. His enthusiasm for the hunt, so evident in his TV appearances, certainly comes out in his book. A must-read for all hunters.

\$29.95

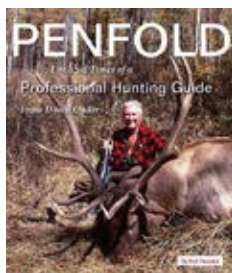
Australian Shooter binder



Our sturdy leather-grained vinyl binder will protect your monthly issues of the Australian Shooter.

\$18.95

Penfold: Life and Times of a Professional Hunting Guide From Down Under



\$99.95

Special offer for Australian Hunter subscribers - See full details online.



SSAA metal hat badge - claw

\$8.20



SSAA metal hat badge - brooch

\$8.20



Antique gold hat badge

\$12.95

SSAA beanies



Black



Navy



Pink



Black

\$14.95

SAFETY

SSAA first aid kits

An absolute must-have for home and the car. You never know when the next little emergency might strike - be prepared. These well-equipped bags will make an important addition for the next hunting trip. For full details on the contents of each pack see online shop.



Small 210x170mm
18-piece pack **\$39.95**

Large 320x200mm
27-piece pack **\$64.95**

A heavy-duty
tackle box-style **\$78.95**



Pewter belt buckles

Deer hunter belt buckle



\$39.95

SSAA



\$39.95

SHOP NOW - IT'S EASY! Go to

onlineshop.ssaa.org.au

**or call 02 8805 3900
for phone orders**



SSAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ABN 95 050 209 688

SSAA Membership Office, PO Box 282, Plumpton, NSW 2761

Phone 02 8805 3900 Fax 02 9832 9377 Email membership@ssaa.org.au

Membership No.

NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐ Have you been a member before? Yes/No

--	--	--	--	--	--



Title (PLEASE CIRCLE) Mr Miss Ms Mrs or Preferred SSAA Branch

First name

Middle name

Last name

Residential address

Town/suburb State Postcode

Postal address

Town/suburb State Postcode

(IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)

Phone (Mobile) (Home)

Email

Date of birth Male ☐ Female ☐ Member referral number if applicable

☐ Tick to subscribe to the FREE SSAA National E-newsletter via email

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND SPECIAL OFFERS

Each membership category (apart from Family Member) includes 11 issues of the Australian Shooter magazine per year.

Add four issues of the Hunter magazine per year

☐ \$93

☐ \$128

☐ \$70

☐ \$105

☐ \$70

☐ \$105

☐ \$465

☐ \$1860

☐ \$175

☐ \$27

☐ \$123

☐ \$158

☐ \$100

☐ \$135

☐ \$100

☐ \$135

Adult (over 18 years)



Includes \$35 insurance premium for SSAA Member Firearms Insurance for 12 months, valid until next membership renewal.

Additional Family Member (No magazine) Applies to each additional person over 18 residing at the same address as a full-subscription Adult member.



Includes \$35 insurance premium for SSAA Member Firearms Insurance for 12 months, valid until next membership renewal.

Pensioner Available on production or photocopy of both sides of your Australian Concession Card.



Includes \$35 insurance premium for SSAA Member Firearms Insurance for 12 months, valid until next membership renewal.

5-year Adult Contact SSAA for firearms insurance information.

Member for Life Contact SSAA for firearms insurance information.

Overseas Available to members living overseas.

Junior (under 18 years) Parent's or guardian's signature



Just \$30 per year!

Supporting Adult member No.

SIGN UP ONLINE

ssaa.org.au



PLEASE READ AND SIGN

This application is made in full recognition of the Association's requirement for responsible and ethical behaviour. I undertake to do all in my power to preserve the good image of the sport and the Association. I understand that members breaking the Code of Conduct may be subject to suspension or expulsion. The Code can be found at ssaa.org.au/code

SIGNATURE:.....

DATE:.....

Refund Policy: Subject to Australian law, membership fees are not refundable, nor can they be transferred.

SSAA Inc collects personal information of members. The information you provide on this form will be disclosed to the state or territory branch of the SSAA to which your membership application relates. A copy of SSAA Inc's privacy policy can be found at ssaa.org.au/privacy. You can obtain access to your personal information by writing to: SSAA, PO Box 2520, Unley SA 5061.

ATTENTION NSW & ACT MEMBERS

Complete this section ONLY if you wish to use your membership of the SSAA to support your Genuine Reason for having a firearms licence. Register your SSAA activities by marking one or more of the following boxes:

- ☐ TARGET SHOOTING (longarms only)
- ☐ HUNTING (club membership)
- ☐ COLLECTING
- ☐ HUNTING OTHER (R licence, property owner/permission)

Choose the insurance offer

and for just \$35 you get \$25,000 worth of firearms and fixed accessories cover.

Want to know more?

Call us at SSAA



02 8805 3900



PAYMENT OPTIONS

Enclosed is payment for the amount of \$.....

☐ Cheque ☐ Money order ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card number

Expiry date Signature.....

Cheques payable to the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc.

I also wish to donate the following amount to the SSAA \$.....

Members-only competitions

WIN

For your chance to win one of these competitions, write your name, address, phone number and membership number on a piece of paper and place it inside an envelope, along with the name of the competition on the front of the envelope, as shown in the example. Alternatively, you can enter online.

Competitions close September 30, 2020

Competition winners

(Name of competition)
SSAA National
PO Box 2520
Unley SA 5061

Enter online at
ssaa.org.au/win

1 of 4 .30 cal pen sets with deer antler stand



Valued at \$282

Kindly donated by Laser Engraving
& Handmade Gifts
customengrave.com.au

SSAA long sleeve outdoor shirt (Size M only)



Valued at \$54.95

Kindly donated by SSAA online shop
onlineshop.ssaa.org.au

Junior Prize

1 of 2 Winchester Gift Packs

including sports bag, towel, water bottle, key ring, winchester rubber wrist band and 2x stickers.



Valued at \$85

Kindly donated by Winchester Australia
winchesteraustralia.com.au

Australian Shooter July 2020

Best Shots Mug

Daniel Nagyivan, Vic

1 of 4 .30 calibre pen sets

Daphne Harrison, Vic

Peter Carr, Vic

Elaine Moores, Vic

Chant Charles, Qld

200mm, AR500

12mm thick steel gong targets

Karl Penna, Qld

Junior Prize – Winchester Pack

Holley Collis, Qld

AUSTRALIAN SHOOTER is published monthly and is printed by IVE, 83 Derby St, Silverwater, NSW 2128.

The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc (SSAA Inc) is subject to the provisions of the National Privacy Act. We collect personal information from members of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia in the various states and territories. Should you want a copy of the SSAA Inc Privacy Statement or seek further information please write to PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061.

Freelance contributions are welcome. We do, however, recommend that potential authors contact the office prior to story drafting. Manuscripts and digital files may be sent to the address shown above. No responsibility is taken for the loss or damage of manuscripts or photographic material.

While the publishers exercise due care with regard to handloading data, no responsibility can be accepted for errors and/or omissions, or any damage suffered as a consequence.

Please note that certain firearm types and accessories advertised in the Australian Shooter may not be legally available in all states and territories. Please check with your local authorities before ordering. Neither the AS nor any of its advertisers accept responsibility in this matter. No text or photographs within the magazine may be republished, either electronically or in print, without the express written permission of the Editor.
Copyright 2020.

A new place . . . and a new dawn

Around daylight, a truck rattling and banging past the house jolted me awake. For a brief moment it was way too close for comfort until I remembered where I was and settled down. At the old place, trucks passed at all hours of the day and night, well up the hill and away from the house, rarely recognised as an intrusion unless they were particularly noisy. At the new place they go by considerably closer and I expect that will take time to get used to.

With no hope of going back to sleep I climbed out of bed and ambled down to the kitchen to make a brew, the cats and dog immediately awake with me and demanding to be out or off the chain. Mug in hand I walked out the back door, needing to know what the first morning of the first day in a new house in town looked like.

Wood smoke wafted from nearby chimneys, the wind-streaked cloud of the previous afternoon having dissipated overnight, leaving the morning sky clear. The pale semi-circle of the waning moon hung over the hills and the few remaining stars were beginning to fade. Layers of fog shrouded the tops of the winter-bared poplar trees along the creek, the air frigid and when I stepped from under the veranda the frosted grass was crunchy underfoot.

Dixie pranced around me eager for a run with the ball thrower, a simple pleasure we'd both been denied in the months leading up to the move into town due to the growth of cat's head burrs on the common

paddock being more than a dog's paws could reasonably bear. I grabbed the thrower and some tennis balls and walked to the back fence. The wires were hung with fat silver beads of ice and opening the gate produced a minor cloud of fine crystals which seemed to hang forever in the cold, still air.

With thrower loaded, I cocked my arm and shied the ball towards the bottom fence

sure her nose had got it right. Only then did she return to me, apologetic but clearly distracted, the ball she'd dropped completely forgotten and when I went to pick it up the reason for her lack of interest was obvious.

Compared to dogs, we humans have very little sense of smell yet even my frost-chilled nose immediately knew what had caught her attention. In the early hours of the morning a fox had come prowling along the fence line, left a deposit beside the drooping branches of a scrubby pine tree and moved on. That I could smell it meant the sign was fresh - no wonder Dixie had shown so much interest.

The recent presence of a fox didn't surprise me as the new place sits right on the edge of a small country town. There are other houses scattered around us but most of the fencing is more rural than residential and across the road beyond the creek are

paddocks which lead back to timbered hill country, some of the bush no more than a long rifle shot away. Given a natural propensity to wander, no self-respecting fox living there could resist a nocturnal visit to see what the bright lights might have to offer.

As we walked back down the yard the sun appeared between a gap in the hills, its brightness cutting through the fog with the promise of a fine day ahead and despite the biting cold of the winter morning, I knew there were worse places I could be.



of the vacant block which borders ours on three sides. Dixie raced after it, caught it on the second bounce and wheeled around to bring it back and drop it at my feet. The second throw elicited a similar response but the third didn't quite go as planned. She caught the ball alright but her return run took her within sniffing distance of some low trees along the fence and in an instant our game was over.

Her hackles rose as she dropped the ball, suddenly in hunting mode. She cast around and followed a scent trail over the rise at the top of the block, then turned and came back to double check and make



TROPHY

FIREPROOF SAFES

OWN IT. SECURE IT.

TROPHY

ELECTRONIC AND MECHANICAL SAFES RANGE

- Electronic Key Pad Models come with Retractable USB Entry & Manual Trouble Keys
- Fire-Retardant, Carpet-Lined Interior And Height-Adjustable Shelves
- Fire-Retardant rating of 1400 degrees for 45 minutes
- 4-Way Locking Bolt System With Live-Action Bolts and Stationary Bolts (Bolts diameter 1.5")
- Removable Steel Shipper (Floor Mounting Hardware Included)
- Multi-Pouch Vinyl Organizer On Inner Door
- 3.2 mil Epoxy-Polyester Powder Coat Paint Finish
- Reinforced Steel Door Jamb For Added Security
- Chrome-Plated, Spoke Lever For Easy Opening
- 5 Year Limited Warranty For Peace Of Mind
- Plastic Barrel Rest Kits Included
- Available in 16, 24, 36 and 54 gun capacities



Checkout www.raytrade.com.au for all dimension and weights



Distributed by:

PO Box 4212, Dandenong South, 3164 Victoria, Australia

Ph: 03 9706 5936 Email: raytrade@raytrade.com.au www.raytrade.com.au



More than
70,000
members now covered

'Now I don't have to worry,
I'm **COVERED**'

Kerry. NSW.

For only \$35 get \$25,000 worth of SSAA members firearms insurance.

Your firearms and fixed accessories will be covered against loss, theft and damage at home, at the range, while hunting and overseas for up to 28 days. Claims are settled for replacement value (up to 5 years), assessed by an approved firearms dealer and settled promptly. Compare it to your Home and Contents Policy, which may have an excess greater than \$100 and may only cover your firearms at home. Don't risk another year without cover - Trust SSAA to safeguard your firearms and fixed accessories.

Call: (02) 8805 3900

CLAIMS SETTLED PROMPTLY

Email - megan@ssaains.com.au | Visit - www.ssaib.com.au



Are you covered?

Here's what SSAA Members Firearms Insurance covers:

FIREARMS AND ACCESSORIES.

All privately owned firearms registered to the member and fixed accessories.

COVERAGE.

- Accidental loss and damage of the equipment (including whilst in use, excluding chipping and scratching of stock).
- Malicious damage.
- Collision or overturning of the vehicle.
- Fire & extraneous perils.
- Flood
- Theft.

NOT COVERED.

Theft where the equipment was not stored in an approved gun safe as required by State or Territory authority, other than when the equipment is in use or away from the Insured's premises. Where the Insured or any person or entity to whom the equipment has been entrusted to fails to comply with any law relating to either storage, use or handling of the equipment.

SSAA Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd | CAR 315403 | ABN 86 077 822 970 is a Corporate Authorised Representative of PSC Connect Pty Ltd | ABN 23 141 574 914 / AFSL 344648 This information is general advice only and may not be suitable for your specific needs. Please review our FSG and the Firearms Insurance PDS, underwritten by certain underwriters at Lloyds, at <http://www.ssaib.com.au/forms.aspx> and contact us directly should you require further information or advice. You should consider the PDS (together with other important information) available on www.ssaib.com.au before making a decision about the product.