

**WA gives disabled shooters a fair go**

**Shock finding! Firearms  
offenders are criminals**

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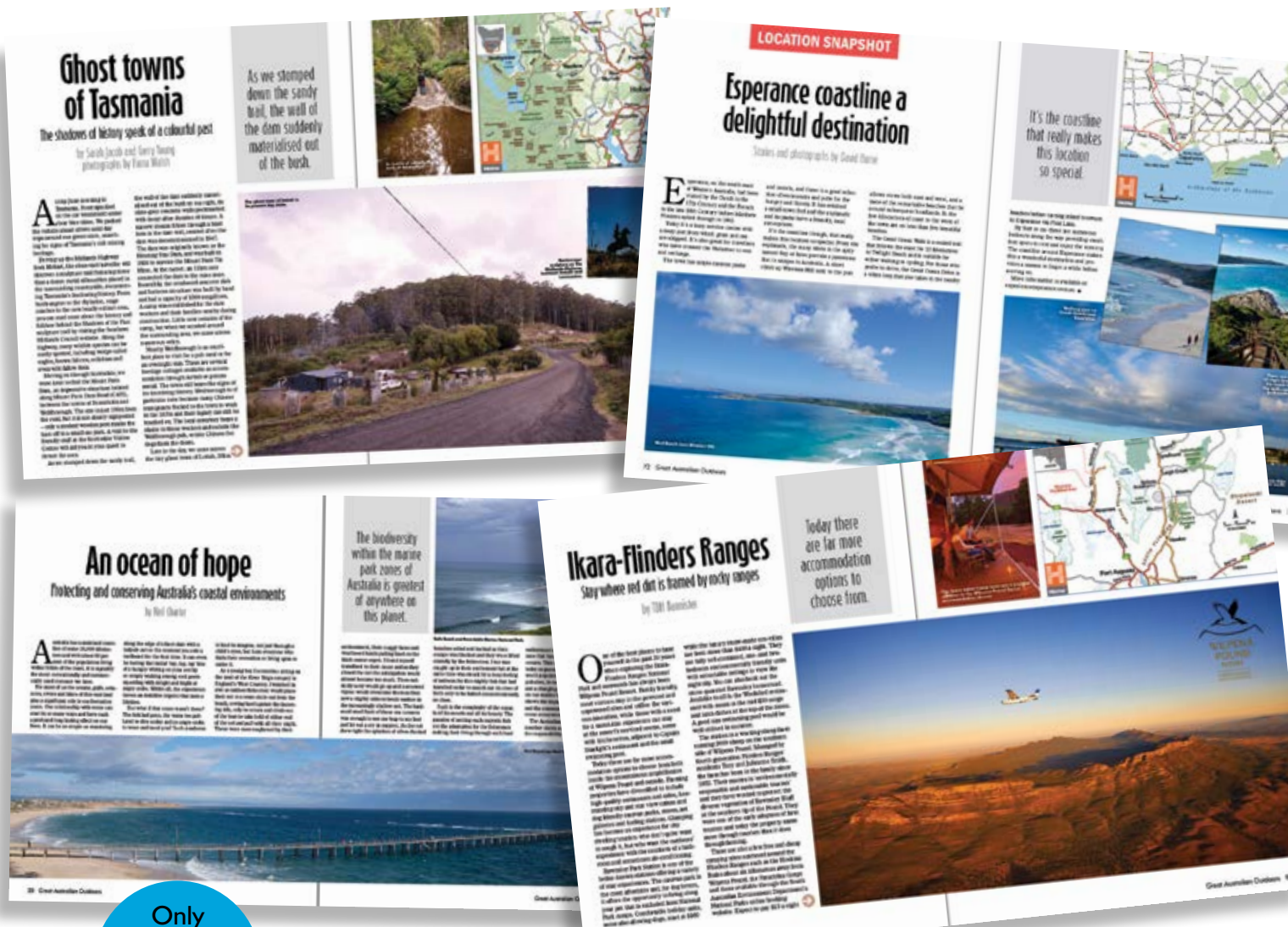
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Our August cover

## NEXT ISSUE



Senior correspondent John Dunn struck it lucky at a Penrith gun show when he happened across 'a different single shot rifle' - the TCR 87 Hunter - a welcome addition to his growing collection of single-shots.

Con Kapralos has road tested Federal Premium's Gold Medal Berger target ammunition which he reckons will be a winner for fans of punching paper or striking metal gongs at long-range.

A new focal plane target riflescope from Vortex has been put through its paces by Pete Kincade who was well impressed by its quality construction and clarity of vision.





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# President's Message

WITH GEOFF JONES

## Our promise to you: We will not be silenced

**T**he federal election has come and gone and, as usual, the shooting sports and hunting came under attack. During the six months leading up to polling day those against our sport made a concerted effort to tarnish law-abiding shooters and convince political parties to turn against us.

Did you know that Gun Control Australia President Samantha Lee was a guest speaker at the Federal Labor Conference just months before the election? Ms Lee made outrageous comments about law-abiding shooters and firearms, including that firearm owners are more likely to be abusing their partners, the Port Arthur massacre murderer was of sound mind and had no previous history with police. She also inferred he held a firearms licence.

She went on to say that a firearms licence, even for a handgun, is very easy to obtain. These falsehoods and disgraceful comments were deliberately designed to turn Labor members and politicians against the shooting fraternity.

The Greens, as expected, further demonised us by criticising basic club funding and played their part in calling for firearms associations such as the SSAA to be banned from having any influence with politicians and federal parliament.

Left-wing activist group GetUp! assisted in funding, along with Gun Control Australia, a series of anti-firearms propaganda papers containing ludicrous comments including that firearm owners changed firearms to suit their outfit worn on any given day and often hid firearms in every room of their house in preparation for a home invasion or the 'end of days'.

The truth is Gun Control Australia, The Greens, GetUp! and the extreme left-wing of the Labor party have joined forces to form a coalition against the firearms owners of Australia. And there's more. A former

ABC television producer, funded by an overseas media broadcaster, tried to create 'fake news' by linking firearms ownership with racism and intolerance. Anti-gunners even used the Christchurch terrorist attack as a playing card to call for further firearm bans and red tape in Australia and again suggested recreational shooters are bigots.

Your SSAA and firearms owners are a snapshot of the Australian community. Shooting and hunting do not judge and participants come in all shapes, sizes, religions, colour and genders. Shooting is arguably among the most inclusive community activities in Australia.

With a new parliament in place, we'll be fighting to preserve the freedom of all law-abiding shooters and ensure any new legislation does not adversely impact licence holders. The only thing guaranteed to ensure any group's voice is heard is the strength of their numbers - and we are now within touching distance of being 200,000 members strong. Our members have partners and children, siblings and parents and together we can be a formidable force.

But we need your help to tip the scales in our favour. Our growth depends on you helping us:

- Sign up a junior
- Asking your partner to join the SSAA
- Taking your friends to the range or on a hunting trip
- Showing colleagues that shooting is fun

Simply phone our dedicated membership staff on 02 8805 3900 or visit [ssaa.org.au](http://ssaa.org.au) to help us grow and strengthen our voice. For the sake of our recreation we won't let them silence us. That is our promise to you.

*G. E. Jones*

**Geoff Jones**  
SSAA National President



## SSAA - Protecting shooters since 1948

## Talbot bang on target

JUST A LINE to say how much I'm enjoying Sam Talbot's informative and entertaining Talbot on Target articles on the SSAA disciplines. Congratulations. Here's hoping he'll eventually be able to include muzzleloading among them.

**Sjef Vleeskens, via email**

• *Muzzleloading is indeed on Sam's to-do list - Ed.*

## Treasure trove of .303 ammo

THANKS FOR IAN Thompson's Basic Ballistics article in the March edition of *Australian Shooter* on specially selected 'red label' .303 ammunition. His description of how the mechanism worked on controlled or synchronised machine guns on aircraft is the first I've read that actually makes sense.

I was fortunate to inherit a batch of .303 ammunition some years ago along with a mint-condition No.4 Long Branch two-groove Lee Enfield rifle that would otherwise have been surrendered and destroyed.

The ammunition is in a steel container, in excellent condition and packed in a 250-round webbing 'stripless' belt. I assume this refers to the lack of pressed steel reinforcing 'strips' between each round that I'm familiar with for ground-mounted Vickers machine guns. The big question is though: what aircraft was still in service that had synchronised guns when the ammunition was manufactured in 1950?

Of interest is the ammunition had a use-by date in said synchronised guns of just two years from its date of manufacture. The belted ammunition carries a Canadian head stamp DAC Mk7Z and is Berdan-primed. The previous owner was a full-bore shooter and the appeal of such ammunition to target shooters is self-evident based on its consistency of ignition.

Other rounds in the consignment I inherited were 'batched' in elaborate Radway Green cardboard 32-round boxes and included boxer-primed Canadian Mk VII ammunition and other Berdan-primed Mk VII with head stamps from plants



## Insurance Q&A with Trevor Jenkin

Send questions to: [communications@ssaa.org.au](mailto:communications@ssaa.org.au)

### Update on SSAA Members Firearms Insurance

**B**y now almost all members are aware of our SSAA Members Firearms Insurance. The policy has proven extremely popular since being introduced in 2015 with more than 60,000 members signing up. We strongly believe SSAA Members Firearms Insurance is one of the best deals a firearm owner can have.

We'll continue to promote SSAA Members Firearms Insurance as it gives members great value for money as well as peace of mind. There really is strength in numbers and the more members who take up the offer, the more value we can give back. Over the past year, SSAA Members Firearms Insurance has seen some changes, so here's a quick refresher with the most important figures being \$25,000 of cover for just \$35.

*Are firearms of all calibres covered?*

Yes.

*Are reloading equipment, safes, hunting clothes etc covered?*

No.

*How do you place a value on a claim?*

Firearms and fixed accessories are covered for their replacement cost up to five years of age, that being the cost you'd pay to replace the item with a similar one at the present time and value. Once they're older than five years claims are settled on market value and your claim would be settled on a similar item in similar condition.

*Are firearms and fixed accessories replaced or repaired?*

If they can be repaired they'll be repaired, if not they'll be replaced.

When you examine SSAA Members Firearms Insurance compared to similar plans we think you'll be pleasantly surprised, and don't forget we can also manage all your business insurance needs, from sole trader right through to professional offices, large retailers and commercial businesses.

If you have questions or would like a quote for any insurance needs, visit our website at [ssaaib.com.au](http://ssaaib.com.au) or call 08 8332 0281.



The advice offered in this column is of a general nature and does not allow for individual situations. SSAAIB recommends that you obtain professional advice before proceeding with any insurance investment. SSAAIB accepts no liability for any actions by an individual to change their insurance plans without seeking professional advice.



GB (Greenwood and Batley), K5 (Kynoch) and RG (Radway Green) in the UK, and MH and MJ (Hendon, SA) and MF (Footscray, Vic). To top it off are 25 round-nose Mk VI head-stamped CAC. The Australian ammo all has nickel-jacketed projectiles (including the Mk VI).

Steve Larkins, SA

## Clarification on crimping

INTERESTING ARTICLE BY John Maxwell (*Shooter*, April 2019) on the cabinet documents behind the NFA fiasco, but he's out on one point. The shotgun magazine crimping proposal, if memory serves, came from someone (I believe a gun dealer) in Queensland and to its credit Cabinet did indeed look favourably at retaining pump and self-loading shotguns if they could be successfully crimped.

The task was not, however, given to the Special Air Services armourers to evaluate, as stated in the article. For all their remarkable skills, and I've known several, they possessed neither the requisite engineering authority nor were they the appropriate organisation to conduct such a task.

Instead, the job was given to the organisation in which I worked at the time, the Small Arms Engineering Group within the Land Engineering Agency (LEA), then located at Maribyrnong, Vic and which has been known by several acronyms - ADE, EDE, AEA, ATEA - over the years since being formed during WWII.

We did indeed conclude the process was reversible and while our workshops were busy crimping the magazines of a number of shotguns provided by the Victoria Police Forensics library, our group was tasked with trying to reverse the process. While a couple required new magazine tubes from stock, most were able to have the crimps removed with simple hand tools, often in less time that it took to crimp them!

As most of the staff were sporting shooters, some owning the affected shotguns and many being SSAA members, you can appreciate this task was carried out with significant emotional angst. But since our primary task was to conduct engineering evaluations of small arms and ammunition for the ADF "without fear or favour" the job was given to us.

Greg Sheppard, via email

## 'Instructor' should be muzzled

I REFER TO the email from Jeffrey Graves in your Top Shots section relating to rifle cleaning (*Shooter*, June 2019). Some guy from a government department, an instructor apparently, told him he should never look down the muzzle when cleaning a rifle - clearly this 'instructor' has never cleaned a Winchester lever action 30.30.

I've been shooting, hunting and cleaning rifles for more than 50 years and that's one of the most ridiculous comments I've heard. It's almost impossible to check the barrel of a 30.30 without looking down the

muzzle end and that's the most sensible way of checking it - I *always* look through the muzzle end to check for a clean barrel.

This 'instructor' must do the cleaning with the bolt still in the rifle and I wouldn't want to go hunting with him. I'm on the government register for pest control so if he reads my comments he probably won't be pleased.

Garry Gibbons, via email

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## Membership fee rise

FROM SEPTEMBER 1 the cost of SSAA membership will increase slightly. Adult membership rises to \$93 (from \$90), family per person \$70 (\$68), pensioner \$70 (\$68), five-year adult \$465 (\$450), life member \$1860 (\$1800), overseas \$175 (\$173) and junior \$27 (\$25).

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## Yes...we are deadly serious!

In late April an article was published in *The New York Times Magazine* discussing the Australian Government's plan to cull feral cats. The article - *Australia is deadly serious about killing millions of cats* - was written by Jessica Camille Aguirre who I had the pleasure of meeting when she travelled here to research the story.

During that time I was able to share the SSAA's thoughts on the feral cat problem and management and provided her the opportunity to go out with one of our Conservation and Wildlife Management (CWM) branch teams on a feral cat cull in Queensland.

She visited many locations across Australia and began her article by discussing a baiting program in Western Australia where 1080-laced kangaroo meat and chicken fat sausages were dropped from a plane at a density of 50 per square kilometre to target feral cats across a wide area.

After this introduction into one of the ways Australia deals with feral cats, she outlined the list of 'meal-sized' native animals and birds impacted by them across the country. She even met the Environment Minister of the time who told her "feral cats are a real menace and a very significant threat to the health of our ecosystem".

Jessica discussed how Australia, unlike the US, is dealing pragmatically with the dilemma of having millions of feral cats killing even more millions of native species

every night. US organisations such as Alley Cat Allies have a no-kill policy and these groups wield broad influence across the country's feral cat management policies, in particular pushing Trap Neuter Release (TNR) as the only way to deal with the pests.

Luckily, we in Australia (the majority at least) focus this debate on the impact to wildlife and not emotion and it now makes sense that most negative feedback to our current feral cat control strategy came from overseas and misguided cat lovers.

It was pointed out that in Australia, the attachment to cats instead of dwindling populations of unfamiliar native species is a key reason why there's some unhappiness within the community regarding the idea of culling, the simple fact being cats trigger human emotions whereas most people don't know what a bandicoot is, let alone have any attachment to one.

Yet one thing's for certain, we're not going to stop our feral cat management plans now. Scientists all over Australia are constantly undertaking research to increase our knowledge base on feral cats, in particular their predation behaviour and movements. In short, their known impacts are now far too serious to ignore.

The NYT article rightly highlighted the majority of feral cats (83 per cent) culled during the first year of the feral cat strategy being in place were taken by farmers and

recreational shooters and Jessica's article ended with an example of this when she focused on her time spent with SSAA CWM volunteers carrying out a cull.

After spending weeks travelling the country, hearing about feral cats but only coming close to frozen specimens, the CWM activity allowed her to witness first-hand how the problem was mainly being dealt with, CWM's environmental volunteers using spotlights and thermal monocular devices to locate individual animals and firearms to deliver a quick, humane kill. Feral cats were sighted and shot when safe to do so and with at least six cats culled, not including the five kittens one was carrying, the night's hunt proved very successful.

When the article was published on *The New York Times Magazine* website it attracted around 1500 comments. Of course, any negative comments on Australia's decision to cull feral cats generally demanded we undertake a TNR program to deal with the problem. Here in Australia we know TNR is not an option and we'll continue to politely decline their advice and do what needs to be done.

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## The increasingly popular 6.5mm cartridge

The 6.5mm cartridge has been around for more than a century, indeed seven 6.5mm cartridges were adopted between 1890 and 1900 for military use around the world, the first being the 6.5x55mm Swedish rimless adopted for use in 1893 by the Swedish Government for the Mauser rifle and by the Norwegian Government for the Krag-Jorgensen.

Elsewhere in Europe the first of the 6.5mms to become popular for sporting use was the 6.5x53mmR (rimmed) cartridge, which became the standard service rifle cartridge in Romania from 1893 and the Dutch service rifle cartridge from 1895. The British, following their convention of naming cartridges by the diameter of the smaller land, called it the '.256' and many of the big-name British firearms manufacturers produced rifles for the cartridge to be used on overseas safaris.

But it wasn't until 1958 when Winchester in the US released its Westerner rifle in .264 Winchester Magnum that another 6.5mm cartridge arrived on the scene. The cartridge had impressive ballistics, driving a 140gr projectile at about 3200fps from a 26" barrel, and it soon became the most popular long-range deer hunting cartridge. Initial sales were excellent until in 1962 Remington introduced

the 7mm Remington Magnum and sales of the .264 Winchester plummeted as it was realised it needed the longer 26" barrel to obtain the advertised velocities and the fact that, owing to the large volume of powder being used, barrel life was short.

The interest in 6.5mm cartridges had been renewed and in 1966 Remington unveiled the 6.5mm Remington Magnum. Based on a shortened 7mm Remington Magnum case it was necked down to 6.5mm, fitted short bolt-action rifles and had performance very close to the ever-popular .270 Winchester cartridge.

Norma entered the race in 1999 with its 6.5-284 Norma cartridge. Based on the .284 Winchester produced in 1963, it proved extremely accurate in benchrest and long-range competitions, Rich DeSimone actually using an improved version of the cartridge to set a world record 1.564" group at 1000 yards.

With the aim of developing a superior cartridge for use in the AR-15 rifle, Arne Brennan, Bill Alexander and Janne Pohjoispaa from the US invented the 6.5mm Grendel cartridge. Based on the .220 Russian case which uses a small rifle primer, it uses high ballistic coefficient projectiles and has high powder volume which enables it to deliver more energy at 1000m than either the 5.56x45mm NATO

or 7.62x51mm NATO cartridges, and has superior armour penetration at that distance than the heavier 147gr 7.62x51mm NATO.

In 2005 cartridge maker Nammo Lapua and Swiss rifle manufacturer Grunig & Elmiger combined to devise a cartridge for competition shooting at ranges from 300m to 1000m. It's called the 6.5x47 Lapua and uses a small rifle primer, has a base diameter and length similar to the 7.62x51mm NATO case and, true to its designers, has proved very accurate for the purpose it was designed.

Currently the most fashionable 6.5mm cartridge is the 6.5 Creedmoor. Developed by the partnership of Dave Emery of Hornady and Dennis DeMille of Creedmoor Sports in 2007, and going into production in 2008, it's by far the most popular and talked-about cartridge of recent years. It can be used in short-action rifles, has low recoil, is extremely accurate at short range and, when coupled with high ballistic coefficient projectiles, is deadly efficient on targets or game at long range.



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## But it's an Aussie icon!

A Tasmanian coroner has given the thumbs down to the iconic Akubra hat. Less than 2km from the end of a six-day walk, a lone bushwalker succumbed to hypothermia in July 2016 on Tasmania's psychologically and physically challenging Overland Track. The coroner determined that while the hiker was physically fit, he had inadequate equipment to withstand the freezing and snowy conditions. He had no gloves, beanie or waterproof jacket.

Now what I found most interesting in the report of this tragedy was that: "Medical evidence provided to the inquest suggested the Akubra hat would not have stopped the warmth escaping from his body."

It has long been a contentious issue whether the head loses more heat relative to that lost by other parts of the body. Doubtless, where major blood vessels pass close to the skin's surface, the cooling effects of the atmosphere could have greater access to the bloodstream and cool it down to some degree.

Whether this is the case for the head I don't know, but for myself, in very cold weather I tolerate the Akubra but also wrap a long woollen scarf around my neck, tucking its ends inside the collar of my shirt. This replaces the cotton scrim scarf I use during hot weather, the one regularly



dipped in creeks and placed around my neck to provide a cooling effect.

Of course this is nowhere near a definitive test for the hat which provides good shade and the neck cannot be considered part of the head. Our lone bushwalker broke two golden rules - one: never go it alone; two: be properly prepared. And preparation can be a challenge when you must carry all you need for a trek over a week or 10 days.

You might expect some pretty cold weather in the Tasmanian Highlands in July, but on one occasion a party I was with were snowed on in January and I've read many more instances of out-of-season snowfalls not only in Tasmania. Perhaps with the changing weather patterns we

seem to be experiencing we need to be more aware of the possibility of being caught without adequate supplies of water, warmth, shelter and food.

In my case I was very glad I was attracted to a double-knitted woollen beanie I bought in an outdoor shop on the way to the Overland Track, and can report that several others in the party lashed out and bought one as well - hats were fastened under pack straps. It was cold and firearms had to be left out in the cold at night so condensation did not become a problem, but we all survived and remained in high spirits.

Even before this latest tragedy my view has been that on any hunt which includes an overnight camp you need to carry enough clothing and shelter to ensure adequate warmth. If you have the opportunity I suggest you look at the list of eight mandatory items on the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service website ([parks.tas.gov.au](http://parks.tas.gov.au)) that now must be carried on the Overland Track. There are other useful lists posted there too.



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# Clay Target Q&A

WITH RUSSELL MARK

**Q** I hear lots of talk about how clay targets are either 'soft' or 'hard'. Is this due to clubs using environmentally friendly targets and is there a strategy to adopt when you know you're shooting at a target that's hard to break. I don't shoot a lot but shoot all disciplines of clay targets from time to time so am curious if it's the same everywhere.

**Kelvin Shelton, NSW**

**A** This certainly isn't a new topic Kelvin as the composition of clay targets has been the subject of many heated debates at shooting ranges for as long as targets have been around. The traditional clay target has basically been made of a mixture of lime and pitch - more lime in the mixture means tougher targets - but these days there has been a swing towards environmentally friendly targets made from a variety of non-toxic substances.

The breakability of some of the earlier forms of 'eco-targets' was certainly questionable in my opinion but the quality has now come a long way. The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) now requires all world competitions to be conducted on environmental targets and scores so far this year have been arguably higher than ever.

Perhaps the discipline where the hardness of the target is under the microscope

more than anywhere else is in the domestic discipline of Trap, commonly called Down the Line (DTL) in Australia. There has been a culture growth in this area where nothing other than a black ball of soot in the sky is considered acceptable by those competing in it. The black ball of soot can only be caused by a certain type of pitch which sadly is not considered environmentally friendly, so to take the sport forward in future I feel this culture will have to disappear.

There are alternatives and I guess the argument is so long as everyone is shooting at the same targets then what does it matter? No argument from me there, but in answer to your specific question which basically asks "are all targets the same?" No, definitely not.

The most popular target in DTL is a high dome (taller) target with a high degree of breakability. DTL targets are only thrown to a maximum of 50m so can be designed to be 'softer' as they don't have to survive the torture of an ISSF target machine which propels the clay up to 60-70m, or Sporting Target that sometimes has to be thrown up to 100m. This of course requires a tougher target.

So what's best to break a tougher target? The first thing most shooters will say is more choke. That would be useful as more hits on the surface area of the target will help break the clay, but just because the target becomes harder to break doesn't

actually mean you suddenly become a better and more accurate shooter that a tighter choke requires you to be.


In my experience to break 'harder' targets all you need is larger shot and many ranges and some disciplines let you shoot a number '6' shot. Some disciplines actually state the maximum size of shot permissible in millimetres while other discipline rules state nothing more than a shot size. Be warned that, amazingly, US, European, British and Australian shot sizes differ but in essence I would find the largest permissible shot and use it.

The trade-off of course is less pellets in the shot pattern with the larger size shot. You can't have the same pattern density with larger shot but in my opinion it won't make much difference - larger shot will often pattern marginally tighter than smaller shot so this counteracts the tighter choke argument somewhat.

As I always say: "Nothing can replace accuracy". So try not to think about it too much. I know that's easier said than done, especially if you're surrounded by people in the car park blaming poor shooting on the composition of the clay target ahead of their accuracy.



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# Got a question - ask our TOP SHOTS ?

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

email: [edit@ssaa.org.au](mailto:edit@ssaa.org.au)

**Q** I own a Winchester Cooley .22 rifle. As the Canadians stopped making these in 1936, to the best of my information, I wonder if you could give me some idea as to what the market value of the rifle might be. It's in mint condition so I don't want to have it destroyed. It was bought in the early 1940s and has had very little use.

**C.B. James, via email**

**A** I'm not sure who told you Cooley stopped making rifles in 1936, as this appears to be wrong. Herbert William Cooley (1880-1962) opened his toolmaking shop in Toronto in 1903 but only really got into firearm parts during World War I, immediately after which he produced the 'Canuck' bolt-action single shot .22 which became extremely popular.

His factory moved to Cobourg in 1929 and it was here in 1939 he designed and built his models 60 and 600, which were very similar to your rifle, being bolt-action tube magazine repeaters. Herbert's son Hubert took over the factory from his dad but died in 1957, after which Herbert returned from retirement and ran the firm until it was sold to Olin in 1961. They produced the extremely popular single barrel 12-gauge models 84/840 as well.

In 1963 Olin put Cooley firearms under Winchester Western control and produced the model 64 self-loader which is apparently still in production, branded as Lakefield or Savage. The Cobourg plant closed in 1979 with operations moved to Lakefield, Ontario where it continues today. More than 12 million firearms were apparently produced by Cooley.

The value of your rifle here in Australia is difficult to estimate due to the large numbers of secondhand rifles available. If you could find a dedicated Cooley collector you'd probably achieve a higher price, but typically rifles like yours sell for \$150-\$200.

**Geoff Smith**

**Q** My daughter, a keen target shooter and successful rimfire rifle competitor throughout her teens, has recently become interested in hunting and has joined me on deer hunting trips. Last year she shot a fallow deer using my old Model 70 Winchester .243, a calibre she found comfortable to shoot with at the range.

This year she'd like to go after sambar but finds the recoil of my .308 Winchester a bit on the heavy side when fired from the bench using 150gr and 165gr handloads. I'd like to buy her a deer rifle and had in mind a 7mm-08, which appears to have lower foot-pounds recoil energy compared with a .308. But a 'gun enthusiast' associate of mine is adamant the felt recoil of a 7mm-08 is greater than that of a .308, so now I'm unsure.

Given variations in rifle weight, barrel length, stock design etc between different makes and models, which calibre would be a better choice for my light-framed but eager new hunting buddy? Any suggestions regarding other calibres apart from those mentioned would be much appreciated.

**Adrian Hancock, Vic**

**A** As you've noted there's a whole raft of factors which contribute to the felt recoil of any given calibre. In the fourth edition of *Ammo & Ballistics* (Safari Press, 2010) author Bob Forker writes about relative recoil factors (RRF) rather than felt recoil. The numbers he uses are based on the muzzle momentum of the projectile and expelled gases for a typical load as determined by SAAMI (Small Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute) standards. The RRF for the 7mm-08 and the .308 are 1.8 and 1.95 respectively so the .308 does come back a little bit harder.

As someone who routinely accuracy tests review rifles I can tell you the recoil of any

rifle fired off a bench always feels heavier than it does in the field. For that reason I'd suggest your daughter tries shooting the .308 using field positions - offhand, from a sitting rest, from a standing rest or even prone off a bipod or backpack rest. I'm sure she'll find it much more comfortable.

Both the calibres you mention are capable of taking sambar deer with proper shot placement using good quality hunting bullets. I have No.1 Ruger rifles in 7x57 (very similar to the 7mm-08 but much older) and .308 and have taken sambar with both using handloaded, Australian-made Outer Edge copper projectiles and both worked extremely well.

If the choice was mine I'd go with the .308, simply because in my experience it does a better job across a broad range of game. Hope this helps.

**John Dunn**

**Q** I'm interested in buying a Ruger rifle and wondered what the main differences are between the Ruger M77, the M77 Mk.2 and Ruger Hawkeye? Any information appreciated.

**Rob Johnson, via email**

**A** The first model Ruger M77 rifle was introduced without a scope mounting system but was later changed to have an integral mount system milled into the top of the receiver. This mounting system has since been carried forward on all three Ruger models.

Originally the trigger on the M77 was adjustable but changed to a single stage non-adjustable on the Mk.2 version then changed again in 2006 to a trigger known as the LC6 for the Hawkeye rifle which was lighter and smoother.

The M77 had a two-position sliding button safety located on the tang which was changed to a bolt-mounted, three-position model when the Mk.2 was introduced in 1991. The extracting system was also changed on the Mk.2 with the bolt face opened to allow controlled-round feeding and the wooden stock was re-contoured on the Hawkeye to give it a sleeker appearance.

**Barry Wilmot**



**Q** Last year I bought my new rifle, a 22/250 Howa Rem, and did the first sight-in with Remington ammunition which went well. It needed further tuning so next time I used Federal ammo which was all over the place - I couldn't hit a 1" circle at 50m no matter how hard I tried. The rifle hates Federal ammo and I wonder how two such well-known brands can be so different. I've since resighted with Remington ammo with great success. Any thoughts?

**Garry Gibbons, via email**

**A** This is a very relevant question which firearms writers are often asked. It comes back to that funny old situation where a rifle can 'like' one factory ammo much more than another and you proved this perfectly in your experiment with Remington and Federal. Each company makes excellent ammunition both in their economy and premium lines and can be depended on for consistency if your rifle shoots well with them.

The 22/250 is an inherently accurate cartridge in my experience but is towards the top end of the .22 cal centrefire performance, which means any irregularities with different projectiles will be exaggerated with the sort of speed and performance this cartridge offers.

Reloaders find the same thing when they change brands of projectiles or even powder and primer combinations. A couple of my rifles love hollow-point projectiles and dislike ballistic tip types. My other two centrefires are exactly the opposite and love the ballistic tips and shoot tiny 100yd groups with them - frustrating or what?

So the answer is variability of ammunition and components within what a rifle chamber will accept. The length of projectile and how far it has to jump when fired to meet the lands of the rifling in the barrel is one example, tip configuration we've touched on. Powder speed and primer intensity can also make a difference.

The twist rate of your barrel also may suit a particular projectile better than another and this normally relates to the length of a particular projectile rather than how deeply it's seated in the cartridge - the faster the twist of the rifling the longer projectile it will stabilise. Your Howa 22/250 probably has about a 1:13 twist so won't

shoot 22 cal projectiles heavier than about 60gr assuming such heavier projectiles are available in factory 22/250 ammunition.

Your Howa is a well-made and accurate rifle so stick with the ammo that suits it best and enjoy your shooting. You may even want to take up reloading and will need to do a bit of experimenting to find out just how accurate your rifle and ammo can be. You might have grey hair achieving this but it adds to enjoyment and education. Good luck and tight groups.

**Paul Miller**

**Q** I have questions concerning reloading for my .357 Sig. I use AP50N in both 9mm and .38 Special loads using 125gr conical projectiles and both loads are working well after experimenting with seating depths and powder loads.

Two questions on loading for the .357 Sig -  
1: I'm unable to find load data using either AP50N or APS450. I'm still awaiting a reply from ADI on that but any suggestions for load data using the above powders would be appreciated.

2: All my projectiles appear to be .001" to .002" over-sized. The ADI load table refers to .355" yet my 9mm projectiles measure .356" and the .38s are .357". Will these over-sized projectiles fit down a .357" Sig barrel?

**Simon Errock, via email**

**A** I've had no experience loading the .357 Sig cartridge but talking to people who have it appears AP70N is the go-to powder in conjunction with bullets weighing around the 160gr mark. This is because most shooters choose this particular cartridge to achieve a power factor of 170,000 (velocity multiplied by bullet weight) for the IPSC match.

There is reloading data available for this combination of bullet weight and powder for the Sig. I'm reluctant to recommend a load when I haven't loaded it myself but you can try working up gradually from a starting load of 3.5 grains of either AP50N or APS450 with a 125gr cast lead bullet, watching pressures as you go. You may find this starting load too light to fully cycle the pistol.

On your second question, cast lead projectiles of .357" will normally function in a .355" to .356" barrel. Again, keep an eye on pressure signs when working up your loads.

**Rod Pascoe**

## **Handloading Guide available to all**



**B**ack in our April magazine, SSAA member Peter Carter offered his copy of a vintage *Australian Outdoors Handloading Guide* to the 'first in'. That was Jim Allison of New South Wales but, in the wake of printing Peter's letter, we were snowed under with requests for the magazine.

To that end Alex Sentana, who was also keen to have the guide, offered to scan it and make it available to all SSAA members via our website. Alex has painstakingly scanned all 90-plus pages of the *Handloading Guide* and the whole magazine is now available to view at [ssaa.org.au](http://ssaa.org.au)

We thank Peter for his initial offer of this fascinating document, Jim for making it available to us and Alex for his sterling efforts in scanning it in its entirety.

To view the document, log on to [ssaa.org.au](http://ssaa.org.au) and visit News Resources > Firearms in Focus > Australian Outdoors Handloading Guide ●





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# Shock finding!

## Firearms offenders are criminals

John Maxwell

When it comes to those sentenced for firearms offences, the typical offender is a 34-year-old male with a criminal history and a problem with drug abuse, mostly methylamphetamine, a study has found. A total of 81 per cent of firearms offenders sentenced in Victoria's higher courts - county court and supreme court - had substance abuse issues involving alcohol, other drugs or both.

Sixty-five per cent of offenders were identified as methylamphetamine users while 34 per cent were on bail or community correction orders for other offences. The study by the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council found a substantial increase in the number of firearms charges dealt with by Victorian courts during the five years examined - from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017.

This clearly indicates those charged with firearms offences in Victoria's courts overwhelmingly aren't licensed shooters with legally owned firearms. A substantial proportion of those charged with firearms offences were what's termed 'prohibited persons' who are barred from possession of firearms by reason of earlier convictions or a court order.

The study said these people posed a particular risk to the community with 84 per cent of those sentenced in the higher courts, which deal with the most serious charges, found to be in possession of firearms for other criminal activity. They were

also far more likely to end up in jail, with 91 per cent sentenced to often lengthy periods of imprisonment.

"The findings suggest many firearms offenders sentenced in the higher courts are entrenched within the criminal justice system. They pose complex challenges for sentencing courts," the study authors said. "In sentencing firearms possession offences, the inherent risk to the community of the unlawful possession of a firearm needs to be carefully considered. This is particularly so in light of the high proportion of firearms offenders who have conditions, such as methylamphetamine addiction, which may increase risk to the community."

The study covered the cases of 490 individuals who appeared in the higher courts on firearms charges during the five-year period. There were 474 men and 16 women, with the oldest 75.

Many of those faced multiple charges with drug possession (38 per cent) the most common while 24 per cent were charged with drug dealing. Eighteen per cent were also up for armed robbery.

The vast majority of firearms charges in Victoria were dealt with in the magistrates' courts - 7052 cases involving 13,702 charges. The most common charge was possession of ammunition by an unlicensed person (3770 charges), followed by possession, carriage or use of a firearm by a prohibited person (1724) and insecure storage of a firearm by an unlicensed

person (1040). A fine was the most common penalty in the magistrates' courts, but during the study period magistrates were passing more jail sentences.

For those five years the total number of firearms charges dealt with by Victorian courts rose 34 per cent from 2375 in 2012-13 to 3191 in 2016-17. During the study period offenders were sentenced on a total of 14,828 firearms offences.

The study authors concluded that overall, firearms offences tended to be associated with a high level of criminal activity with offenders usually facing other charges. "In a large proportion of cases sentenced in the higher courts, the co-sentenced offences suggested a level of involvement in organised criminal activity such as trafficking in commercial quantities of drugs of dependence," they said.

SSAA chief executive Tim Bannister said this report clearly showed it was not licensed law-abiding firearms owners who were the perpetrators of firearms crime. "As this report has identified, too often there is a domino effect of misbehaviour and criminal behaviour that can ultimately lead to misuse of a firearm," he said.

"Drugs, theft, criminal activity and domestic violence often play their part and should put these individuals firmly in the sights of law enforcement authorities. But too often law-abiding firearms owners are targeted by authorities and bureaucrats simply because they're an easy target." ●

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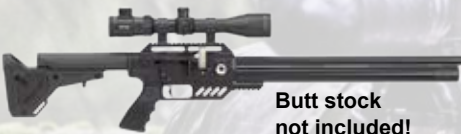
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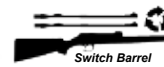
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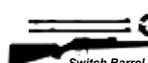
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# Franchi's Horizon 150th Anniversary rifle

Con Kapralos

**T**he release of the Horizon rifle by Italian gunmaker Franchi was a huge departure from the norm of manufacturing primarily shotguns. Their first sporting bolt-action rifle has been well received and the Horizon, marketed in the US as the Momentum, continues to sell in good numbers.

With Franchi's 150-year anniversary, the release of a limited-edition run of the Horizon was only natural, something I was alerted to when discussing the first review of the standard Horizon with Beretta Australia, and when the Anniversary model

arrived in Australia this year, the SSAA received one of the first to clear Customs. While the standard polymer stocked Horizon impressed me (*Australian Hunter*, Edition 65), the 150th Anniversary model could be expected to be even better.

## Up close

The review rifle arrived in a striking orange injection-moulded plastic hard case with 'Franchi' in white. The rifle is of a turn-bolt repeater configuration and available in .30-06 Springfield or .308 Winchester - the one supplied. At a glance it boasted a handsome walnut stock, fluted bolt and special '150th Anniversary' laser-etched enamel decal on the receiver and came with a user manual, warranty card, factory test target and sling swivels.

## The receiver

This measures 215mm x 35mm and its cylindrical appearance lacks any harsh angles or 'slab-sided' profiles, the left side of the receiver inscribed with 'Made in Italy'. On the right-hand side, a well-proportioned ejection port runs at 77mm x 35mm and allows easy loading of cartridges into the internal magazine from the port by hand and, when required, enables the bolt to serve its purpose ejecting fired or

unfired cases from the action. The top of the receiver is drilled and tapped to accept the Remington 700-style scope bases which makes scope mounting easy.

To the rear left flank of the receiver is the 38mm x 5mm bolt-release button, large by normal standards but serves its purpose. On the rear right of the receiver ring just forward of the bolt handle is a laser-etched enamel decal bearing the dates 1868-2018 and a mini replica of the Italian flag. The receiver, along with the barrel, is finished in matte blue and complements the overall look.

## The bolt

The one-piece steel bolt measuring 78mm x 25mm and weighing 395g encompasses a three-lug bolt head. One thing quite noticeable is the fluting applied to the bolt body, which is also hard-chrome plated. In this case it's probably more cosmetic but it would save a few grams and adds to the aesthetics.

Case manipulation is via a spring-loaded plunger which protrudes through the bolt face and a claw extractor on the rim of the bolt head which works in tandem with the plunger to ensure fired or unfired cases are cleared from the action.

The bolt body has a long slot milled into it which mates with a corresponding guide



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## Franchi's Horizon 150th Anniversary rifle

in the receiver wall to ensure unflustered bolt travel. The rear of the bolt has a distinctive blued steel shroud which, with its triangular shape, is rather pronounced but blends in well with the lines of the rifle. It has a cocking indicator in its centre.

The bolt handle is one of the best I've seen and obviously borrowed from tactical-style rifles. It comes to hand efficiently and offers the user great manual dexterity when working the bolt.

### The safety and trigger

Rearward of the bolt handle notch is the two-position safety, operated through a small lever with a knurled surface - 'forward' enabling the rifle to fire, 'back' engaging the safety by blocking the trigger - though the bolt can still be cycled with the safety 'on' to allow any chambered rounds to be removed. It's a standard arrangement found on many sporting rifles, simple, uncomplicated but effective and trouble-free. The trigger is fully adjustable and set from the factory at 0.9kg, with the trigger group having a metal trigger blade.

### The magazine

The triggerguard and magazine box consists



The business side of the action.

of a single-piece unit made from polymer to which a steel floorplate is fitted to contain the four rounds the internal magazine holds. A spring-loaded button inside the triggerguard releases the floorplate in the event the magazine needs to be cleared of any loaded rounds. What's also good to see is a polished steel magazine follower rather than plastic, which seems to be on most rifles in this price range.

### The barrel

This is of a sporter profile, 22" long (560mm) made from chrome moly steel, cold hammer forged and matte blued to match the receiver. It tapers from 30mm at the knox form to 15mm at the muzzle and is threaded in the traditional manner to the receiver. At the muzzle, a threaded segment allows attachment of accessories such as muzzle brakes and, when not required, a knurled cap protects the thread.

Internally, the review rifle being chambered in .308 Winchester has a 1:11" rate of twist and is well finished with only the odd tooling mark evident and that twist rate should handle all bullet weights from 130 to 180gr without an issue. As a user of factory ammunition, it would just take a few range sessions to ascertain what load shoots well and handloading would bring the best out of the rifle. All metal surfaces with the exception of the bolt body are finished in a matte blue as is the polymer triggerguard.

### The stock

This is deserving of a commemorative rifle, furnished from walnut but Benelli (owners of Franchi) use their expertise and 'wrap' the surface with an ink finish to simulate AAA-grade walnut. Such stock blanks with AAA level and higher command premium prices and are normally reserved for top-grade or custom firearms. In this instance it gives the rifle some class without the inflated price tag - and no one will ever know. The lines are based around a classic American profile with straight-combed stock and no cheekpiece.

The pistol grip offers a palmswell to ensure better control when shooting from bench or offhand and has a nice touch with 'F' for Franchi inscribed into the base. The stock has three distinct panels of chequering on either side, one around the

The polymer triggerguard/magazine box is mated with a metal floorplate.



Franchi Horizon 150th Anniversary rifle in component form.



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# Franchi's Horizon 150th Anniversary rifle

pistol grip, one either side of the magazine well and one along the fore-end. It also has steel QD-sling swivels, one near the toe and one under the fore-end front.

To the rear of the stock Franchi has used its Twin Shock Absorber (TSA) recoil pad system, its specially designed profile helping direct recoil away from the shooter's face. It was fitted to the buttstock and complemented the stock nicely.

With the rifle disassembled the bedding arrangement was evident. Franchi has opted for an arrangement where a slot is machined into each flank of the receiver either side of the front action screw, these slots corresponding with two steel bedding blocks inletted into the side. Additionally, the rear of the action beds directly upon a polymer cradle which has been neatly inletted into the stock, ensuring the barrelled action doesn't contact the stock at any point, resulting in a superior bedding platform and free-floated barrel along its entire length.

### At the range

The rifle was supplied with a lovely Steiner Ranger 2.5-10x50 scope. There was a thorough clean prior to testing five different loads, both target and hunting ammunition at the normal 100m. Between changes of ammunition the barrel was again cleaned.

Some tidy groups were shot with the match (target) ammunition in the Sellier & Bellot and Federal Premium loads, but



being a hunting rifle it shot respectable averages with the three brands of Sako ammunition supplied. For shooting out to 300m I'd be happy to use any of the three Sako hunting loads tested. All loads chambered and extracted without fault and the rifle performed beautifully.

### Conclusion

With an RRP of \$1200 the Horizon 150th Anniversary rifle makes for a great buy and being a limited edition could prove a solid

'F' for Franchi laser-cut into the base of the pistol grip.



investment for not a lot of money. Backed by Franchi's seven-year warranty on mechanical parts, the Anniversary rifle is a little bit of luxury within easy reach of most Australia hunters - and it shoots superbly. More at [berettaaustralia.com.au](http://berettaaustralia.com.au) ●



The stock is base-grade walnut 'wrapped' with an ink pattern.

### Range testing of factory ammunition - groups in mm at 100m - .308 Win

Factory load	Best	Worst	Average*
Sako Powerhead 165gr Barnes TSX	24	42	30
Federal Prem Gold Medal Berger 185gr OTM	13	34	24
Sako Super Hammerhead 150gr SP	28	37	32
Sako Hammerhead 180gr SP	25	41	33
Sellier & Bellot Match 168gr HPBT	18	36	25

\*Average calculated from five 3-shot groups

### SPECIFICATIONS

- Manufacturer:** Benelli Armi S.p.A  
Divisione Franchi, Italy
- Model:** Horizon 150th Anniversary
- Distributor:** Beretta Australia
- Action:** Turn-bolt repeater
- Barrel:** Chrome molybdenum cold hammer forged 22" (560mm), 1:11" rate of twist
- Calibres:** .308 Win (tested), .30-06 Springfield
- Magazine:** Internal box with floorplate, holds four rounds (all calibres)
- Overall length:** Standard calibres 1075mm
- Weight:** 2.95kg (bare, as tested)
- Metal finish:** Matte blue
- Stock:** Walnut
- Safety:** Two-position
- Warranty:** Seven years on mechanical parts
- RRP:** \$1200 (bare rifle)





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# Hi-Tek bullet coating of cast projectiles

Geoff Smith

**T**his article is about a largely unsung inventor whose product in the field of cast bullets is a world beater.

Many commercial bullet suppliers world-wide now make use of the Hi-Tek Lube Supercoat treatment developed in Australia by J & M Specialized Products, and the good news for those who cast their own bullets is we can now also make use of this product.

Like many other handgun shooters, I've been casting bullets for years and lube sizing or tumble-lubing them with enough success to be still doing it. I was alerted to the existence of the Hi-Tek product by

fellow shooter Angelo Mena. While happy with my existing bullets I'm always interested in new developments and Angelo's looked very professional. He gifted me a sample to play with and I've since bought a 500g container and have been coating bullets and conducting various tests with impressive results.

The coating powder is available in 12 colours and several pack sizes but for small-volume hobbyists like me, 500g will coat a substantial number of projectiles. If you consider say a 124gr projectile, you could theoretically give two coats to 77,000 bullets with 500g of powder. The colour Angelo provided was Red Copper and as it worked well for me, this is what I bought. Many local cast bullet manufacturers use this product and the home caster is unlikely to impact their sales owing to the small volumes involved.

J & M Specialized Products is operated by Joe Ban, an industrial chemist who says he's not a shooter but someone who specialises in making 'extreme lubricants'. Where massive temperatures or pressures or both are required, he can generally design and supply an appropriate lubricant. Since there are few everyday areas where temperatures and pressures are higher than within firearm chambers, it was probably inevitable he'd apply his skills to this too.

He developed this product in 1992 for the Hawkesbury River people, and after a year or so was supplying other local manufacturers. It took some years but eventually, in a process Joe describes as his 'long road to overnight success', he was able to break into the US market, both to manufacturers and hobbyists, and now sells to more than

35 countries. He describes it as a heat cured high temperature polymer designed to bond to lead alloys, which coats, seals and lubricates the bullet for improved safety from lead exposure while reducing lead build-up in gun barrels. The coating significantly reduces atomisation of lead during firing and improves safety through reduced lead exposure when handling bullets. It doesn't contain any molybdenum, or PTFE (ie, Teflon).

The process of applying Hi-Tek is simple although it poses some obvious hazards that need addressed. You need safety equipment including glasses, strong leather gloves (I use welding gloves), a well-ventilated working area and heatproof surface to take hot materials. Apart from the Hi-Tek Lube Supercoat powder, the required solvent - acetone - is available in hardware stores. Keeping everything clean and ensuring accuracy with measurements is vital and the environment where the bullets will be coated must be well ventilated as fumes are both potent and highly flammable.



Equipment and materials used for coating.



20g of powder ready to be mixed with acetone.



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## Hi-Tek bullet coating of cast projectiles

You'll need some basic measuring equipment including scales for weighing the Hi-Tek powder (typically 20g at a time - powder scales will do using the conversion of 15.4gr per gram) and a means to accurately measure fluid volumes typically in the range of 100 millilitres of acetone. This will mix to about 110ml of solution and will coat, depending on bullet weights, between 1500-3000 bullets.

I make and store coating fluid in a 200ml bottle and use a 10ml syringe to accurately dispense a few mls at a time. I put 20g of powder in the bottle and add 100ml of solvent along with a clean lead bullet to help agitate the mixture. In very hot weather, to slow evaporation, up to 20 per cent of the acetone can be substituted with methylated spirits. Once a small batch is mixed it will keep and should be stored in a cool area and kept tightly stoppered, away from sunlight.

Having cast some reasonably hard alloy lead projectiles and let them cool, they're placed in a plastic container, about 1 millilitre of coating per pound of bullets is squirted on them, then they're shaken vigorously to coat them until the solvent evaporates. Crucially, each coating must be extremely thin then they're placed on a wire mesh tray and, when completely dry, baked in an oven for 10 minutes at 200C (a small toaster oven works well). For the size of my trays and oven, each batch of 2-3lb of bullets are done at a time. Once cooled

they'll look terrible after the first coat but a repeat of the above has them looking much better and a third coat may or may not be needed.

Immediately after each coating has cooled, two tests are recommended. First, take a treated projectile and rub it vigorously on a paper towel or cloth with acetone on it to ensure the coating has cured. If any coating comes off, it hasn't cured properly and will need to be redone (if the coating looks very dark it's likely the temperature was too high). Next is the 'smash' test where the coated bullet is placed on a hard surface and whacked with a hammer - if



the coating cracks or peels it hasn't bonded properly.

Once the final coating has cooled, bullets can be sized and are ready to load. Although the manufacturer suggests their special lubricant be used when sizing, especially with very hard alloys, I've had no problems with sizing and have treated 9mm, .357 and .44 projectiles, giving each two or three coats. Measuring bullet weights and diameters before and after shows coatings are of minimal weight and diameter increase, the latter being eliminated once sized to the required final diameter. Table 1 gives exact figures based on random samples of 30 projectiles in each calibre tested.

Having made batches of each cartridges, I fired 10 shots with treated projectiles compared against identical loads but with traditionally lubed and sized bullets from the same batches originally cast. The comparison .357 and .44 bullets were lube sized in an RCBS lube sizer with my own blend of bullet lube, while the 9mm bullets were 'tumble lubed' using Lee Liquid Alox and not sized as is normal with these.

Loads were tested over 25m using a





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## Hi-Tek bullet coating of cast projectiles

Labradar chronograph to measure velocity at 5m intervals and targets scored using Jim Ristow's RSI Shooting Lab graphical analysis software. Informal tests were also done by shooting coated bullets in matches for which I had results using the previous lube and size methods.

My first groups were shot with the .357 magnum using nominally 155gr round nosed bullets cast in an RCBS double cavity mould. The alloy consisted of recycled commercial bullets from which rimfire and jacketed slugs had been removed. Initial hardness measured with a Lee testing kit came out at 10.7, dropping to 10.4 after seven days. Surprisingly, after giving one batch of these bullets three coats of Hi-Tek the hardness rose to 12.5, I assume due to heating during the three curing sessions. (Lead alloys are mysterious materials when it comes to hardness - apparently hardness acquired from chilling bullets in cold water after casting gradually disappears).

Thirty projectiles were measured and weighed before application of Hi-Tek and again afterwards. The mean weights rose from 153.6 grains to 153.7 grains and the diameters prior to sizing rose from 0.360" to 0.362". These were then sized back to 0.358" and loaded in readiness for test firing. Bullet lengths before and after coating varied by a few thousandths due to movement in the sprue plate and I should probably have used just one of the two cavities on the mould, although the standard deviations in weights for several batches of 30 projectiles remained below 0.5gr.

Test firings showed some odd things, including that for the same loadings the

Cartridge	Projectile	Muzzle velocity (sd)	25m velocity	Loss	AGR (moa)
.357 Mag, 5.4gr AP70N	Hi-Tek 154 RN	999.6 (27.9)	968.3	30.9	2.20
	Lube Size 154 RN	1041.0 (7.4)	1004.0	37.3	4.06
.357 Mag, 5gr APS450	Hi-Tek 154 RN	1036.0 (18.8)	1002.0	33.1	4.72
	Lube Size 154 RN	1053.0 (12.8)	1016.1	36.7	4.70
.357 Mag, 4.2 gr APS350	Hi-Tek 154 RN	958.3 (9.3)	929.7	28.2	3.09
	Lube Size 154 RN	995.7 (9.9)	957.0	38.3	3.03
.44 Mag, 6.2 gr APS350	Hi-Tek 240 SWC	933.4 (11.7)	897.9	35.1	4.25
	JHP Win 240	845.9 (14.2)	825.1	20.4	4.11
	Lube Size 240 SWC	950.8 (10.5)	907.8	42.6	5.26
9mm, 5.8gr API00	Hi-Tek 122 RN	1114.0 (27.5)	1057.3	55.9	10.03
	Tumble L 122 RN	1126.0 (25.3)	1064.0	61.9	11.66

coated projectiles came out at slightly lower muzzle velocities than those traditionally lubed, yet over 25m the coated bullets retained better velocity, ie, their ballistic coefficient was slightly higher (see Table 2). Most significantly though, accuracy of the groups ranged from the same to very much better with the Hi-Tek coatings. Satisfyingly, the first matches in which I shot both the .357 and 9mm loads produced personal best scores.

It was also satisfying to find almost no leading occurred in any of the barrels after firing batches of 40-70 coated bullets. I tried to quantify this by weighing the barrel of my 9mm handgun after 60 shots then weighing it again after a vigorous cleaning, but there was no lead visible on the patches and weight difference was negligible.

Some claims have been made for Hi-Tek coated projectiles fired at velocities significantly above those normally employed with cast bullets, but I won't go into that - my loads were all fired at near the speed of

**Table 2: Results of some of the 10-shot rested groups with the three cartridges. Notes: (1) Mean muzzle velocity and standard deviations as well as mean 25m velocities and mean velocity losses as measured using the Labradar chronograph; (2) Average Group Radius is a statistically derived measure of accuracy determined by Shooting Lab software; (3) The lower the standard deviation, the more consistent the velocity from shot-to-shot. (4) The lower the mean velocity loss over 25m, the better the ballistic coefficient; (5) The lower AGR indicates the more accurate group.**

sound and below. One informal test I did involved placing a coated projectile in my ingot mould and heating from below to see what happened. Once the temperature rose to the level the coating started to discolour, a small tear appeared in the coating at which point the lead ran out leaving the coating almost intact but empty. Unquestionably this is a high temperature coating! There are some informative YouTube videos on this subject or email Joe Ban at jandmspecializedproducts@gmail.com ●



With projectiles coated and cooled they can be sized and packed ready for loading.



**Table 1: Weights and diameters before and after coating (mean weights of 30)**

Cartridge	Initial weight (gr)	Coated weight (gr)	Initial diameter	Coated diameter
9x19mm	121.0	121.3	0.358"	0.360"
.357 Magnum	153.6	153.7	0.360"	0.362"
.44 Magnum	241.15	241.63	0.4295"	0.4305"

The 'smash' test shows whether the coating has properly bonded to the lead.



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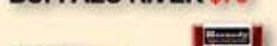
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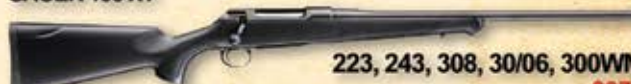
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# A very British Prussian

Mark van den Boogaart

If you're into antique arms and collectables, then you probably possess a little bit of the gambling spirit. Now while you always try to back a winner, sometimes against your better judgment you put your money on a roughie and the thing with roughies is that anything can happen.

For me, my roughie was a heavy cavalry sabre. After spending a few hours checking out a recent antique arms fair, I settled on a very fine flintlock pistol. With my funds all but gone, I started looking for a bargain.

In doing so, I came across two advertised as 1796 Pattern British Cavalry (Trooper) sabres at the right price. While the swords were similar in dimension and initial appearance, one was much heavier than the other and also carried plenty of regimental markings, many of which had been stamped out and replaced by what I assumed were newer markings. The heavier sword really appealed to me, so I bought it on the spot and assumed I had myself a rather interesting piece of English military history.

Taking it home, I started my research and ran into a dead end. For instance, the only reference I could find to the RPC stamped on the sword was the Royal Pioneer Corps - and it certainly wasn't that. The other thing was, the more I looked the more I was convinced it was not a 1796er.

Now this was not the first time an antique turned out to be something a little different than advertised. However, it was obviously a heavy cavalry blade in good condition with a great history, so I reset my approach.

This time around I started with a much broader search for 'cavalry sabres'. After looking at a lot of images of swords, I eventually stumbled across the Prussian Model 1811 Blücher Troopers Sword. As well as a good physical match, I found a highly telling description:

"...very similar and heavily influenced by the British 1796. Often mistaken for a 1796 by collectors. Promoted by General Blücher and enjoyed a long service life in the Prussian Army. Invariably show marks of being moved between regiments with multiple markings, cross marks, etching removal..."

Well, that's me I thought. It seems the Blücher was named after Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, the famous Prussian General who, among other things, helped seal Napoleon's fate at Waterloo in 1815.

With that I looked for information about the various markings. My particular Blücher carried the extremely clear markings of RPC.24.70 and what appeared to be an attempt to strike out another marking of RPC.18, with the last numbers being illegible.

Research indicated the cursive R implied reserve. Not to be confused with reinforcements, reserves were support troops, often provisional forces that were brought collectively during operations. Taken together, RPC stood for Reserve Proviants Colonne, or more simply Reserve Provisions Column. And who were they? Well, the cooks among other things.

While it would have made a fantastic bratwurst buster it was not a cook's sword, rather it belonged to the mounted troops who guarded the provisions train. Armies have always marched on their stomachs, so the troopers were there to protect the tucker. If you gave it a more modern context this sword, and the trooper who



The sabre leather grip with exposed wooden handle underneath.

carried it afield, was 'in the rear with the gear'. The numbers 24.70 likely referred to an individual unit number (24) and the sword number within the unit armoury (70). With the previous RPC.18 stamp being struck out, I'm assuming the sword travelled between similar reserve columns.

While the RPC marking helped me gain an understanding of how it served within the Grand Prussian Army, other markings helped in determining its age. The first was the Royal stamp of Frederick William IV, who reigned from 1840 to 1861, and then there was the number 899. This proved harder to verify, but after some long-distance communication with far more knowledgeable collectors than me, it was identified as a Prussian fiscal (financial) survey mark.

It seems the Prussians, demonstrating their love of efficiency, carried out stocktakes on all the property of the Grand Prussian Army, with a well-recorded event taking place in the 1840s. In considering both the Royal mark and the fiscal stamp, I averaged the date range and so estimated the sword as circa 1850.

The bad news is the cooks of the RPC did not lead the charge at Waterloo, so this is not the sword that helped bring down Napoleon. The good news is that it's a great collectable with a fine providence and history. So, it seems the roughie had some thoroughbred breeding after all. ●



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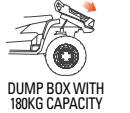
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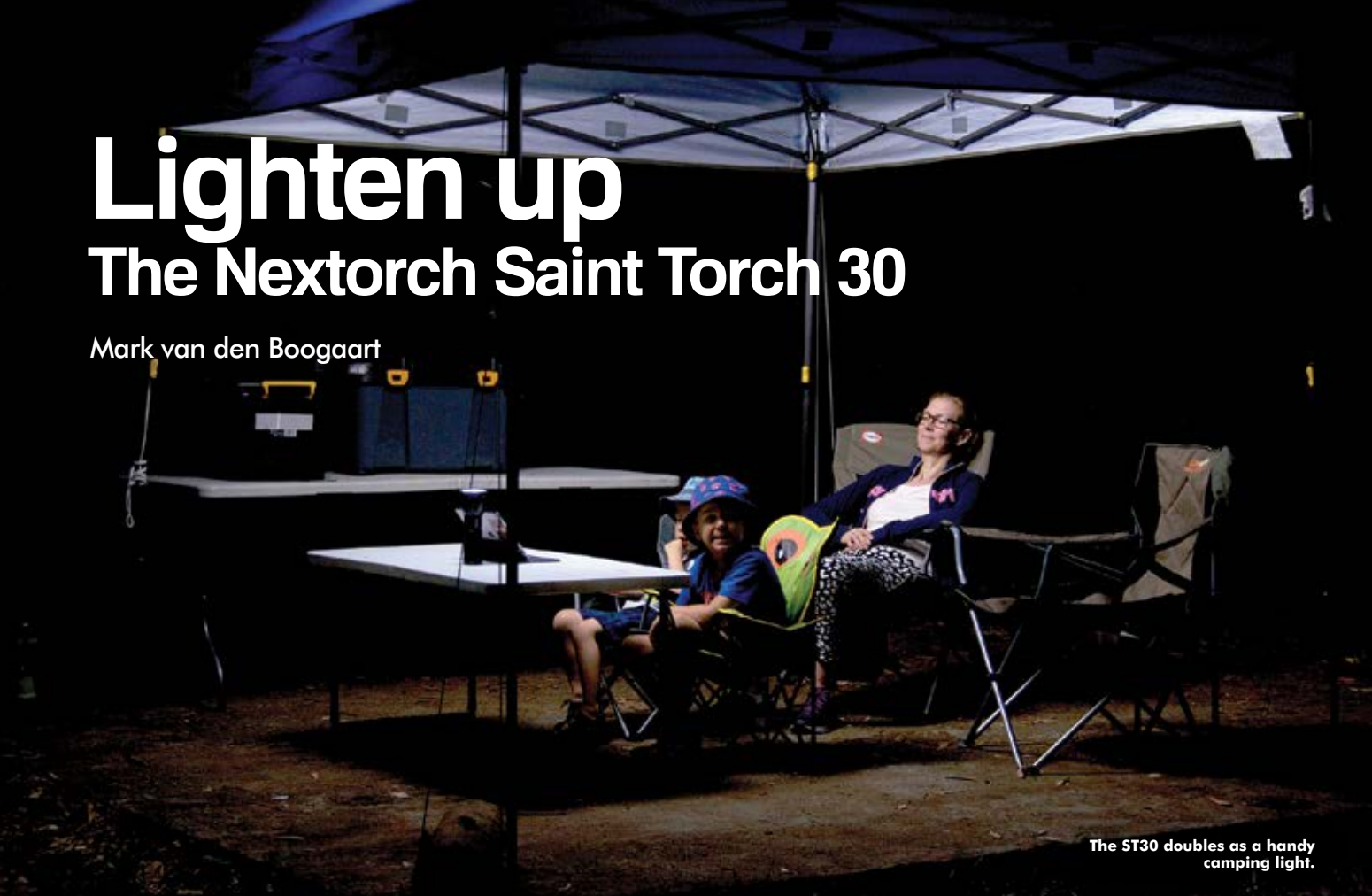
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# Lighten up

## The Nextorch Saint Torch 30

Mark van den Boogaart



The ST30 doubles as a handy camping light.

**D**escribed by the maker as a 'flagship' model, the Nextorch Saint Torch 30 (ST30) is big. At around 200mm long with 50mm barrel diameter and 80mm diameter lens unit the ST30 is much larger than you might expect from a modern LED torch.

But its size equates to some impressive specifications, most noticeably output. Starting at the top, maximum output gives you 5600 lumens for 2½ hours with a stated 480m range, high is 2500 lumens (3½ hrs), medium 840 (8½ hrs) and low 105 (60 hrs). There are also two flashing modes, strobe

at 5600 lumens and SOS (2500 lumens).

The ST30 arrives as a kit which includes a black nylon carry bag, lens unit, a sealed battery unit containing 4x2600 mAh lithium-ion (14.4v) batteries, a USB Type-C quick-charging lead and 240v powerpoint adapter. You'll also find instructions and a carry strap for the torch, not the nylon bag.

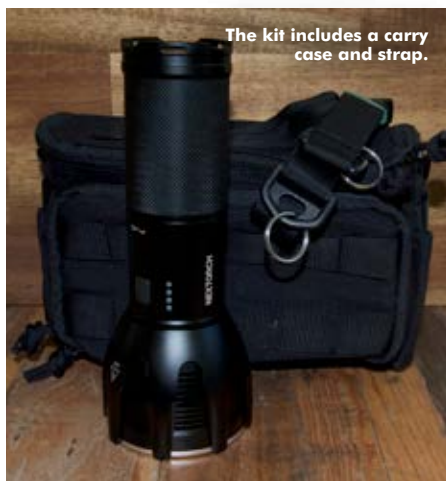
When switched on you gain an idea what all those lumens mean. Reviewing torches can be subjective - how do you properly describe bright? That said, first impressions are the output of the ST30 makes it more akin to a handheld spotlight than a torch. It appears very well made with clean lines, solid and with detailed laser-cut chequering on the barrel, a heat shield-style shroud marked 'hot' around the lens unit, a simple to operate rubberised power switch and straightforward charge gauge. It's water and shock resistant to one metre, handy in a torch.

There's a split ring on the shroud and clip points on the rear of the torch to attach the strap, and checking the Nextorch website the strap lets you carry it much as you would an old fishing torch. At the business end the lens unit comprises three Cree XPH50B neutral white LEDs, each recessed into their own reflector. The 'hot' indicator around the lens unit is spot-on as it does heat up on the highest output level.



The impressive lens configuration.

Charging the battery unit is via USB. During charging the indicator lights are red, changing to green when the battery pack is fully charged, the process taking three hours. One interesting feature is you can also use the battery pack as a separate power supply and charge unit. Unscrewing the battery unit you'll see both input and output ports and a small switch on the recessed top of the unit. To use the ST30 as a torch set the switch to LED, as a power supply and charge unit for your phone etc,





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## The Nextorch Saint Torch 30

switch to USB and connect your device via the lead to the output port.

So how does it work? Well it's very bright, throws its beam a long way and yes, you could use the ST30 as a hunting light. A case in point was on a three-day camping trip with my son, each night we used the ST30 to spot animals and, when not hunting, we easily could have with the amount of light at our disposal.

But the real strength of the ST30 lies in its merit as a superb all-rounder. Looking to test the quality of the light I decided to see if I could take clear night images using only the Saint Torch 30 and my DSLR, the answer a categorical 'yes'.

On a subsequent family camping trip we used it as our camp light, standing the ST30 on its end providing a fantastic working light beneath our free-standing gazebo, so much so I didn't bother with our usual lighting set-up.

The Nextorch Saint 30 is an excellent high quality all-rounder, perfect around camp. It's also a capable hunting light with the ability to act as a power supply and charge unit for phones and other USB-charged devices, while for those involved in security it would be a welcome addition to your toolkit.

If you're after something out of the ordinary and want a great, portable light, check out the Nextorch Saint 30. Imported by Beretta and backed by a five-year manufacturer's warranty, recommended retail price is \$429. ●



The output allowed for some detailed photos.

The ST30 in action.



The power pack allows for charging of external devices.

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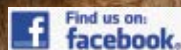
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The WAASS inauguration day team in yellow were joined by, back left, Liberal Democrats MLC Aaron Stonehouse, Liberal MP Ian Goodenough and Jarrahdale president Peter Rafaelli.

# WA gives disabled shooters a fair go

Dave Rose and Thomas Cook

A small band involved with the SSAA in Western Australia has launched a social shooting platform for the disabled. The concept was championed by SSAA State Membership Officer Rob Hill who linked up with mate Leith Taylor, a wheelchair shooter who has been installed as vice-president of fledgling body Western Australia Accessible Sport Shooting (WAASS).

A core of six individuals set the project rolling at a meeting in the Perth suburb of Medina and while starting from scratch was never going to be easy, the club made an important breakthrough earlier this year by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with SSAA Jarrahdale to use their range, the biggest outdoor facility in WA, as its base in the south-east of Perth.

The WAASS inauguration day took place on Saturday, June 1 at their new HQ. "The MOU was unanimously supported by the

Jarrahdale committee and I'm excited that WAASS has formed their own association," said Jarrahdale president Peter Rafaelli. "It's a huge positive for the club and I'm proud of our symbiotic relationship."

Among the pioneering few is WAASS president Jonathan 'Wheels' Davidson, who has built a glowing reputation around Practical Shooting circles by competing in the discipline from his wheelchair. Jonathan's outlook is certainly gutsy as the intent of Prac shooters is to complete the high-energy course as quickly as possible, Jonathan the first wheelchair shooter to compete in the IPSC Nationals.

"I'm very happy with the committee and grateful for this mutually beneficial situation," he said. "My favourite thing about shooting is the extended family that comes with it."

Another disabled person involved in the enterprise is Scott Wickham, formally

recognised as a Foundation member.

Among the many in attendance on June 1 were Liberal Party MP Ian Goodenough, Liberal Democrats MLC Aaron Stonehouse and John Mazza MLC from the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers party. "Federal Government needs to consider funding the shooting sports to make them more accessible for the whole community" said Mr Goodenough. "It's a fun sport everyone can enjoy."

Rob says the top priority is ramps, parking and handrails while Jonathan sees a need for concreting and improved toilet and clubhouse facilities to make it easier for everyone, with more ranges planned in future.

It's early days but WAASS is seeking extra hands to build on these beginnings, seeing it as a chance to put the shooting sports within reach of as many members of the community as possible. "It's basically a



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## WA gives disabled shooters a fair go

chance to encourage people,” said Jonathan.

SSAA WA Liaison Officer Murat Dogan has found the whole experience rewarding. “Jarrahdale have been amazing to provide a home base and make it accessible for everyone,” he said. “The club encourages disabled shooters to get involved and take control of things. I’m happy with how it’s gone and look forward to building from here.”

The club was delighted to receive donations of firearms from a SSAA member and Claremont Firearms who co-sponsored the opening event, helping cater to those new to the sport who don’t yet own a firearm or want to try something new.

Downrange Firearms was the other major sponsor, providing all the rimfire ammo for the day as well as prizes and a cash donation. The inauguration day gave many a chance to shoot for the first time and membership numbers had doubled by the end of the day, the last shot being fired just before sunset.

Anyone interested in the program can email Jonathan at [hbwc@iinet.net.au](mailto:hbwc@iinet.net.au) or call 0431 301 181. More firearms donations are welcome to ensure continued growth in the club and the shooting sports for the wider community. ●



Volunteers were on hand with useful tips.



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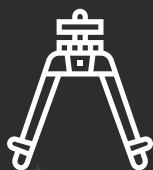
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# Savage Arms Model 110 Storm

Thomas Tabor



**H**aving a firearm that precisely fits your physical characteristics is important to good performance. For many decades trap, skeet and sporting clay shooters have recognised how a proper-fitting shotgun has the ability to greatly improve their scores, but for some reason rifle manufacturers have seemingly been slow to reach the same conclusion.

In some cases the best way to achieve that objective would be to have a gunstock custom-built for you or a stockmaker modify your existing stock to fit better. Yet there's another option that can be considerably less costly - to have an adjustable stock where the dimensions can be easily altered by the shooter.

While shotgunners have had this type of stock available for many years, manufacturers producing sporting and hunting style rifles have been tardy to join in. Until now. The Savage Arms Model 110 Storm centre-fire rifle is equipped with a stock called the AccuFit that's capable of easily being modified for both length of pull and comb height.

## Unique features

Savage's unique AccuFit synthetic stock comes with five interchangeable comb risers in increments of 3mm height adjustments

and four inserts in 6mm increments for the length of pull fine-tuning. In order to change the height of the comb you must first remove the recoil pad and any inserts in place.

Then the existing comb riser must be slid to the rear and pulled upwards to remove it and it's a simple matter to swap out that comb for a replacement of your choice. Length of pull can also be easily altered by exchanging whatever insert is appropriate and resealing the pad.

Further enhancing the abilities of the synthetic AccuFit stock is a built-in rail system which secures the stainless steel action three-dimensional ways while the barrel remains free-floating. The stock grip surfaces, both forearm and pistol grip, are patterned with a unique blend of chequering and grooves and are over-moulded to provide soft, positive, non-slip gripping exteriors.

I've always favoured the Savage Arms two-stage AccuTriggers and was pleased to see Savage saw fit to equip the Storm with one of these fine triggers. The rifle arrived with a trigger pull weight set at 3lb 7oz but it can be easily regulated from about 2.5lb to 6lb. To do so the stock must be removed, then using the included tiny adjustment tool you simply insert it into the sole

adjustment port at the rear of the trigger housing. By turning the tool counter-clockwise it will lessen the pull weight and turning it clockwise will increase it.

The unique design of the AccuTrigger allows it to be set lighter than most traditional triggers and still be considered safe,



The AccuFit stock comes with inserts to adjust length of pull and comb height.



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FEDERAL POWER-SHOK 243 80GR & 100GR .....	\$285/200
FEDERAL POWER-SHOK 6.5CM 140GR .....	\$310/200
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## Savage Arms Model 110 Storm

made possible by a tiny lever called the AccuRelease directly in front of the trigger. As the shooter squeezes the trigger the AccuRelease is compressed and the rifle is allowed to fire, the ingenious design developed in an effort to prevent accidental discharges in the event the rifle is dropped, jarred or bumped.

The three-position safety on the Storm is a tang-mounted design, moving the safety all the way forward placing it in the 'off' or 'fire' position. With the safety all the way to the rear it is 'on' and when moved to the middle position remains 'on' but allows the bolt to be opened for unloading. Three-position safety like this gives a great deal of reassurance by making it unnecessary to place the rifle in the 'fire' position to unload the chamber.

The 110 Storm is available in 17 cartridge choices consisting of both standard and magnum calibres, all 17 available for right-hand shooters with nine designed for lefties - for the test rifle I chose the popular 30-06 Springfield. Its removable magazine held three cartridges but a fourth could be fed directly into the chamber to increase that capacity. The capacities of the other calibres ranged from two up to four dependent upon the physical size of the cartridges.

The Storm comes from the factory drilled and tapped for scope mounts but rings and bases are not supplied. I used a one-piece EGW 0 MOA rail and a set of 1" rings to hold a Vortex Crossfire II 3-9x40mm scope on the test rifle.

### Range test

In my experience some rifles have a particular fondness for a certain type of ammunition, load and/or bullet. Because of this I decided to test the Storm with a variety of ammunition consisting of four



factory-loaded cartridges and a couple of my own handloads.

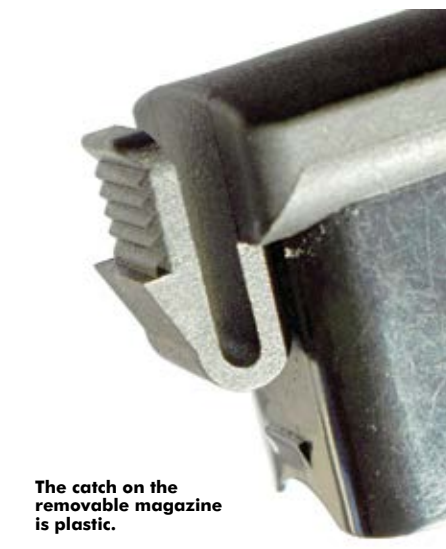
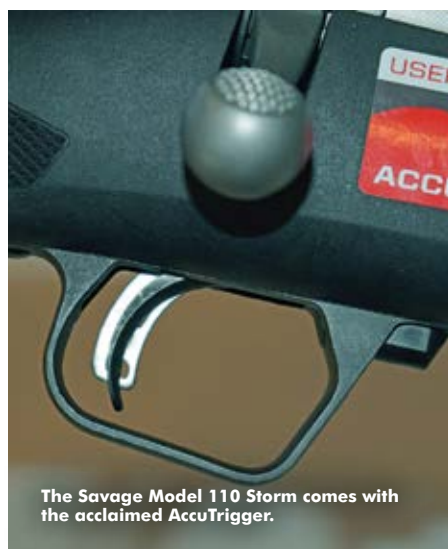
The factory ammo included three newly-released Federal Premium cartridges loaded with 168gr Berger Hybrid Hunter, 180gr Nosler AccuBond and 165gr Barnes TSX bullets. The fourth was an older Federal Premium variety loaded with 110gr Barnes TTSX bullets and I also shot two of my own handloads using two different powders and two Barnes bullets.

I was curious as to how the somewhat unorthodox little 110gr .308 calibre bullets would perform in the Storm's 1:10" rate of twist barrel. Obviously, Savage chose this particular twist rate as it was more appropriate for stabilising the 30-06's usual 150gr to 180gr .30 calibre bullets. Overall I was pleasantly surprised by the accuracy of all of loads, including the little 110-grainers which reportedly were exiting the muzzle at an impressive 3400fps. But in this latter case the bullets impacted a full 9" higher than the 180gr rounds at 100 yards. The accompanying chart gives a more detailed analysis of that precision.

The Storm comes with a trim and light-weight barrel and as such it did have a

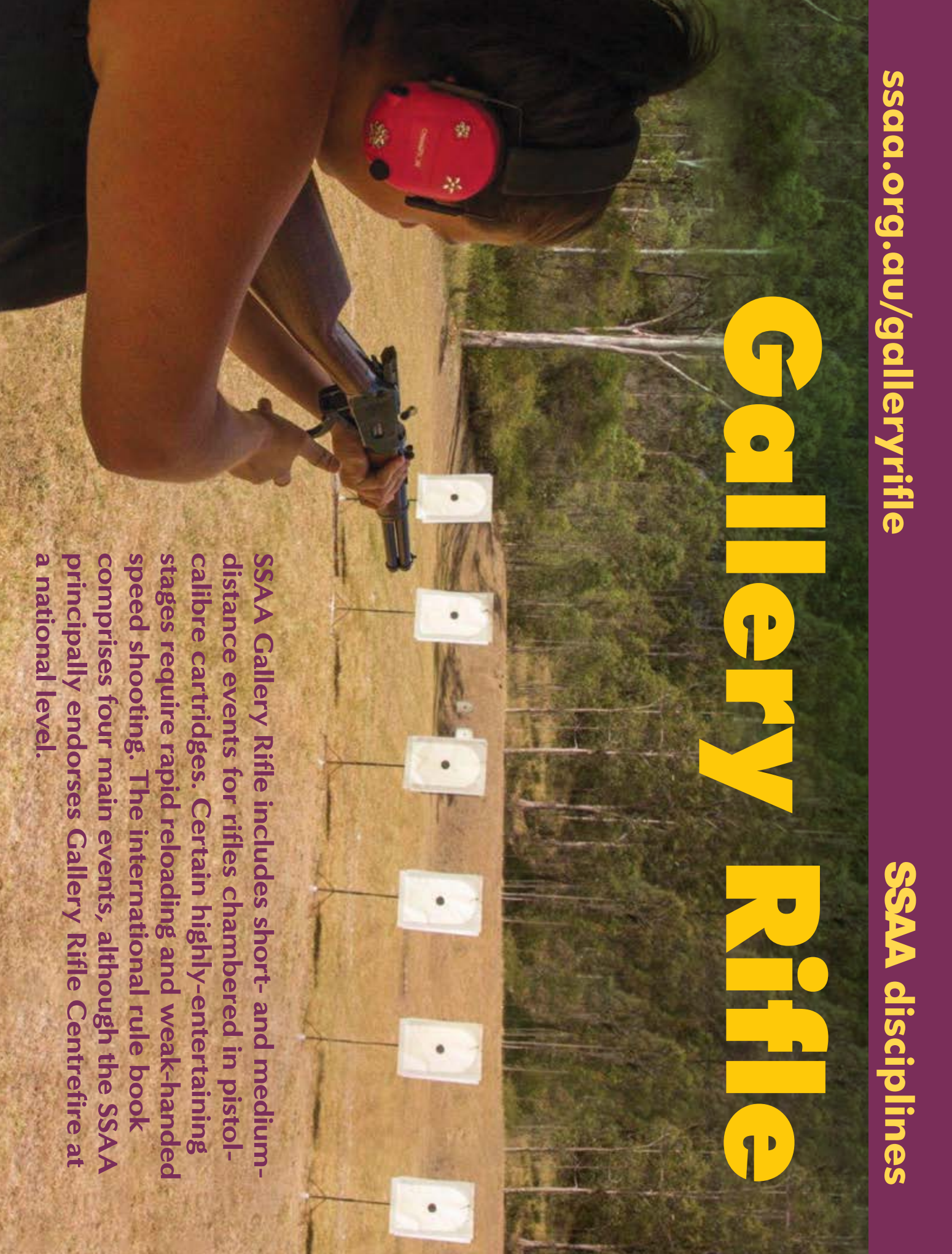


tendency to heat up fairly rapidly, even in the sub-zero temperatures I was subjecting it to during testing. I should point out I was firing many more rounds during range testing than most hunters would likely be shooting in a very long time. That being the case I don't believe this would be a major concern for most shooters, particular in light of the fact the barrel is completely free-floating.





# Gallery Rifle

A person wearing a red SSAA vest is aiming a handgun at a gallery target. The target is a wooden board with several white rectangular targets attached to it. The background is a grassy field with trees.

SSAA Gallery Rifle includes short- and medium-distance events for rifles chambered in pistol-calibre cartridges. Certain highly-entertaining stages require rapid reloading and weak-handed speed shooting. The international rule book comprises four main events, although the SSAA principally endorses Gallery Rifle Centrefire at a national level.



# Combined Services

SSAA Combined Services encourages a better knowledge of the safe handling and proper care of military or service firearms. Classes involve original or faithful reproduction firearms from various positions.

## Rifle classes

Standard military rifles are the order of the



day, with the 3-Positional Core being the principal event. Popular rifles include SMLEs, Swedish Mausers, P14s, M17s and K98s.

Class A allows 100m range short-barrel centre-fire carbine-type rifles. Class B comprises 200-300m range bolt-action or lever-action centrefire manually operated or self-loading repeating rifles. Class C allows 500m-plus range long-barrel centrefire rifles, including antique military rifles. Class D involves breech-loading cartridge rifles such as black powder single-shot and falling-block-action centrefire rifles. Class E incorporates muzzleloading, single-shot and non-cartridge breech-loading rifles, including antique military rifles.

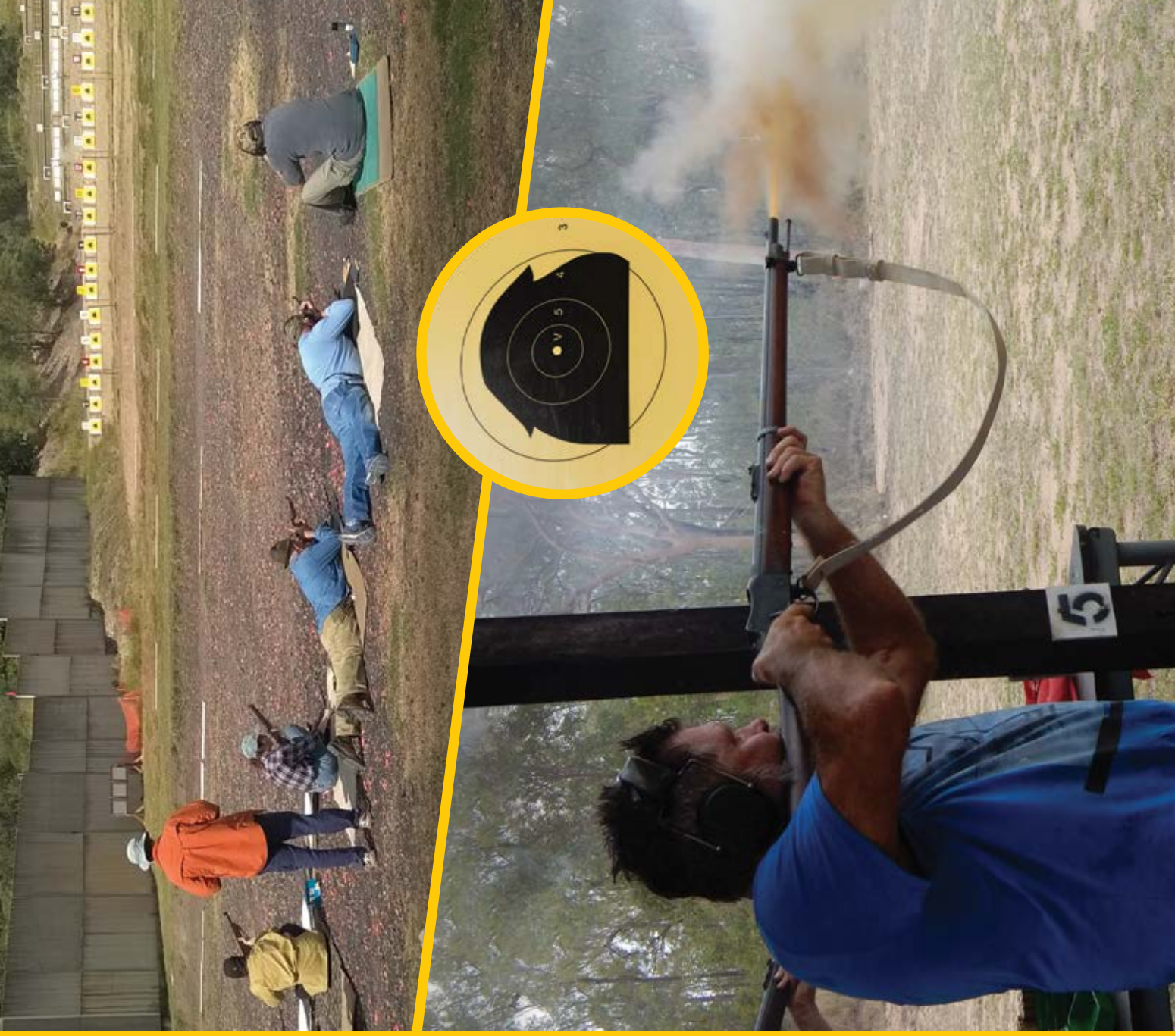
Other events include Class F, Class T, Class H and J (Modified/Accurised) and Class TR (Training Rifles) such as .22 Training Rifles and Cadet Rifles.

## Pistol classes

Class 1 includes original or reproduction centrefire revolvers or self-loading pistols, which are or have been on general issue to an army, navy or air force. Class 2 covers pistols that are or have been on general issue to police or law enforcement organisations. Class 3 handguns comprise any Class 1 or 2 handgun that has been modified and may feature adjustable sights or custom grips. Class 4 includes any rimfire handgun that substantially replicates the functions of Class 1, 2 or 3. Class 5 embraces black powder military handguns, either a revolver or single-shot pistol, which has been on general issue to an army, navy or police force.

## Targets and ammunition

Paper targets with a large black aiming point (Core Target) are used from various distances depending on range limits. The spirit of Combined Services is embodied in using standard military-specification loads, which engenders the full recoil effect.





## Firearms

The Gallery Rifle Centrefire event is based around scoped and iron-sighted tubular magazine lever-action rifles in .32-20, .38-.357, .44 and .45 pistol calibres. Matches require loading and shooting quickly either at stationary paper or reactive steel targets. Handloaded or factory-loaded ammunition may be used.

### *Courses of Fire*

National Championships comprise of four matches, with two separate grading structures based on the Precision and Action aggregates. Precision events reflect a traditional Target Pistol match. Action events are based on the 1500-match program.

America Match consists of 30 rounds plus sighters at 25m on the 50m Slow Fire target. This Precision event includes 10 shots at 50m in 10 minutes; two series of five at 25m in 30 seconds and two series of five shots at 25m in 20 seconds.

Imperial Silhouettes total 30 rounds plus sighters at 25m on the 50m Slow Fire target. Included are two series of five shots in 12 seconds; two series of five in 10 seconds and two series of five in eight seconds.

1020 Match consists of 102 rounds at 10, 15, 25m at the B1 full-size target. This Action event involves five stages, with a mixture of rapid fire, some including reloading in the time limit and multi-position changes, some in weak shoulder sections. Match four involves 24 shots at 25m with three reloads and four positions in 165 seconds.

1500 Match totals 150 rounds at 10, 15, 25 and 50m at the B1 full-size target. This is the 1020 match with extra stages at 50m.





The way I see it

Overall both the rifle and ammunition performed extremely well, the removable magazine feeding cartridges into the chamber smoothly and ejecting without problems or issues. The Savage AccuTrigger functioned perfectly with virtually no creep or excessive movement and consistently was crisp and precise.

I very much enjoyed the versatility the AccuFit stock system afforded. Being able to tweak the height of the comb to perfectly match the shooter's physical characteristics makes for better eye-to-scope alignment, allowing a hunter to be on their target quicker but even more important, the ability to amend the length of pull makes this rifle more versatile, especially when it comes to younger shooters or those with shorter or longer than normal arms.

There was one point I felt could be improved on. While the magazine housing itself is largely comprised of metal, the actual latch that secures it in place is of a flexible plastic. As such there's no spring in the latching mechanism, it instead relies on the flexibility in the plastic itself to secure the magazine in place. This made the magazine slightly more difficult to have locked in place and I'm a little fearful over time the plastic may begin to fray or wear to a point it could affect the magazine's ability to lock-in or to stay in place.



The AccuTrigger is adjustable for weight-of-pull.

Ambient temperatures can sometime affect the flexibility of some types of plastic and that too could exacerbate this problem. If concerned about this you might consider buying a back-up or second magazine - I like to have a bonus or even third magazine on hand anyway. ●



The three-position safety is on the tang.

Savage Arms Model 110 Storm Accuracy  
3-shot 100-yard groups

Ammunition	Best	Average
Federal Premium Barnes Triple-Shock X ammo (Barnes 165gr TSX)	0.88" (22mm)	1.25" (32mm)
Federal Premium Berger Hybrid Hunter ammo (Barnes 168gr TSX)	0.88" (22mm)	1.40" (36mm)
Federal Premium Nosler AccuBond ammo (180gr AccuBond)	0.94" (24mm)	1.43" (36mm)
Federal Premium Barnes Triple-Shock X ammo (110gr TTSX)	0.75" (19mm)	1.13" (29mm)
Handload #1 Bullet: Barnes MRX – 180gr Powder: IMR 4831 – 54gr Primer: Winchester Large Rifle	0.63" (16mm)	1.40" (36mm)
Handload #2 Bullet: Barnes Tipped Triple-Shock X – 168gr Powder: IMR 4895 – 42gr Primer: Winchester Large Rifle	0.75" (19mm)	1.07" (27mm)

Note: The handload data shown here is presented merely as an illustration of the potential of this particular test rifle. While it was felt that these loads were safe in this firearm, they may not be safe in other firearms, even those of like construction. The author assumes no liability or responsibility for this data or its use. For load data, you must consult the handloading guides published by the component manufacturers and **never exceed** those deemed to be maximum loads.

Specifications

- Manufacturer: Savage Arms
- Model: 110 Storm
- Calibre: 30-06 Springfield (other calibres are available)
- Overall weight: 3.2kg to 3.3kg (7.15lb to 7.35lb)
- Overall length: Adjustable from 103cm to 112cm (40.5" to 44.25")
- Sights: None
- Action: Bolt
- Trigger: Two-stage AccuTrigger adjustable from 2.5lb to 6lb pull
- Barrel: 56cm (22")
- Stock: AccuFit synthetic with adjustable length of pull and comb height
- Magazine: 3 plus 1
- Price: RRP \$1845



# Talbot on target!

## 5-Stand

Communications Officer Sam Talbot

I've finally lived up to my name and got on target. Well almost, anyway. This month I went back to my clay target roots to shoot 5-Stand and while I didn't take out first place, I was happy and surprised with my performance.

**T**he 5-Stand discipline is a great variation of sporting clays and competitions can be held in much smaller areas than traditional sporting clay courses. It uses five shooting stands or stations that are lined up in a straight line close to each other. The stands are surrounded by six to eight numbered traps, which throw targets in every possible direction, including from behind, towers, vertical shots and rabbits, with all targets generally converging in an area in front of the stands.

Competitors rotate through the five stands and receive an identical mix of targets in a random order, with single and double targets presented. This provides a real test of a shooter's ability to read targets quickly and shoot them before they veer beyond the effective range of a shotgun.

All 5-Stand courses can be as easy or as devious as the course-setter decides. One round comprises 25 targets, and because the competition is compact and relatively quick to shoot, it can be tempting to shoot five or six rounds in a day. Lots of clubs that don't have much space can still run effective competitions with a wide and interesting variety of targets.

### Getting to a competition

I've been keeping my eye out for a local 5-Stand competition for a while. I find following the SSAA South Australia Facebook page is a good way to maintain tabs on competitions that are happening around me and if you are wanting to stay in the loop, I'd recommend following your state SSAA branch on social media as well.

This is how I discovered that despite their small shotgun range SSAA Para had

started holding 5-Stand competitions. That was all the invitation I needed and knowing my colleague Gemma Dunn is one of the best shotgun shooters going around, I invited her along as well.

### Chokes

If rifle shooters spend all their time thinking about bullet speeds, shotgun shooters ponder their patterns. With each shot at a clay target, hundreds of pellets are sent into the air and at about 30 metres they are spread out to be roughly the size of a beach ball. It only takes about eight of those tiny pellets to break a clay but depending on your luck it might be a few more or less.

The size of the pellets and amount of powder is pretty well standardised across clay target competitions these days which basically boils down to cartridges with 28 grams and size 7½ pellets. However, the spread of pellets can still be manipulated quite a bit by using different chokes, which are the things you see screwed into the end of shotgun barrels. More spread might always sound better, but the faster your pellets spread, the less effective your pattern will be the further out it travels. A pattern that doesn't spread out as fast will be more effective against targets further away.

This means it becomes a balancing act with how far away the targets will be and how quickly you plan on shooting them. For example, if your 5-Stand course is very small and all the clays are close by, you probably want your pattern to spread out quickly because holes in the pattern that start appearing at 40m or 50m out won't be an issue.





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## Talbot on target! 5-Stand



The four notches on the choke indicate what type it is.



Some of Gemma's extra Perazzi chokes.



Gemma screws in a choke ahead of the day of shooting.

While there is still plenty of personal preference, a good general rule is your second barrel should be a bit tighter than your first barrel because clays will typically be moving further away from you (with the exception of incomers) and so you'll want your pattern to be a bit tighter.

Most shotguns, even the cheap ones, will typically come with a few different chokes. Depending on the brand and where your shotgun was made the choke sizes can go by different names though. Some use fractions (like  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$ ), some use the terms like cylinder, modified and full, while others will just use a colour. Your best bet is to use the manual that came with your shotgun or look up a chart online. Putting chokes in and taking them out is simple and just requires a small tool that will come with your chokes.

For my chokes I went with  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  which is pretty standard and as long as your chokes aren't one extreme or the other, they will probably play second fiddle to your skill level and gun fit, so don't lose

too much sleep over your chokes (because you'll end up choking in competition). However, if you want to investigate your pattern further ask your local club about using a pattern board. Shooting a blank board will let you see your pattern and how it looks at different distances.

### Shooting glasses

Not only are shooting glasses used for safety, but they can make you shoot better. The first thing you will notice is that shooters often wear different coloured lenses. Different colours can be useful in various weather conditions. Purple is useful in overcast surroundings and really makes the targets pop out. Whereas yellow is better in a challenging setting like rain or harsh shadows. And my \$20 servo sunnies are really good at just making everything darker, so I started with purple shooting glasses and switched to yellow between rounds because the sun had come out and the clays were darting in and out of shadows.



A view from the tower that threw a simultaneous pair overhead.



Yellow glasses are best for contrasting conditions like shadows or rain.



The completed work and a fine looking 5-Stand set-up.





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**Package price \$885**



### Weihrauch HW30 S .177 cal - \$495

A superior, light and well-balanced air rifle of excellent accuracy. Automatic safety, 'Rekord' adjustable match-type trigger, tunnel front-sight with four interchangeable inserts, micrometer rear-sight adjustable for windage and elevation with four different notches. Ambidextrous beechwood stock with cheekpiece on both sides and rubber buttplate. Also available in synthetic stock \$475.



### Weihrauch HW66 Production

Allround rifle for target shooting and hunting purposes. Medium heavy weight barrel. No open sights. Ambidextrous stock. Match trigger. Classic American-style walnut stock. Rubber buttpad.

**.17HMR - \$1585, .22LR - \$1345,  
.22WMR - \$1395, .22H - \$1795, .222 Rem - \$1999**



### Remington 783 Varmint Laminate

Exciting new model. Featuring free-floating 26" heavy barrel, oversized bolt handle, laminate stock and beavertail fore-end. Package includes Picatinny rail and bipod.

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### Weihrauch HW50 S .177/22 cal - \$550

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### Weihrauch HW66 Thumbhole

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.22WMR - \$1560, .22H - \$1945,  
.222 Rem - \$2150**



### Remington Model 783 Varmint

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### Weihrauch HW60 J

The ideal rifle for shooting pests, vermin and small game. Well designed, light and well-balanced. Sporter weight barrel. Open sights. Walnut right-hand hogs back-style stock and schnabel fore-end. Match trigger. Rubber buttpad. Sling swivels.

**.17HMR - \$1595, .22LR - \$1375,  
.22WMR - \$1375, .22H - \$1745, .222 Rem - \$1985**



### Remington Model 783 Package

Legendary Remington accuracy, user adjustable crossfire trigger, detachable magazine, Pillar bedded stock and free-floating barrel, 3-9x40 scope, fitted and bore sighted, includes QGE gunbag and sling. Grab some ammo, check your zero and you're ready to hunt. Available in the following calibres: .223, .22-250, .243, .270, 7mm RM, .308, .30-06, .300WM

**Package price \$735**



### Weihrauch HW110 177/20/22 cal

**- \$1739**

New PCP air rifle from Weihrauch. Excellent accuracy, vibration free, fast and easy 10-shot repeater, built-in refillable air cartridge with integral pressure gauge. Two stage adjustable match trigger with manual safety, ambidextrous black synthetic stock with soft-touch finish, weaver-type rail for optic, (Scope not included)



### Weihrauch HW66 Jagd Match

Especially developed for target shooting, but suitable for hunting as well. Well-designed and balanced. Cylindrical heavy-weight match barrel. No open sights. Right-hand target-style stock. Oil finished with stippling. Match trigger. Rubber buttpad. (Scope not included)

**.17HMR - \$1999, .22LR - \$1925,  
.22H - \$2115, .222 Rem - \$2115**

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## Talbot on target! 5-Stand

Gemma also informed me that it's important to give your eyes time to adjust to the glasses. So, don't slip them on just as you are about to step into the cage and shoot, like I did. Put them on at least a few minutes before your round starts.

Also, an extra word of warning - yellow lenses can fatigue your eyes, so that is something to keep in mind when you are deliberating between lenses. And if you are really unsure, I would recommend just trying out clear and seeing how it goes. You can always test a different colour later. Everyone has different eyes, after all.

### Competition

As you might remember from the last time I shot clay targets, the shotgun section at SSAA Para marches to the beat of its own drum and so unlike the regular 25 target rounds, we shot two rounds of 15. This meant we shot a single target followed by a pair in each of the five stands before moving to the next stand. The single target allowed the use of both barrels while the pair was either simultaneous (both clays came out at once) or on report (the second clay is released as soon as you pull the trigger for the first time).

For the first round I used the club gun which was a Lanber Armas before switching over to a much more expensive Mk10 Miroku Sporter. The engraving was a little better on the Miroku, but I didn't notice much difference in how they shot, except I did technically shoot better with

the Lanber, notching 11/15 in the first round and 9/15 in the second series.

My choke selection seemed fine, but since Para is quite a small range, some chokes with more spread may have been put to good use. Gemma and I discussed doing this but we were also used to how our patterns were performing and so decided to stick with what we had. Also, by the time we shot the first round the stands were brought back so we would be shooting from further away anyway. This is a little unusual for 5-Stand but certainly kept us on our toes.

A particularly difficult target was a simultaneous pair that came from a tower overhead. In my mind I thought for a split second about which target I should shoot first. Which as most shotgun shooters know is all the time you need to completely miss both targets, which I did. But while that simultaneous pair gave me trouble, I did manage to shoot a pair of concurrent rabbit targets with one shot, which is always a bonus and a good way to conserve ammunition.

### Leading

Shooting where the clay is going to be, is the key to clay target shooting. The idea is to make your pattern intersect with the clay target. The clay will be dropping, going left or right, or rising which means you need to lead your shot.

The main method I use is to identify the target, start tracking it, bring the gun up, catch up to it, overtake it and finally ➤

## What else can I shoot with?



Young Sean makes easy work of the clays with his .410.



Gemma cleans up a rolling rabbit clay target.



Gun shouldered and ready to shoot.

It is the 12-gauge shotguns that gain most of the spotlight and probably rightly so, but every now and again you'll see a .410 shotgun at a competition. The slightly smaller shotgun offers less recoil than a 12-gauge and is often used by juniors. Junior shooter Sean used his grandfather's .410 to good effect during the competition.

Seeing firearms like the .410 is one of the things I like most about local shooting competitions. If it works for you, then go for it. And that's just what a Practical shooter did who came by the 5-Stand competition to put in a little practice for his upcoming Practical shotgun competition.

Many Practical shooters use shorter barrelled shotguns because they need to move around stages with them and so he employed his 20" Churchill throughout the competition and despite giving up 8-10" in barrel length to the rest of us, he more than held his own.





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## Talbot on target! 5-Stand

pull the trigger. I find that is the simplest and most consistent strategy and it makes a second shot more likely to hit as well. It also lends itself to shooting more on instinct and gives me less opportunity to overthink.

When the competition had finished and the scores were tallied, I was surprised to see I had managed to snag second place in the field of 20-something shooters. My 20/30 just tipped out the rest who all followed closely behind. It was a reasonably tough course which didn't give shooters much time to render their eyes in, something which clearly worked to my advantage. While there weren't any trophies on offer, it's always nice to receive a little recognition for your efforts.

### Conclusion

A huge thank you to the shotgun shooters at SSAA Para, I had a great time and the hospitality was world-class. The fire kept us warm despite the cold conditions. If you are interested in shotgun shooting 5-Stand is a great way to start or fun to spice up trench shooting. Even rifle and handgun shooters should take some time out to see why breaking some clays is so enjoyable.



It's easy to learn and a great social outing – what more could you ask for?

I'll be back next month shooting one of the most classic and popular SSAA disciplines that involves a bench and a rest. ●

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# Waiting game in the high country

Passionate hunter and conservationist **Chris Rogers** is deer manager on the 10,500-acre Euston Estate in Suffolk. Here, he recalls a red stag stalking trip in the Scottish Highlands.



In 13 years of working on Euston Estate in the English county of Suffolk I've done my fair share of red deer stalking, but the number of old stags has dwindled in recent years and, longing to go red stag stalking again, I booked a trip to a place synonymous with the species.

Red deer in the Highlands of Scotland are under pressure due to a long-standing program to recreate the Caledonian Pine Forest, a band of trees that once stretched from the west coast to the east but was deforested by man hundreds of years ago. Deer have been the primary target in the eyes of foresters and justifiably so. With no natural predators to fear and little else to raise income from Highland estates, deer

were historically kept in high numbers.

Nevertheless, watching huge red herds feeding across the Highland mountain sides is an impressive sight and while they should naturally reside in forest environments, the UK's largest land mammal has adapted well to its tough existence. The Caledonian Forest is slowly growing again, largely thanks to deer fencing which offers protection from hungry mouths. It's good for the trees but detrimental to deer seeking shelter in colder months as they should naturally be able to do and the knock-on effect is high mortality rates in harsh Scottish winters, something estates must factor into their cull planning.

Stag stalking on large Highland estates is

extremely popular, so I was lucky to secure a booking with clients for six days near Aberfeldy in Perthshire. We rented two self-catering properties and top of the kit list I'd given to those who hadn't stalked in Scotland was waterproof clothing - one certainty when stalking in the Highlands is rain.

On the first morning we met head stalker Steven and his team at the estate larder. A zero check was required for the two stalkers who'd be heading out, so they lined up on the hole in the iron stag's chest 100m away and shot through it as instructed. A well-placed bag of chalk throws up a white puff as the bullet passes through the hole, a clang the result of a poor shot or of an un-zeroed rifle.



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## Waiting game in the high country

The day started dry but the clouds darkened and rain quickly arrived and wouldn't budge. Of the two stalking parties, one had success with a fine old 10-point stag, the other drawing a blank, though the following day saw our American visitor take his first-ever red stag.

My turn to hunt finally arrived and having tagged along for the first three days I had a rough idea of where I was on the estate and where I could put to best use my Rigby Highland Stalker rifle in .275. We took the Land Rover as far as we could up a stone track before switching to an Argo all-terrain vehicle and heading higher into the hills to the drop-off point for our stalk.

The plan was to cover a large area of hill and we started down the side of a small burn - a Scottish stream - occasionally stopping to glass into open ground further down the slope as it came into view. Having walked only 300m my stalker spotted movement down the left-hand side of the burn about 800m ahead but, as there wasn't much to see from the position we were in, we carried on slowly.

As the ground opened up on the right a herd of around 15 young stags sprang to life, startled by our appearance. They must have sensed they were not on our target list - we were looking to take



A red stag announces his presence in the bracken.

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## Waiting game in the high country

mature or older stags - and they happily watched us carry on past them before eventually trotting off up the hill. Compared to earlier in the week we were having an easy day in the sun but as we edged over a heather bank there was no sign of deer, so we inched higher. Scanning further ahead Steven picked up a group of stags, hinds and calves bedded down in the sun but at 400m they were too far away for a shot. In the UK, even in open ground, a shot from more than 200m is frowned upon and in any case the group comprised mostly young stags.

Steven took one last look back up the hill and as I was preparing to move on he signalled me to keep low. Although we could see a smaller group of deer through the heather we needed a clearer view, and stepping up further we could see three stags sat behind a group of hinds and calves, eight in total, one of the hinds looking in our direction as we lay in cover.

I positioned the rifle on my backpack to give as much clearance over the ground cover as possible and Steven picked one of the three stags to take if it stood up and presented a clear chest shot. After what seemed an age the hind sat down but continued staring intensely at our position.

We were about 100m away but in the wide-open space of the Highlands it

Low in the heather, glassing the hills and valleys.



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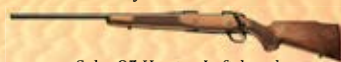


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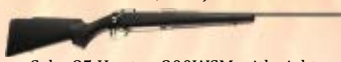


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## Waiting game in the high country

felt like being right on top of them. "Looks like we're in for the long lie," said Steven, and with that our patience test began. We had at least happened on a nice spot off the wet ground on a bed of heather and, with the sun warm on our backs, we lay for a good 90 minutes, occasionally checking the stag in question through the scope.

My concern was that when the stag eventually did stand up no shot would be available and, as if he'd heard me, he rose to his feet and presented his backside. I raised the rifle on my pack, waiting for him to turn side-on and with that he started scratching his left haunch with the tip of an antler before settling back into the heather. After another hour he hauled himself up, this time standing front-on. I wasn't going to give him a second chance and a shot rang out across the hill, sending the stag back down into the heather.

I reloaded, put the rifle on 'safe' and watched the other deer move off - we'd been there so long they had no idea where the shot had come from. They hadn't seemed too bothered by the bang from the Rigby Highland Stalker, Steven explaining that as so many hunters now use suppressors on the hill, deer are less panicked by an old-fashioned bang than the stifled crack of a modern suppressed rifle. ➤



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## Waiting game in the high country

We lay and watched for a few minutes in case the downed stag miraculously sprang back to life, which he didn't. We then focused on a group of around 40 deer heading directly to our position which Steven had been keeping an eye on all along and had spotted a stag with poor antlers picking on the rest of the group.

Although the rut was a week or so away he'd been throwing his weight around and generally being a nuisance to the younger stags. I locked on him through the scope and tracked him as he came closer, the soft crack of the Rigby ringing out again and, reloading, I watched the beast stagger a little, resist the bullet for a few seconds then drop like a stone.

We waited as the rest of the herd disappear with a little more haste than they had after the first shot before approaching the stags. Both were of reasonable size with poor antlers - good beasts to remove from the herd. Steven gralloched one and I the other to top off what had been a fine conclusion to a week which saw us take 12 stags in six days on some of Scotland's finest ground.

I was impressed by the Rigby Highland Stalker which put the bullets in the right place at each time of asking. It's a delightful



Chris Rogers with the two red stags.

rifle to stalk with and, as the name suggests, is right at home in the Highlands.

• Chris Rogers organises red deer stalking in locations across Scotland in addition to stalking at Euston, England. Email

[eustondeerhunting@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eustondeerhunting@yahoo.co.uk)  
Pro-Tactical is Australian importer for the Rigby Highland Stalker.

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1350	7.5, 8	28gm



# Zeiss Conquest V4

## a riflescope range for the serious hunter

Con Kapralos

The Conquest riflescope model has been in the Zeiss line-up for many years. In that time it has included superb scopes in the DL (4x-magnification range) and HD5 (5x-magnification) as well as the original 3x-magnification bracket bearing the Conquest name.

Zeiss is never one to let its competitors overtake them and has added to its V-series of riflescopes the Conquest V4 - a range of 4x-magnification hunting riflescopes. This grouping supersedes the Conquest DL collection and complements the already highly regarded Conquest V6 and legendary Victory V8/HT rifle optics that bear the Zeiss name.

While the V6 and V8/HT riflescopes are designed and manufactured in Germany, the V4 is made in Japan to meticulous specifications set out by Zeiss. Don't think for a minute the V4 is inferior because it's made outside of Germany - producing it in Japan means it's more affordable as a hunting optic but still lives up to the lofty standards required for riflescopes carrying the Zeiss tag.

The Conquest V4 range, released in 2018, comprises six models in the 1-4x24, 3-12x40, 3-12x56, 4-16x44, 4-16x50 and 6-24x50, with a host of different reticles specific to each. *Australian Shooter*

approached Outdoor Sporting Agencies, the Zeiss distributor in Australia, with a request to run the rule over two of the models in the Conquest V4 stable and was forwarded the 3-12x56 with the Z-Plex reticle and the 6-24x50 with the ZMOA-1 illuminated reticle and the ASV ballistic turret.

### Features of the Zeiss Conquest V4

The Conquest V4 riflescope range encompasses various features, some of which are also found on the Conquest V6 and Victory V8/HT, but is targeted at the hunting sportsman seeking a quality optic with the 4x-magnification range.

Included are a one-piece main tube made from aircraft-grade aluminium, 30mm main tube, 90mm eye relief, hunter-style turrets re-settable to zero (not applicable to ASV ballistic turret), ASV ballistic turret available on selected models, LotuTec and proprietary T\* coatings on precision

ground and polished lenses for class-leading 90 per cent light transmission, nitrogen purged and filled waterproof to 400 mbar (millibars).

Reticles (in the second focal plane) include Reticle 20 (Z-Plex), Reticle 60 (illuminated), Reticle 62 (ZQAR - illuminated), Reticle 91 (ZBR-1), Reticle 92 (ZBR-2), Reticle 93 (ZMOA-1 illuminated and non-illuminated), Reticle 94 (ZMOA-2). Zeiss ballistic stop feature on the ASV ballistic turret.

### Conquest V4 3-12x56 – Reticle 20 (Z-Plex)

The 3-12x56 specification with the Z-Plex reticle would have to be the perfect riflescope for the hunter who seeks simplicity and doesn't want to be involved with ballistic reticles and dialing into distant targets. Its length at 368mm and weight at 610g make it well suited for a



The Conquest V4 3-12x56 makes a fine general-purpose hunting riflescope with its Z-Plex reticle.



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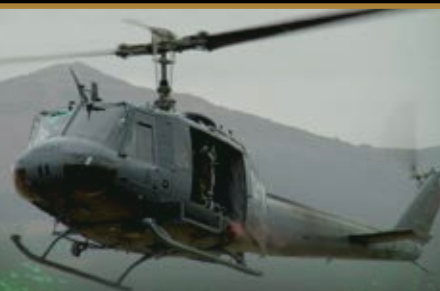
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The standard 'hunter-style' windage and elevation turrets on the Conquest V4 3-12x56. The protective caps are plastic.



The ASV ballistic turret (elevation) and standard windage turret on the Conquest V4 6-24x50.

general-purpose hunting or stalking rifle with the 3-12 times magnification range being able to cover all shooting scenarios, be it heavy cover or the open plains.

The 56mm objective permits increased light gathering and this would be welcomed for hunters or professional shooters who operate under the cover of darkness. The Z-Plex reticle is one of my favourites for taking quarry out to 300m. Call me old-fashioned but the closer I can move to my target the better.

The capped windage and elevation turrets are easy to operate with clicks that are simple to feel and quite audible. One tiny minus point is the windage and elevation dials are a tad too small in diameter, though still work and are resettable to a 'zero' mark once your point-of-impact is acquired.

However, a negative in my opinion is the plastic turret caps. I'd expect a maker like Zeiss to fit aluminium caps as standard to all their capped turrets (where applicable). For a riflescope class like the Conquest V4 it's a rather substantial oversight when a few of its competitors supply aluminium turret caps as the norm.

Apart from these two small issues the overall finish and presentation of the Japanese-made V4 in 3-12x56 is excellent. The riflescope is supplied in an attractive white carton with bikini-style lens covers, cleaning cloth and user information leaflet.

### Conquest V4 6-24x50 - Reticle 93 illuminated (ZMOA-1) with ASV ballistic turret

The flagship model in the Conquest V4 range is the 6-24x50 complete with illuminated ZMOA-1 reticle and side-focus (parallax) adjustment. This specification with its 368mm length and 690g weight is made for the hunter or shooter who enjoys dialing into long-range targets and utilising ballistic reticles such as the ZMOA-1.

The user leaflet describes the reticle subtensions in detail and this will assist in adjusting for windage and elevation hold-over. The fitted ASV ballistic turret allows 20 MOA adjustment per revolution with a total elevation travel of 80 MOA (as quoted by Zeiss). It also accommodates Zeiss's ballistic stop feature which is excellent.

Users are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the procedure for adjusting the point-of-impact on the elevation. This involves removing the ASV ballistic turret and ballistic stop collar and, once you're dialed in, reinstalling the collar and turret cap.

The ASV ballistic turret is compatible with Zeiss' ballistic software found on their Zeiss Hunting app. It allows users to pick the exact factory ammunition for their rifle calibre and access ballistic data and ASV ballistic turret adjustments for their load out to any distance they wish to



The Conquest V4 6-24x50 with the ASV ballistic turret and ZMOA-1 reticle makes for a fine long-range optic.





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## Zeiss Conquest V4 - a riflescope range for the serious hunter

shoot. Handloaders can also create custom ballistic profiles in this app and generate ASV ballistic turret data accordingly.

The windage turret is capped and identical to the capped turret in the rest of the V4 range. My sentiments again on the size of the windage dial and plastic turret cap are echoed here. Thankfully, execution of the parallax (side-focus) and illumination rheostat adjacent to the other turrets is spot-on. Both dials are positioned side-by-side on the left of the turret housing and operate independently. The parallax dial is closest to the scope body and allows the user to correct for parallax from approximately 50m to infinity.

One detraction is distances are not marked on the parallax dial, making adjustment more difficult than need be. The illumination dial is excellent with 10 individual brightness settings with an 'off' position between each level. The battery for the illumination is in the body of the illumination/parallax dial and consists of a single CR2032-style button battery. The riflescope comes supplied in an attractive white Zeiss carton with a bikini-style lens covers, cleaning cloth and information leaflet.

However, the leaflet is sub-standard for a high-quality optic like the Conquest V4. A comprehensive booklet with clear and legible information would better serve owners.

### At the range

Both review scopes were tested shooting paper targets and steel plates out to 300m. They were tested on Outdoor Sporting Agencies' new rifles for 2018 in the Sauer S100 Pantera and Howa KRG Bravo, both in .308 Winchester. The scopes were fitted to



The well-designed ocular and eye-box on the Conquest V4s. Diopter adjustment is easy to set to the user's eyesight.

the rifles using Nikko Stirling quick-detachable steel rings in a medium height.

Both optics were brilliant with clarity, contrast and edge-to-edge sharpness evident, no doubt thanks to Zeiss' LotuTec and T\* lens coatings. Field of view was very good for the hunting/long-range application.

Both scopes moved throughout their magnification ranges with ease using the well-appointed magnification dial just forward of the ocular housing. Diopter adjustment was also ample to allow the reticle image to be sharpened up according to the user's eyesight.

The scopes were subjected to the normal

tracking test at 100m where the point of impact was moved around a target to see if the windage and elevation adjustments would be true and correct. As expected, the initial and final shots overlapped with each other and moving the point-of-impact around the target for both scopes was verified and correct.

The 3-12x56 would be my pick for a hunting rifle as I prefer the more basic Z-Plex reticle and capped windage and elevation turrets. The 6-24x50 for the long-range hunter using the ASV ballistic turret and ballistic reticles works well, but for serious long-range shooting the lack of a proper windage turret to dial for wind is noticeable.

I'm sure proper windage turrets that can dial for wind can be retro-fitted but these are at an additional cost to the user and would have to be specifically ordered and fitted by the importer.

### Overview

The Zeiss Conquest V4 riflescopes offer a quality "entry-level" optic with many features found on its V6 and V8/HT stablemates but at a more affordable price. The decision by Zeiss to have this line designed in Germany but built to their specifications in Japan contributes to its lower price-point while not giving up on anything regarding performance.

Retail pricing ranges from about \$1624 for the Conquest V4 3-12x56 to \$2114 for the Conquest V4 6-24x50 with the illuminated ZMOA-1 reticle and ASV ballistic turret. For more, visit [osaaustralia.com.au](http://osaaustralia.com.au). The Zeiss website has full specifications. ●

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# The Thompson/Center Long Range Rifle

Senior Correspondent Rod Pascoe

**T**he latest offering from Thompson/Center is a departure from their signature break-action rifles and, more recently, wide range of bolt-action products. With the proliferation of the metal chassis or, as some manufacturers prefer to call them, tactical platforms, making their way on to the sporting scene, Thompson/Center (T/C) have developed a rifle heavy enough for long-range target work yet light enough to be formidable in the field. *Australian Shooter* had the chance to look at the T/C Long Range Rifle (LRR) courtesy of Australian distributor Frontier Arms.

Its full title is Smith & Wesson Performance Center Thompson/Center Long Range Rifle, a bit of a mouthful but it also acknowledges S&W as T/C's parent company. Its styling suggests T/C along with dozens of other US manufacturers have seen a growing market for entry-level, precision, long-range bolt-action repeaters built on a metal chassis that provides the ability to attach a range of accessories, have a detachable box magazine, a pistol grip and adjustable butt features.

Chambered for the popular .243 Winchester, .308 Winchester and 6.5 Creedmoor cartridges the LRR is available with a black satin-finish barrelled action and Flat Dark Earth (FDE) or black matte finish on the stock. The review rifle is chambered for the 6.5 Creedmoor and has the FDE stock.

## The rifle

Chassis stocks are becoming popular for a number of reasons - they provide a rigid bedding platform and can often produce excellent accuracy without the need for additional bedding. The fore-end of the chassis incorporates 32 Magpul M-LOK slots for quick and easy mounting of accessories.

The skeletonised butt is user-adjustable for both length-of-pull and comb height using two independent adjustment wheels. The wheels have deep detents that stop the wheels from moving under recoil and a pair of grub screws lock in the settings. The rubber buttplate has separate adjustments that allow it to move up, down and rotate to make better contact with the shooter's shoulder and the rubberised AR-style pistol

grip sits behind an oversized triggerguard and has three finger grooves. A Caldwell adjustable bipod, complete with M-LOK attachments, is included with the LRR.

The first thing that distinguishes the LRR receiver from others in the T/C range is the small ejection port on the right side of the action. A two-position safety catch is mounted on the right side of the action, just forward of the tang to the rear of the bolt handle. Pressing the lever forward places it in the 'fire' position (the bolt can be manipulated with the safety applied but blocks the trigger).

The three-lug bolt on the LRR has become common on many bolt-action rifles, an advantage being it makes for a short bolt throw since the surface area of the individual bolt lugs is decreased and less rotation is required to unlock the lugs from their seats. The bolt rides in a groove machined on the left side of the body that engages on the action's bolt stop. This anti-bind feature eliminates much of the slop as the bolt moves back and forth and gives it a more precise feel. The bolt handle is fluted for improved grip.

## The Thompson/Center Long Range Rifle

The Performance Center trigger has a blade safety lever that sits inside the trigger face and the single-stage trigger is adjustable from 2.5-3.5lb for precise tuning, the review rifle set at 2.5. The 10-shot detachable magazine is made by Accurate-Mag, a popular aftermarket magazine manufacturer, and fits snugly into the well. The rifle accepts Accurate Industries Chassis System (AICS) pattern magazines. The magazine tapers to the single stack and the cartridge feeds directly into the chamber smoothly, the magazine box being 2.9" inside which, for handloaders, limits the cartridge overall length. A 20-MOA tapered scope rail appears to be a combination of a Picatinny and a Weaver-style rail and is bolted to the action with four screws.

Barrel length on the 6.5 Creedmoor version is 24", the contour reasonably heavy and has 5R rifling with a 1:10" twist. The barrel also has five substantial flutes that provide additional surface area for cooling and cut a small amount of weight, the barrel generously free-floating forward of the recoil lug. T/C have elected to keep the barrel exposed rather than incorporate a hand guard as featured on many other brands. The muzzle is threaded to 5/8"x24tpi with muzzle brake fitted.

The rifle ships with a durable black nylon case, Caldwell bipod, 10-round magazine, a set of hex-head keys for stock adjustment, padlock and instruction manual.

### The cartridge

The 6.5 Creedmoor is a collaboration between Sturm Ruger and Hornady. Named after the historic rifle range in New York with its long and honourable target shooting



Pistol grip, oversized triggerguard and large mag release.



A sliding steel hook rides inside a T-slot in one of the bolt's locking lugs and plunger-style ejector extends from the bolt face on the other side.

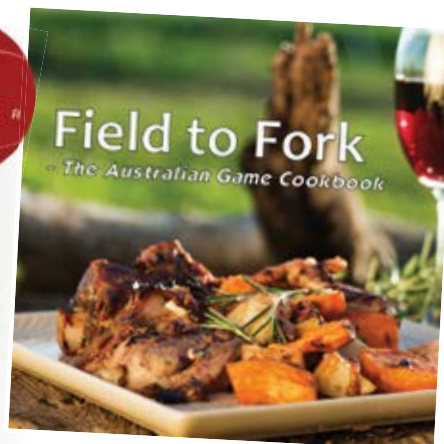


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history, the Creedmoor was intended as the cartridge for everything and everyone.

Introduced in 2008, the designers wanted to incorporate the latest thinking in cartridge shape and dimensions using the 6.5mm projectile and also sought the ballistic edge over the other major players - the .260 Remington, 6.5x55 Swedish, 6.5-284 Norma and 6.5x47 Lapua - the Creedmoor claiming flatter trajectory, less wind drift and shorter flight times. A number of rifle makers are now producing the Creedmoor and public acceptance seems to justify Hornady's and Ruger's faith in the round. There's a growing range of commercially loaded ammunition available for hunting and target work as well as plenty of reloading components for handloaders.

### At the range

I packed a selection of factory and hand-loaded ammunition for testing, including Hornady Match with its Hornady 120gr ELD Match projectile, Hornady Match with Hornady 140gr ELD Match, Federal Premium with 130gr Berger Hybrid Open Tip Match, Fusion (Federal) with 140gr Fused Jacket hunting projectile and a handload I made using Hornady brass and a moly-coated 140gr Nosler Custom Competition projectile and 35 grains of ADI Benchmark 8208 powder. Cartridge Overall Length was 2.82" and I decided to throw this round into the mix to demonstrate what potential a handload can achieve.

The scope Frontier Arms supplied was a Nightforce ATACR 5-25x56 F1-ZS MIL-R-DIG-C - another mouthful but an excellent choice of precision optics to match the



The skeletonised butt is user-adjustable for length-of-pull and comb height.

LRR. Personally I'd have chosen something with a higher magnification up to about 35 or 40 power with which I could see bullet holes in a paper target out to 200 or 300m. This scope sits pretty high on the rifle but, thanks to the adjustable comb, it easily accommodated my eye height.

I used a sandbag to support the butt. For bench work the shape of the underside of the butt wasn't suited to sitting on a bag as, with each shot, the recoil caused the sloping angle of the butt to slide on the bag, requiring readjusting the butt between shots.

I inserted the bolt and empty magazine with the intention of single-loading my test



Single-stage trigger is adjustable from 2.5-3.5lb.



The fore-end of the chassis has 32 slots for easy mounting of accessories.

rounds but due to the small ejection port in the receiver, shaped to eject an empty case rather than load a live one, single-loading was awkward so I resorted to loading from the magazine. The magazine held nine rounds comfortably, 10 was a challenge, and even then I couldn't insert a nine-round magazine into the rifle with the bolt closed.

I bore-sighted the rifle and fired a shot at the centre of a blank piece of paper, the

### Best results from testing

Handload with moly coated 140gr Nosler Custom Competition projectile and 35gr of ADI Benchmark 8208 powder - best group .5"

Hornady Match with Hornady 140gr ELD Match projectile - best group .56"

Hornady Match with Hornady 120gr ELD Match projectile - best group .64"

Federal Premium with 130gr Berger Hybrid Open Tip Match projectile - best group .67"

Fusion (Federal) with 140gr Fused Jacket hunting projectile - best group - .95"

## The Thompson/Center Long Range Rifle

clear Nightforce optics allowing me to easily see the bullet hole at 100m so that became my aiming mark. The dot in the centre of the scope's reticle neatly fitted over the bullet hole at 25x magnification.

The rifle's weight of 5.22kg plus scope gave an all-up 6.7kg, well below that allowed for F-Class Open division but the well-behaved 6.5 Creedmoor cartridge with effective muzzle brake made the LRR pleasant to shoot, the pistol grip comfortable and well-fitting. I fired more than 60 rounds from the bench in a single session and at no point did recoil become irritating.

Thanks to the lack of recoil and quality of the scope, seeing hits on the target was easy. As factory ammo goes, the Hornady Match with 140gr ELD projectile proved the most accurate match ammunition of those tested and certainly performed well out of this rifle.

### Summary

Thompson/Center Arms has delivered another fine firearm and with the



Muzzle brake.

introduction of the Performance Center Long Range Rifle Bolt Action has made a precision rifle that will fit most shooters' budgets. As mentioned, the rifle functioned flawlessly so long as I was firm with the bolt and didn't try to load 10 rounds in the magazine.

More and more people are becoming involved in long-range rifle competitions such as the SSAA's Long Range Precision discipline and availability of entry-level rifles has increased with improvements in rifle design and ammunition and the ability of manufacturers to keep costs down. This is an exciting time for precision rifle shooters and Smith & Wesson Performance Center has brought a fine rifle to the sporting shooters'

market, one which deserves to be at the top of your list when you get into long-range precision shooting. ●



### Specifications

**Calibre/Gauge:** .243 Winchester, .308 Winchester, 6.5 Creedmoor (reviewed)

**Barrel length:** .243 Win 26", .308 Win 20", 6.5 Creedmoor 24"

**Overall length:** 45.5"

**Weight:** .243 Win 5.44kg, .308 Win 4.99kg, 6.5 Creedmoor 5.22kg

**Sights:** Flat top Picatinny-style rail with 20 MOA taper

**Stock:** Aluminum chassis, adjustable stock in black or Flat Dark Earth

**Action and trigger:** Thompson/Center

**Magazine:** 10 round, accepts all AICS patterned magazines

**RRP:** \$2350

**Australian agent:** Frontier Arms, Adelaide



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# A case for bedding

Paul Barker

At some stage most serious rifle shooters give a little thought to improving the accuracy of a particular firearm in their gun safe. The quest to remove that last millimetre from the group dimensions can lead to all types of rifle modifications and at considerable cost in many cases. You need only check the line-up of specialist firearms at a Benchrest competition for some idea of what lengths really keen shooters go to when pursuing those incredibly tight groups.

There are most likely debates in some shooting circles as to how tight a group a standard hunting rifle can print to perform adequately in the field. However, at the end of the day it's largely up to the individual and his or her personal requirements for the type of hunting any given rifle is intended for.

Having recently re-stocked my Remington 700 BDL in 223 due to changes required in comb height to suit a new scope, I wondered how the accuracy could be maintained or improved long-term. The chosen stock was one of the new Boyds At-One adjustable laminated models. The metalwork was a pleasing neat drop-in fit but the barrel channel was machined for a rather heavy varmint class barrel, way too large for the standard Remington one on my model. Rather than just float the barrel over epoxy and reduce the width of the barrel channel, it was decided to do a full bedding job on the new stock.

As with any bedding the concept is to maximise the long-term stability of the barrelled action within the stock. Timber stocks over time can change their shape slightly due to use and other factors such as moisture and heat. The plan was to do the bedding in two separate stages, the first involving installing two pillars which required the original action screw holes in the stock to be accurately drilled out on centre to 16mm. The front hole had to be spot-on in terms of accuracy as there's a steel crossbar in the stock just in front of the finished diameter of the hole.

Fortunately the top of the stock above the front action hole is exactly square to it and this enabled a doweling jig to be used to position the large drill precisely on centre using two guides machined to the required diameters. The centre guide was machined

to 16mm outside diameter and a hole the same diameter as the action screw holes in the stock was drilled through its centre.

The outer guide was machined to a diameter to fit the doweling jig base and a 16mm hole drilled through its centre. The shank of a drill the same diameter as the action screw holes was placed in the centre guide then it in turn placed inside the outer guide.

The drill shank was carefully inserted into the front action stud hole with the two guides in place and the doweling jig positioned over the top and required adjustments made. When the complete set-up was in place under the pedestal drill it was securely clamped in position, the larger 16mm drill installed in the chuck and everything rechecked.

Needless to say there was some apprehension at the thought of drilling a sizeable

hole in a new stock where tight tolerances were required. Hasten slowly was the order of the day and all went according to plan.

The tang screw hole was slightly easier in that the stock was mounted in the drill vice only and positioned with the aid of a drill the same diameter as the original hole in the stock. This was swapped out for the larger drill when everything was clamped down. Both holes were drilled without incident and exactly where they needed to be with no issues concerning the steel crossbar and front hole.

Next step was to spend some time on the lathe and machine up the two 14mm diameter pillars from brass stock, grooves also machined into the sides to give the epoxy a firm foundation. The pillars would be trimmed to the correct length after the concave tops to match the action base and



An accurate shot took out this fox at about 200m, proof of an efficient bedding job.

## A case for bedding

were machined and checked for proper fit. To make life easier when fitting the various components together during the bedding process, two T-nuts were machined with a long and short stud to match the action screws.

The two pillars were fixed to the action with the studs and checked for square. That done, it was time to check the fitment in the stock and work out the correct length for each pillar. Apart from some minor work with a Dremel, the whole job went together rather well. As the pillars are to be held in place with epoxy, some considerable attention had to be given to covering all exposed surfaces with a release agent in proximity, but not involved in the pillar job. This means holes, recesses and the like that epoxy may find its way into. The last thing you need when working with epoxy during a bedding job is to have the metalwork firmly bonded to the stock - not a good situation to be in. Plasticine was also used to fill any larger holes and recesses where the epoxy needed to be kept out.

Release agents come in many forms so it's a case of individual choice and neutral Kiwi boot polish was used with good results. Epoxy selection is another personal preference and J-B Weld was employed to good effect. It cures rock hard with no shrinkage and has a slow cure time which means not having to rush the job. Another plus was the colour matched that of the silver-grey Boyds pepper laminated stock.

Next step was to carefully apply several layers of gaffer tape along the underside of the barrel to give a 1.5mm clearance, so affording an adequate margin to float the barrel. Due to the dimensions of the heavy varmint barrel the stock was made to



accommodate, there was minimal additional work required in terms of removing timber to allow space for the epoxy bedding, though some timber was detached from the recoil lug recess.

A layer of tape was applied to the sides, bottom and front face of the recoil lug to

give a small amount of clearance.

As with installing the pillars, considerable attention was paid to making sure a proper coating of release agent was applied to the metalwork and the tape on the barrel to ensure the action and barrel would be easily separated once the epoxy had cured. This

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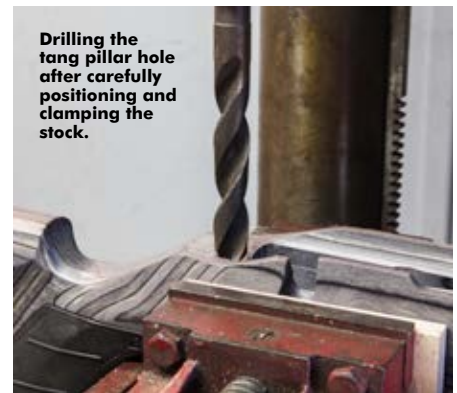


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With centre insert removed, the 16mm drill opened out the original stud hole to make provisions for the front pillar.



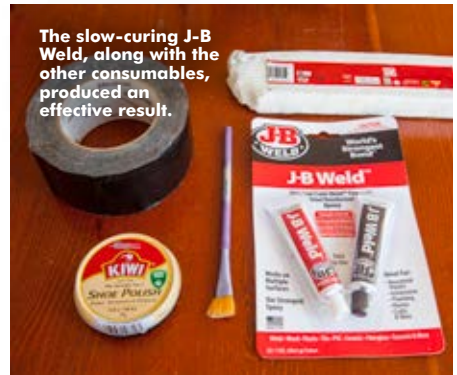
Drilling the tang pillar hole after carefully positioning and clamping the stock.



The two pillars bolted to the action and checked for square prior to being epoxied into the stock.



The two T-nuts, along with the front and tang studs, were machined and proved a great aid during the process.



The slow-curing J-B Weld, along with the other consumables, produced an effective result.

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## A case for bedding

aspect of the project cannot be overstated.

A liberal amount of J-B Weld was applied to the stock in the action area and barrel channel and the studs screwed into the action once the two were mated together. The bottom metal was placed over the studs and the T-nuts gradually firmed. During preparation, masking tape was placed along the barrel channel shoulders and action recess to make it easier to clean the excess epoxy that had extruded out as the T-nuts were being tensioned.

Finally the T-nuts were tightened just enough to bed the action firmly against the installed pillars, but not overly tight. When the epoxy stopped oozing from the stock, a soft wooden spatula was used to remove the excess from the masking tape and generally tidy up any deficiencies where the epoxy fill might have been lacking.

After waiting 24 hours for the epoxy to thoroughly cure, it was time to see if the release agent had done its job and there were no areas that had been missed in the preparation. A big sigh of relief came when, after a slight amount of pressure, the metalwork and stock happily parted company.

If all has gone to plan the epoxy should have no air bubbles in it with a smooth, almost polished finish to the bedded areas resulting. Depending on how well the epoxy was cleaned off prior to hardening, some slight sanding may be required along the barrel and action margins.

All that remains to finish the job is to remove the tape from the barrel and stock, take off the release agent and plasticine filling the holes and recesses, along with the T-nut studs from the action. Once the metalwork is cleaned up the rifle can be



reassembled and the action screws torqued to the desired tension. Just how well the bedding job will influence group size will be revealed at the next trip to the range but hopefully the exercise will have been worthwhile and live up to expectations. ●



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# The Gewehr 43 (G43, K43) a German survivor

Ivo Dimitrov



**T**he G43 was a self-loading rifle developed in Germany as the successor to the G41(W) which we featured in the February 2019 *Australian Shooter* magazine. Germany's initial quest for a self-loading infantry rifle in 1941 resulted in two designs, the G41(M) and G41(W) from the Mauser and Walther firms respectively.

The Mauser design proved too complicated and was not officially adopted, although it was manufactured in 1942 and field issued. The Walther offering proved simpler and a better option so was embraced as the G41(W) and was the first self-loading rifle to enter service with the German Army.

The problems with both designs stemmed from a demand made by the

Heereswaffenamt (the Army weapons authority) which forbade drilling the barrel and taping for gas to operate the loading mechanism as it was believed this would erode the barrel and affect accuracy.

Meeting this requirement meant the designs had to use uncommon mechanisms in the form of the Bang system (named after its Danish designer Søren Hansen Bang), where propellant gases were captured by a cone-shaped gas trap at the muzzle. The Bang system was highly prone to fouling due to the large surface area it presented for the gases to cool.

The infantry had a constant demand for faster-firing guns but since the German industry was geared towards manufacturing the K98 bolt-action rifle, substituting it



The bolt carrier.



The bolt disassembled.





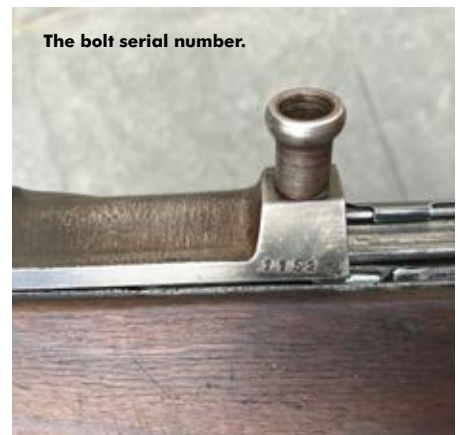
The bolt.



The imprint of the maker and year are displayed.

outright with a new system proved unfeasible in the middle of a war, so the G41(W) was only meant to supplement the K98 and was made in limited numbers with surviving examples fairly rare.

The German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 led to the capture of many Red Army SVT-40 self-loading rifles which were examined in Germany. These used a simple gas piston mechanism powered from a port cut into the barrel (the very thing the Heereswaffenamt had resisted from the start). It was better, simpler, easier to clean and more reliable than the Bang system.



The bolt serial number.



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## The Gewehr 43 (G43, K43) a German survivor



The magazine and its markings.



The bolt housing.

In 1943, Walther combined a similar gas system to the SVT-40 with aspects of the G41(W), namely the bolt which was taken straight from the G41. The new rifle also featured a 10-round detachable magazine like the SVT-40 and, unlike its predecessor (G41) which had a stripper clip, fed a permanently attached magazine. It began production in late 1943 and was accepted

and entered into service as the Gewehr 43.

The rifle was made by the following manufacturers: Carl Walther of Zella-Mehlis from 1943-45 (code 'ac'), Gustloff Werke in Weimar in 1944 (code 'bcd') and Berlin-Lübecker Maschinenfabrik of Lübeck from 1944-45 (code 'duv' in 1944 changing to 'qve' in 1945).

Gewehr denotes a full-length rifle in German and the G43 is of carbine length, so the designation was officially changed to Karabiner 43 or K43 in April 1944.

This was purely a matter of nomenclature and nothing changed as far as the gun was concerned. In fact the roll mark on the receiver was only changed at all from G43 to K43 by the manufacturers around November or December 1944. Berlin-Lübecker Maschinenfabrik marked them only as K43 in 1945 but Walther kept listing them as G43 until the end of the war. Gustloff Werke only classed them as G43 and Berlin-Lübecker Maschinenfabrik used

durofol handguards, a type of plastic.

The production of the action cover/bolt housing was an innovation. It was no easy task to start with a flat piece of sheet steel and press it several times to a tubular shape and then add the end. This had to be done very accurately so the bolt carrier fits on the outside and the bolt sits on its inside.

A proportion of the G43s (about 14 per cent) were delivered with an optical sight (ZF4), however the scope rail was an integral part of the receiver for the bulk of the G43s, the expectation being the scope can be mounted on a 'need to' basis. About 415,000 were produced in total.

The example featured here was made by Berlin-Lübecker Maschinenfabrik (code 'qve') in early 1945. It is designated K43, features the durofol handguard and has the rail for the ZF4 scope. An interesting peculiarity to Berlin-Lübecker Maschinenfabrik is the serial numbering of the stock even at that late stage of the war. ●



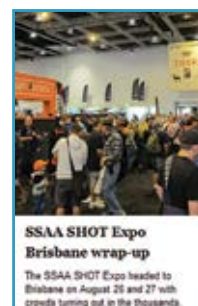
The stock serial number.

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The Kahles scan mode provides rapid readings across the hills.

The Helia RF brown outer is well camouflaged and highly suitable for hunting.



# An eye for detail

## Kahles' Helia rangefinder binoculars

Chris Redlich

Having the capability of measuring distances through binoculars is not a new concept - I read with great interest about rangefinder binoculars in articles more than a decade ago. But the recent breed of laser range-finder binoculars appeared to be exclusive to high-end European manufacturers so with a premium price to match were well

out of reach for myself and the average hunter.

Kahles have released their affordable rangefinding binoculars, the Helia RF 8x42 and Helia RF 10x42, and David Duprez of Kahles Australia loaned me a pair of the latter for review. Being one of the world's oldest optics manufacturers, Kahles are familiar to Australian shooters and it would be hard to find an old roo shooter's rifle that wasn't topped with a fixed power 8x56 scope.

A professional roo shooter mate of mine has two of them and uses his 15-plus-year-old Kahles scopes to this day and reckons from all the years of being knocked about in his cruiser they haven't let him down.

### Out of the box

The binoculars came supplied with a custom-made Waldkauz brand leather and woollen felt neck-strap and protective lens covers. It's hard to fault Kahles' effort to present their product and for those who don't have a binocular harness the leather

neck-strap would do the job but it's more suited to the bird-watcher than serious hunter.

Out of the box and in the hand you'd expect binoculars with all their inbuilt electronics to weigh a substantial amount but at 880g it's a negligible difference compared to the 'non-rangefinder' binos I've carried for the past 12 years.

Unlike others available, Helia RF binos are not an open bridge design but this doesn't detract from their overall feel. Most of the rangefinding electronics are housed in the closed bridge and the power on/measure-and-mode buttons are accessed easily on the top right of the bridge. I have 'ape-like' fingers but the grip and feel to me is comfortable. The centre focus wheel is easily found in the middle hinge section of the bridge with dioptre correction adjustments on the ocular lenses. Both eyecups are click adjustable by twisting them anti-clockwise.

There are three additional positions available to set for your correct eye relief.



The Helia RFs supplied with Waldkauz leather neck-strap and woollen felt lens covers.

## Kahles' Helia rangefinder binoculars

Interpupillary distance (single image) is adjusted by hinging the barrels to suit the operator's eye width. The binocular chassis and lens barrels are made of alloy and the external surface coated in a durable rubber with integrated grips, making it easy and firm to grasp. This is an important consideration in harsh weather conditions.

Unlike Kahles' European competitors, Helia RF binos are predominately brown in colour and blend in well when hunting camouflage is important. The lenses are sealed within the barrels and purged with nitrogen for water resistance and to prevent fogging.

### The nitty-gritty (electronics)

Most people are privy to how a laser rangefinder measures distance but it's important to note Kahles quotes a realistic rangefinding minimum of 10 yards to 1600 yards - or 10m out to a maximum 1500m - as opposed to a competitor's advertised 1500 yards, a slight but handy advantage of around 150m. The distance display can be altered from yards to metres using the mode setting.

The Helia RF binoculars also include a ballistic mode or what Kahles calls EAC-function (Enhanced Angle Compensation) that takes into account the target angle and distance, providing a realistic target range measurement for the hunter.

A scan mode enables you to have updated measurements as the binoculars are scanned across the target area, an advantage when following a moving target. For instance, when a target pulls up momentarily you can make an informed decision as to whether it's still within your capability to shoot or not.

All the head-up display of the modes and rangefinding is lit in red and located in the right-side eyepiece with the aiming mark occupying the centre position. The brightness of the display is adjustable to five levels in the mode setting and can be altered depending on ambient light. This was evident during field testing and as daylight began to fade I dropped the brightness setting and it didn't interfere with the view of the object I was observing.

The sharpness of the head-up display is corrected using the dioptre adjustments and information on all necessary alterations are in the supplied user manual. These electronics don't come solar powered and like all their competitors the Helia RF binoculars are powered by a CR2 battery.

### Optics

While the lenses are of a high standard they're not made in Austria like previous Kahles binoculars. The Helia RFs are made in China, a strategy to provide a premium product at a more achievable price than their close competitors. This didn't deter me as the binoculars I've used on many hunts and paid well over \$1000 for more than 12 years ago, have lenses made somewhere in Asia and I still can't fault them optically.

Kahles doesn't have a fancy marketing name for their lenses but they're coated to provide superior light transmission for hunting in all conditions as was evident during my field testing. A field of view of 59 degrees from the 42mm objective lenses allows for a broad area to be observed.

### In the field

Before I went hunting with the Helias I

mounted them to a harness with protective pouch that sits comfortably on the front of my chest. Being a loan item I was conscious of my responsibility to return them as close to new as could be expected.

Before my annual red deer roar hunt I took the Helia RFs to the range on a friend's property close to home where I was able to familiarise myself with the functions, rather than messing around on an important stalk. Setting up targets for sighting-in, the rangefinding binoculars proved their worth as I sat back and took ranges at other objects around the countryside with ease. By keeping my finger on the range button and scanning the binoculars across the landscape, the display was rapidly updating me with distances of various targets, reinforcing the Helia RF's specification of laser/range reading processing speed of 905 nanometres (+/- 10nm). Put simply, super fast!

The furthest range taken freehand was 1215m - a vast improvement on the old RF monocular I've owned for years. I suspect to reach full range-reading capability of the Helia RF's claimed 1500m would require the aid of a rest such as a pack and a 'binocular tripod' would be a handy addition (there is a screw port for a tripod adaptor in the front of the hinge section).

The impending roar came with much anticipation and I couldn't wait to put the RFs to the test in a real hunting situation. As with all hunts the weather can be unpredictable and while our first day was fine it went downhill from there. The rain wasn't going to stop us from looking around, so my son and I stepped off from camp to check for sign. Apart from the usual external fogging common with all lenses in rain,

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moisture was quite easily wiped away.

The lenses pierced through gloomy conditions giving a clear image and I was able to successfully take ranges in the thick scrub to distances of around 120m. But I found that mist hampered the ranging performance of the binoculars. When the mist disappeared the ranging was back on but as soon as another cloud swept through, ranging was affected again. On further investigation back home, the user manual does state that

misty conditions will affect the range-finding ability as does bright sunlight and snow. I've been reliably informed this is not unique to Kahles, as most models of laser rangefinder are similarly affected. The sky cleared and with the aid of the Helia RFs I secured a large mature red stag on a steep slope.

#### Conclusion

As expected the lenses performed admirably, the look, feel and functionality of

range-finding and quality of them making glassing a breeze and the EAC gave an accurate actual range to allow for when shooting in mountainous terrain. The Kahles 8x42 and 10x42 Helia RFs are great pieces of hunting kit, made to a high standard and both retailing for \$1990, a fraction of the cost of other similarly capable models. They carry a 10-year warranty on mechanical parts and two years for electronics and service. More at kahles.at or email khles.sia@swarovski.com ●



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# The Greener GP shotgun

Royce Wilson

**M**artini action rifles, as many historic firearms enthusiasts will attest, are lots of fun to shoot. There's something about dropping the lever, feeding a cartridge into the breech, closing it, taking deliberate aim (you have one shot so make it count) and firing. Then the way a spent round ejects from the action when you drop the lever again. It's all so satisfying and historically appealing at the same time.

The problem is .577/450 ammunition for the Martini-Henry hasn't been widely commercially available in decades and most of the Martini-Henrys still around are in the hands of collectors. Add to that .303 Martini-Enfields being hard to find. Meanwhile, Martini Cadets are in an odd

calibre (.310 cadet) that's tough or expensive to unearth ammo for, while many Sportco .22 Martinis have been turned into target rifles which lack that certain something for day-to-day shooting.

But did you know there are Martini action shotguns? Even in the 19th century the Martini action was one of the gold standards for single-shot cartridge rifles. Incredibly strong, versatile, and reliable, the action is also satisfying to operate - drop the lever, load a round, close lever, shoulder gun and fire.

Martini rifles were largely replaced in British military service in the 1890s and early 1900s when Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles were introduced, but the actual design was extremely solid and

continued to be used in guns until as late as the 1980s.

Shortly after World War One, the Egyptian Government approached British gunmaking firm W.W. Greener to make single-shot shotguns for its police service. The guns, known as Greener EGs (for Egyptian Government) and produced from 1922, were based on the Martini action and featured a military-style full-length wood fore-end, but were chambered for a proprietary 13gr (Mk I) or 14gr (Mk II) shell not available on the commercial market. The theory was if the Greener Police Guns were acquired by the 'wrong' people they'd be unable to use them due to want of ammunition.

However, local ne'er-do-wells were an enterprising bunch and soon worked



A Greener GP shotgun with 3/4" choke and 30" barrel.





out that a 16gr shotgun shell wrapped in gaffer tape or paper would function, albeit not safely. The authorities were reportedly tipped off to this after a miscreant was severely injured by a catastrophic failure while using it. The Greener EG Mk III brought an innovative solution to this problem - a bottlenecked 14gr shell which featured a 'moat' around the primer. Two lugs protruded from the face of the gun's breechblock, which would fit into the moat on the shell and allow the action to be closed and gun to be fired.

Highly successful in Egypt, the design was widely exported all over the British Empire where an easily-operated and sturdy firearm would be ideal for places where they'd likely go for long spells without maintenance. The Martini action would also be familiar to most local police and military, given the Martini-Henry and Martini-Enfield rifles in their armouries.

About 60,000 Greener EG guns are believed to have been manufactured between 1922 and 1964, about 45,000 for Egypt and the rest going to other far-flung parts of the Empire.

The guns were so well made they're still

An ad from the 1950s using a testimonial from a satisfied Australian shooter.

in service in some places - there are recent photos showing police in Burma armed with them. While most of the colonial police service guns were in the proprietary 14gr chambering, a number were made in conventional 2¾" chambering as well, notably for the Royal Hong Kong Police and for export to the US as prison guard arms.

Meanwhile, Greener decided to offer a civilian version as well, chambered for conventional 12ga smokeless 2¾" shotgun shells. As well as using regular ammunition, the fore-end was much shorter, the barrel longer and the guns lacked the sling swivels found on the police guns. Known as the GP (General Purpose) the gun proved extremely popular, being made from 1922 to 1964 by W.W. Greener, then from 1965 to around 1980 by Webley & Scott after they acquired the firm. In 1985, a consortium including Graham Greener took back the rights to the name and W.W. Greener is still in business making bespoke shotguns, albeit not of the GP design.

Webley-made GP shotguns usually



feature a round knob form instead of a hexagonal one, a shade of purple colouring on the action and have circlips and pins through the action rather than screws. Unhelpfully for modern collectors, serial numbers on Greener GP shotguns were not reliably recorded before 1968, so while there's a number on the gun there's no certain way to correlate it to a specific production year. Even W.W. Greener themselves are not entirely sure how many guns

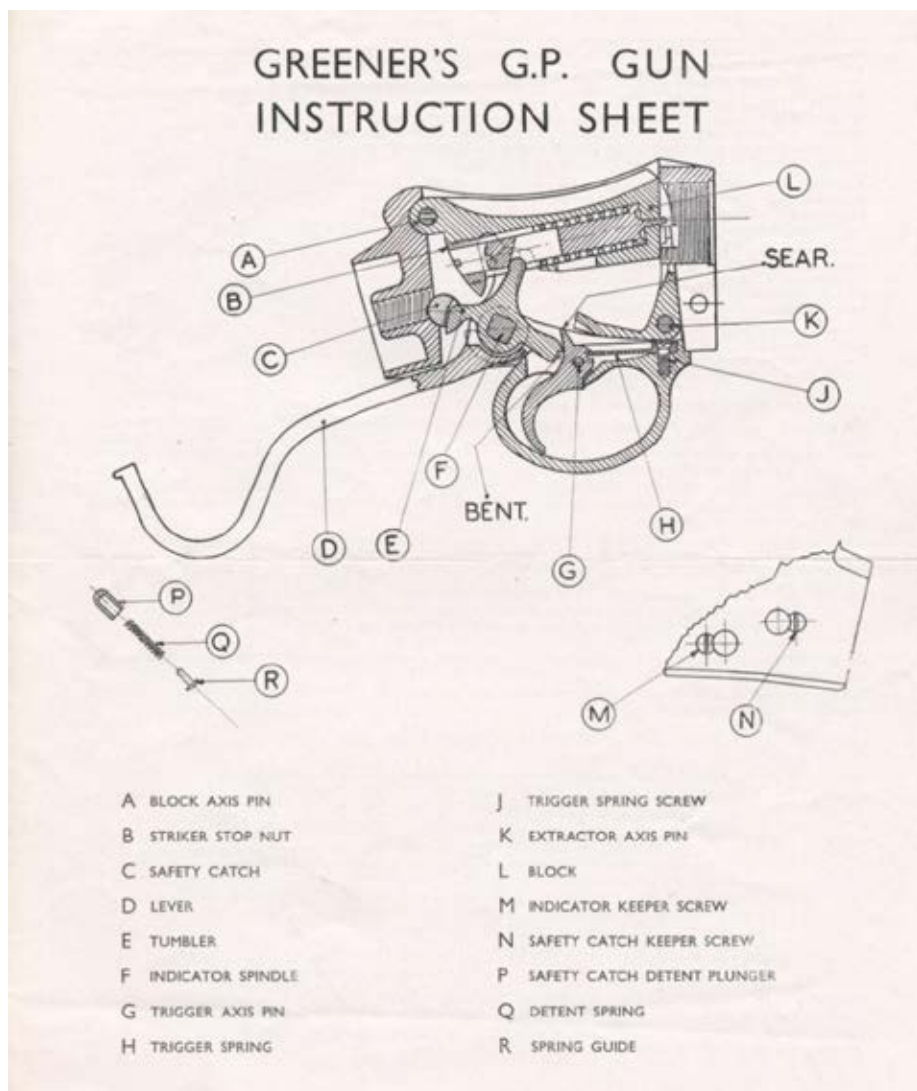
## The Greener GP shotgun

were produced. As an example, I've seen a Greener GP with a barrel with 1952 proof marks but the action appears to have a serial number from the early 1930s, based on an educated guess working backwards from known serial numbers in 1968. This model features the plum colour case hardening used by Webley & Scott and lacks the 'GREENER'S GP GUN' or 'WW GREENER MAKER BIRMINGHAM' markings on the action, despite having numerous other features indicating a W.W. Greener-made shotgun. Proof markings are one of the better ways to date the guns and your favourite internet search engine should turn up some helpful guides to deciphering their arcane mysteries.

While GP is generally understood to stand for General Purpose, the guns are also known as 'Gaffer Guns' and 'Garden Guns', a reference to their general usefulness (much like gaffer tape) and the ubiquitous ('garden-variety'), not to mention suitability for controlling pests like rabbits, foxes and birds in a large country garden. In the 1950s they were advertised as retailing for £14/5s, about \$700 today, so rather more than you'd expect to pay nowadays for a single-barrel 12ga shotgun but still a reasonable price for a British-made quality sporting gun.

Greener GP shotguns have surprisingly long barrels - about 30" - and are typically bored with a full choke, giving them good range at the expense of pattern spread. Multi-choke examples are also encountered in some guns and a small number were also produced as trap guns with ribbed vents on the top of the barrel for the US market.

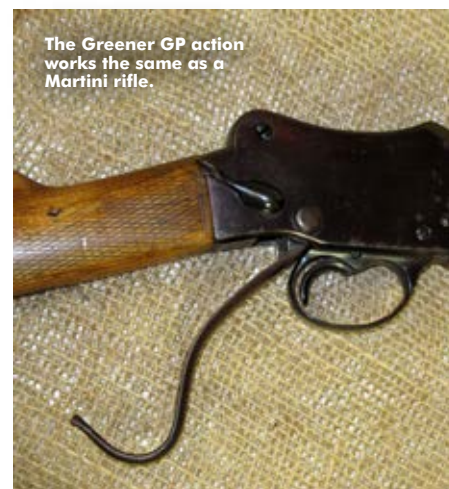
Prior to 1968, shotguns in the UK with barrels longer than 20" were not considered firearms and, much like air rifles, didn't need a firearms certificate and could be owned basically because the holder



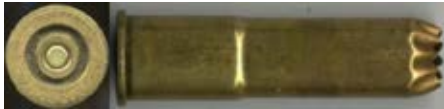
felt like it. Even with the introduction of shotgun certificates in 1968, increasing the minimum barrel length for shotguns to 24", controls on single and double-barrelled sporting shotguns in the UK

remained comparatively relaxed and even today aren't anything an Australian shooter would consider unreasonable.

Surprisingly, Greener GP guns are also takedown arms - if the user opens the







The proprietary 14gr shotgun shell for the Greener Police Gun, featuring a sort of moat around the primer.

action, removing a dedicated screw in the front with a screwdriver will allow the barrel to be screwed off for maintenance. It's not considered a good idea to make a habit of this as it can apparently cause issues with the fit between the action and barrel. Since a bore snake will do a fantastic job of cleaning the barrel from the breech without dismantling the gun, it's not really an advisable thing to do.

The Greener GP really is a fantastic all-round shotgun. They'll feed pretty much any 2¾" shotgun shells including trap shot, bird shot, 00SG and solid slugs and are straightforward to use. The auto-resetting safety is a minor irritant in a range setting but makes sense for a gamekeeper wandering around an estate keeping an eye out for pests, which is how the guns were originally envisaged to be used.

The straight comb on the stock makes the recoil seem sharper than is necessary, but a slip-on recoil pad solves that problem and increases overall length of pull. As well as being excellent knock-about shotguns, a number of Greener GPs in Australia have been converted into Bore Guns and used for Big Game Rifle matches and hunting. Similar in principle to a 12ga solid slug, a Bore Gun is slightly different from a shotgun in that it has a rifled barrel and fires a metallic cartridge round with conventional projectile, as opposed to a smooth barrel and rifled slug from a shotgun shell. The design was also turned into a harpoon gun, best known for its appearance in *Jaws*, and a line-throwing gun, allowing ropes to be launched between ships.

For Australian shooters, Greener GP shotguns come up semi-regularly on secondhand gun sites like SSAA Gun Sales, but are not the sort of thing you're likely to find on the rack at your local gunshop. When they do turn up they don't often stay long and have a well-deserved reputation for being solid, consistent, adaptable and effective guns. Their connection to the iconic Martini-Henry rifle makes them popular additions to gun cabinets across the country. ●

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# Gun & Knife Show List

## 2019

August 3-4		Sydney Knife Show	Gillian Wilson qmacinc@gmail.com
August 10-11	Penrith Panthers Pavilion, Penrith	Sydney Antique & Modern Arms Expo	Lachlan Matthews 0414 928 018 or events\$razorbckguns.com
August 24-25	Bendigo Major League MultiSports Complex, Golden Square	36th Annual Arms & Collectibles Show	Greg Penna 0427 400 930 or gccabendigo@gmail.com
September 7-8	Toowoomba Showgrounds, Glenvale Rd, Toowoomba	330+ tables firearms, ammo, militaria & collectibles & more	Dan Watson 0407 643 776
September 14-15	Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds, Cannington	WA Arms & Armour Annual Militaria Fair	Geoff Smith 0419 955 284
September 21-22	Maitland Federation Centre, Maitland	Hunter Valley Arms Fair	huntervalleyarmsfair.com.au
October 5-6	Westgate Indoor Sports and Leisure Centre, Altona North	Melbourne Arms and Militaria Fair	Jeff Pannan 0412 561 243
October 7		NSW South Coast Knife Show	Gillian Wilson qmacinc@gmail.com
October 19-20	Melbourne Showgrounds	SSAA Shot Expo	ssaashotexpo.org.au
October 26	Illawarra Sports Stadium, Berkeley	Illawarra Outdoor & Adventure Expo	Chris Sainsbury 0448 129 932 or ssaexpo@gmail.com
November 3-4		Adelaide Knife Show	Gillian Wilson qmacinc@gmail.com
November 9-10	Penrith Panthers Pavilion, Penrith	Sydney Antique & Modern Arms Expo	Lachlan Matthews 0414 928 018 or events\$razorbckguns.com
December 2		Canberra Knife Show	Gillian Wilson qmacinc@gmail.com

## 2020

May 23-24	Toowoomba Showgrounds, Glenvale Rd, Toowoomba	350+ tables firearms, ammo, militaria & collectibles	Dan Watson 0407 643 776
September 12-13	Toowoomba Showgrounds, Glenvale Rd, Toowoomba	350+ tables firearms, ammo, militaria & collectibles	Dan Watson 0407 643 776
September 12-13	Cannington Exhibition Centre & Showgrounds, Cannington	WA Arms & Armour Annual Militaria Fair	Geoff Smith 0419 955 284

Persons wishing to purchase any firearm that requires a licence from any arms fair in NSW should apply for a Permit to Acquire at least six weeks before the fair. For reasons beyond the control of show organisers, some of the above dates may be changed. It is advisable to check the show dates before travelling.



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# SSAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Phone 02 8805 3900 Fax 02 9832 9377 Email [mem@ssaa.org.au](mailto:mem@ssaa.org.au)

ABN 95 050 209 688

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

Membership 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 (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) \_\_\_\_\_

Town/suburb \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male ☐ Female ☐

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## 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



- ☐ \$90
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- ☐ \$68
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- ☐ \$1800
- ☐ \$173
- ☐ \$25

- ☐ \$119
- ☐ \$154
- ☐ \$97
- ☐ \$132
- ☐ \$97
- ☐ \$132
- ☐ \$233
- ☐ \$54

#### 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.

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#### 5-year Adult Contact SSAA for firearms insurance information.

#### Member for Life Contact SSAA for firearms insurance information.

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

Supporting Adult member No. \_\_\_\_\_

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**\$29**  
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Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature.....

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SHOOTER AUGUST 2019

☐ I also wish to donate \$..... to the SSAA

Sign up online - it's quick and easy!  
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**ALL APPLICANTS 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](http://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](http://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
- ☐ HUNTING (club membership)
- ☐ COLLECTING
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## Mick Martin

Communications Officer Sam Talbot

**M**ick Martin came to our attention via the Combined Services Rifle Captain at SSAA Mackay, Doug Purkis, who immediately took a shine to the youthful shooter.

“He came to us a couple years ago, just after we changed our Junior Development days to be more like family days. We found that while we could have an impact on the kids, we really needed to get the parents involved as well and so now we try to get both involved,” said Doug.

“When he first started, he was a bit quiet but he’s come out from under his rock. And not just that, he’s even having a go back at us now. But more importantly as his shooting has improved (Mick’s father) David has told us his school and general confidence have improved as well.”

Dad David is Mick’s biggest supporter and even though he doesn’t shoot himself anymore, he still takes plenty of satisfaction from seeing 16-year-old Mick shoot.

“My father has helped me a lot and he has learned some things himself,” said Mick. “A lot of people in SSAA, most of the guys in fact, want to help me improve.

“My favourite firearms are the Brno Model 2 .22LR for Combined Services and a Stirling Model 110 .22LR for Field Rifle.

“I also use a 7615 .223 Remington which I have just started shooting in Combined Services centrefire competitions. All of these rifles are favourites because I find them comfortable and easy to use in the competitions.

“My father and I have spent a few years researching and discovering different ammo that the .22s like best. We discovered the Blazer brand - when we can access it - and it has been running well ever since. We are currently setting up dad’s old Brno ZKK .243 for me to use as my hunting rifle, along with a CZ 452 .22LR for the smaller game.”

All the shooting is paying off with one of Mick’s major accomplishments coming in the form of winning both Junior and B-grade with the .22 Trainer in the state-wide postal competition. In April he also shot a 322.2 for a third place in the monthly Field Rifle shoot as well.

“I want to pursue shooting for as long as



Rod Muller presents Mick with his Junior and B-grade first place certificates.

I can. Maybe even do some state comps as well,” he said.

The teenager also gives back to other junior shooters by coaching younger shooters that are coming through the ranks. These juniors have gained enormous benefit from the coaching advice dispensed by Mick at the same Junior Development days which gave him his start.

Clearly Mick has had a big impact on his club and they have had a big impact on him, but David and Mick have also become interested in hunting and when I spoke to them, they were in the process of organising some properties to hunt on. They recently had luck in finding a property, but unfortunately they didn’t find much to shoot.

“The weekend was great. Unfortunately, the few deer that we saw were on the wrong side of the fence,” said David.

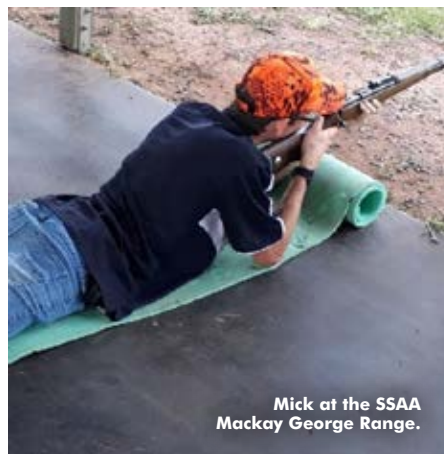
Hunting success or not there’s always things to shoot at the range though, which Mick is grateful for.

“I would like to thank all club members and club officials involved in SSAA for making this amazing opportunity possible,” said Mick.

“I would also like to especially thank



Some of Mick’s silverware from the past couple of years.

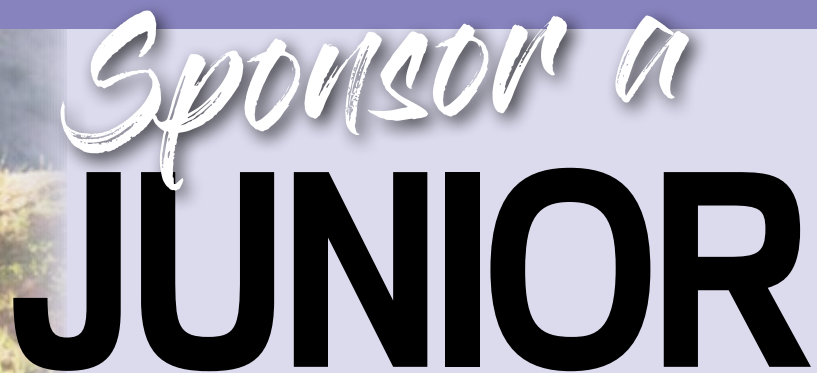


Mick at the SSAA Mackay George Range.

everyone that attends the events mentioned for all their efforts in assisting me over the past few years.”

The camaraderie and confidence built on the shooting range and during hunting trips is a common story, but it never ceases to amaze. A special kind of fire has been kindled in Mick and we expect to see it grow larger and even spread to others. All the best Mick! ●






SSAA National's 'Sign up a Junior' campaign was launched to help introduce youngsters to recreational shooting. Juniors are essential to the ongoing strength and vitality of the SSAA and **we are seeking your support to protect and ensure the future of the shooting sports in Australia.**

☐ \$25 - includes 11 issues of the Australian Shooter

☐ \$54 - includes 11 issues of the Australian Shooter and 4 issues of Australian Hunter magazine



□ □ □ □ □ □

Branch (if known) ..... Sex (please circle) M / F 

First name ..... Middle name ..... Last name .....

Home address ..... P/C.....

Date of birth ..... Phone.....

Email .....

First name ..... Middle name ..... Last name .....

Membership No. ....

SSAA Inc is subject to the provisions of the National Privacy Act. Should you want a copy of the SSAA Inc Privacy Statement or seek further information, please write to PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061.

## National

### Big Game Rifle National Postal Championships

February 1-November 30, 2019  
Program: February 1-May 31: Special Snap. June 1-August 31: Group Three. September 1-November 30: Stopping Double Rifle. Rules: Championships shot as per current National Big Game Rifle rule book. Scoresheets showing competitor's name, club, rifle, scope power and result of each shot to be sent to Graeme Wright, PO Box 5085, Kenmore East, Qld 4069. Awards to 3rd place and juniors. Entries in junior class to include date of birth. Contact: Graeme Wright thepilgtw@hotmail.com

### National Rifle Metallic Silhouette Rimfire Postal Competition

June 1-August 31, 2019  
Program: 40-shot match in accordance with SSAA Rifle Metallic Silhouette rule book. Match must be nominated to your shoot captain before you shoot. Medals for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each grade and junior category plus three entry prizes of SSAA merchandise vouchers. Ties decided on countback of turkeys, rams, chickens and pigs. Score must show result of each shot (hit or miss), name, home club, grade, date of match and junior if applicable and emailed by September 10, 2019 to toberkathy@gmail.com

### National Junior Rimfire Field Rifle Postal Championships

June 1-November 30, 2019  
All clubs/branches  
Program: To be shot between June 1 and November 30, 2019. Scores showing competitor's name, branch, age and score for each position (with 10s, 9s etc in case of countback), to Kaye McIntyre at juniorsports@ssaa.org.au by December 31. Prizes to third place in U-15, O-15 and U-18. Contact: Kaye McIntyre.

### SSAA Combined Services National Postal Competition

July 1-September 23, 2019  
Program: Open to all current SSAA members. Rifle event 1: 3P Core Event Match 1 - Standard Rifles. Pistol event 1: 3P Core Event Class 1 Handguns (Graded), Class 2 Handguns (Graded) and Class 3 Handguns (Open) as specified in Combined Services rule book No.4. Only two classes may be entered. Contact Steve Knight 0428 876 991 or combinedservices@ssaa.org.au. See website for full details.

### Working Gundogs Association of Australia Multi-Level National Championships

August 16-18, 2019

SSAA Stewartdale, South Ripley, Qld  
Program: Friday, August 16:  
Competition draw. August 17:  
Competition starts with 4-5 runs.  
August 18: Remaining 2-3 runs, awards presentation. Spectators welcome both days. Nominations: \$45 (includes lunch pack and drink each day). Entrants must be SSAA members and dogs registered with WGAA. Accommodation: Camping available, hotels nearby. Contact: wgaaqld@gmail.com. Full details on website.

### Target Pistol National Championships

September 21-22, 2019  
SSAA Madden Range, 292 Mt Petrie Rd, Belmont, Qld 4153  
Program: Friday, September 20:  
Practice; Saturday: Any Rimfire Pistol - 900 match, any Revolver match, Distinguished Revolver.  
Sunday: Rimfire Mayleigh match, any Centrefire Pistol - 900 match, M9 match (Beretta 92). Nominations: Adults \$10 per event, juniors \$5 (close September 13). Rules: SSAA Guide to the NRA Pistol Rules and NRA Pistol rule book. Prizes: Medals to third place in all grades and juniors. Facilities: Camping \$8 per person per night, showers and toilets. Dormitory rooms \$12 per person per night. Contact: SSAA Brisbane Office 07 3395 0911. Full details on website.

### SSAA/IHMSA National Championships

Sept 27-Oct 4, 2019  
Eagle Park Shooting Complex, Little River, Vic  
Program: Friday, September 27:  
Practice for Small Bore and Field Pistol. Sept 28-30: Small Bore and Field Pistol matches. Tuesday, October 1:  
Practice for Big Bore. Oct 2-4: Big Bore matches. Rules: IHMSA official rule book. Contact: Russell Mowles 0418 819 945 or Michael Arden 0419 429 485. Full details on website.

### National Benchrest Rimfire Group and IRB Championships

October 4-7, 2019  
SSAA Newcastle Range, Seaham, NSW  
Program: Friday, October 4: 8am Light Rimfire 50m and 100yds. Saturday, 8am: Heavy Rimfire 50m and 100yds. Sunday/Monday: 8am IRB 50m. Nominations: \$50 a day, juniors half price (pre-registration required by September 25). Rules: SSAA rule book No.9 and IRB rule book. Prizes: National medals as per rule books. Facilities: Clubhouse, toilets, showers, barbecue. Camping on range (advise beforehand). Free breakfast, lunch, tea, coffee. Dinner for small fee. Contact: Kim Cosstick 0429 335 389 or David Billingham 0418 478 160.

### SSAA Lever Action National Championships

October 5-7, 2019  
SSAA Blue Hills, Copping, Tasmania  
Program: Saturday, October 5 practice, Sunday rimfire, Monday centrefire. Classic Teams event will follow Classic Calibre shoot. Nominations: \$35 per event, \$95 all three, juniors half price. Please enter early and bring grading cards, SSAA membership card and firearms licence. Rules: Current Lever Action rule book. Facilities: Food and drinks on competition days, range facilities limited (no showers), accommodation at several nearby towns. Contact: secretary@ssaatas.com.au or ssaa\_leveraction@internode.on.net

### SSAA Combined Services National Championships

October 17-20, 2019  
Micket Creek Shooting Complex, Brandt Rd, Berrimah, NT  
Program: Thursday, October 19:  
Practice. Friday: Pistols and Rifles. Saturday: Rifles. Sunday: Rifles. Nominations: All pistol events \$50, all rifle \$60, individual \$15, all \$100. Rules: SSAA Combined Services rule book No.4. Prizes: As per program. Contact: treasurer@ssaant@bigpond.com or sean.glendenning@cdu.edu.au. Full details on website.

## Queensland

### SSAA Qld NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette Postal Shoot No.3

May 1-August 31, 2019  
Program: Hunter's Pistol Metallic Sights, Hunter's Pistol Standing. Location: All SSAA (Qld) branches with approval to shoot Pistol Metallic Silhouette. Nominations: Results to state NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette chairman by September 14, 2019. Rules: As per SSAA (Qld) NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette Guide Book. Prizes: Certificates to 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each grade. Each entry goes into draw for \$60 open order at Queensland Shooters Supplies, Ipswich. Contact: Hazel Bozic 07 4128 0467 hbozic1@bigpond.net.au

### SSAA Qld NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette Postal Shoot No.4

August 1-November 30, 2019  
Program: Long Range Conventional Pistol, Long Range Conventional Revolver, Long Range Unlimited Standing, Long Range Unlimited Pistol. Location: All SSAA (Qld) branches with approval to shoot Pistol Metallic Silhouette. Nominations: Results to state NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette chairman by December 12, 2019. Rules: As per SSAA (Qld) NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette Guide Book. Prizes: Certificates to 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each grade. Each entry goes into draw

for \$60 open order at Queensland Shooters Supplies, Ipswich. Contact: Hazel Bozic 07 4128 0467 hbozic1@bigpond.net.au

### SSAA Qld Target Pistol 'Bullseye' State Championships

August 9-11, 2019  
SSAA Bundaberg Branch  
Program: Open to all SSAA members. Events: Any Rimfire Pistol 900 Match, Standard Smallbore Pistol, Distinguished Revolver, Rimfire Mayleigh Match, Any Centrefire Pistol 900 Match, M9 Match (Beretta 92). Rules: As per SSAA Target Pistol Guide to NRA Pistol Rules and Target Pistol Overview of NRA Pistol Rules. Nominations: \$6 per event to maximum \$30, juniors half price - to be received by July 27. Prizes: State medals for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each grade, 1800 Aggregate and 6-Gun Aggregate. Facilities: Camping at range, drinks throughout competition, barbecue lunch Sat/Sun and dinner Saturday. Contact: Kendall Summers 0403 727 770 or targetpistol@ssaqlld.org.au; Graham Lucke 0412 308 810 or nominations@ssaabundaberg.org.au

### SSAA Qld IHMSA Handgun Metallic Silhouette State Championships

August 23-25, 2019  
SSAA Bundaberg Pistol Range, Isis Hwy, Qld  
Program: Small Bore (100m): Production, Revolver, Standing, Unlimited Any Sights; Big Bore (200m): Production, Revolver, Standing, Unlimited Any Sights; Field Pistol (100m): Field Pistol Production, Field Pistol Production Any Sights. Discipline meeting after shooting on Saturday. Nominations: \$10 per event to maximum \$80, juniors half price. Rules: Official IHMSA rule book. Prizes: State medals for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each grade in all events. Facilities: Camping at range, hot showers, some power available. Contact: John Harding 0428 136 527 or jnharding@bigpond.com

### SSAA Qld Lever Action State Championships

August 31-September 1, 2019  
SSAA Bowen, Roddy Hughes Rd, Bowen, Qld  
Program: Friday, August 30: 9am practice; Saturday: 9am Open Lever Action match, 40 rounds; Sunday: 9am Classic Calibre match, 40 rounds. State discipline meeting after completion of Open match. Branch delegates must have letter of accreditation from executive. Nominations: \$35 one match, \$60 both, juniors half price. Form at ssaa.org.au/leveraction, send by August 19 to Allan McDonald asjmcd2@gmail.com Facilities: Canteen open during matches, breakfast/lunch \$10, dinner Friday/Saturday \$15. Camping at range with water, showers,



toilets. Pets welcome. Contact: Allan McDonald 0428 790 940 [asmcd2@gmail.com](mailto:asmcd2@gmail.com); Kerry Guinea (State Discipline Chair) 0409 262 966 [leveraction@ssaaqld.org.au](mailto:leveraction@ssaaqld.org.au)

## Police Service Match - Law Enforcement Activities

October 5-6, 2019

QPPC Range, Old Cleveland Rd, Belmont, Qld

Program: This is an individual event, not teams. Shooters may choose revolver or semi-auto in one of the NRA PPC divisions of Open, Distinguished or Duty. Shooters are not compelled to compete against a higher level of equipment. Nominations: Belmont site user levy applies, nomination fee \$5. Rules: SSAA Standard Rules, SSAA LEAD Police Service Match Rules. Facilities: QPPC has basic facilities, others at QRA compound. QRA accepts bookings for motel or barrack-style accommodation, several accommodation options nearby. Contact: Bob Pierce 0427 172 277. See website for full details.

## South Australia

### SSAA SA Gallery Rifle State Championships

September 14-15, 2019

SSAA Para Range  
Program: Friday, September 13: 12 noon-4pm range open for practice. Saturday: 10am - Imperial Silhouettes (30 shots + 5 sighters); 1020 Match (102 shots); Multi-Target 'Classic Rifle' (24 shots) time permitting; 50m Precision 'Classic Rifle' (30 shots plus sighters) time permitting. Sunday: 10am - America Match (30 shots + unlimited sighters); 1500 Match (150 shots). All events will be graded. Nominations \$5 each for America Match and Imperial Silhouettes, \$10 for the 1020 and 1500 to maximum of \$25 for four main events. Each Classic event \$5. Prize draw for competitors on Saturday evening. Facilities: Camping available, canteen Saturday and Sunday, barbecue Saturday night (\$5). There will be the annual Sub-Committee meeting, advise Dave McCarthy if you wish to attend, email [atm3855@yahoo.com.au](mailto:atm3855@yahoo.com.au). Contact: Dave McCarthy

## ACT

### SSAA ACT Single Action State Championships

October 18-20, 2019

SSAA Majura Range, Hector McIntosh Grove, ACT  
Program: Friday, October 18: Side Matches, Long Range Precision,

Pistol Speed Events, Cowboy Clays. Saturday: Opening and Main Match. Sunday: Main Match and presentation. Nominations: \$85 for Main Match and one entry to all Side Matches plus Saturday shindig. Rules: Current SSAA rule book and local range rules. Contact: [majurarangers.matchdirector@gmail.com](mailto:majurarangers.matchdirector@gmail.com)

## Tasmania

### SSAA Tas Single Action State Championships

September 14-15, 2019

SSAA Glenorchy, Upper Tolosa St, Glenorchy, Tas

Program: Shoot consists of nine main stages plus shoot-off between all competitors. Ammunition required: 96+ pistol, 97+ rifle and 34+ shotgun. Compulsory shooters briefing 8.30am daily. Nominations: Shooters must be SSAA members (bring membership card). Match fee \$80, forms/info at [www.ssaat03.com](http://www.ssaat03.com) Facilities: Lunch provided. Contact: Ray 0487 334 714 or 03 6229 1935 or [sec@ssaat03.com](mailto:sec@ssaat03.com)

### SSAA/IHMSA Tas Smallbore Handgun Metallic Silhouette State Championships

September 21-22, 2019

Oakdale Pistol Range, Flagstaff Gully Rd, Clarence, Tas  
Program: Gun check 9am daily, match starts 10am. Entries must be received by September 4, 2019. Contact: Cody Abel [codyabel@spin.net.au](mailto:codyabel@spin.net.au). See website for full details.

### SSAA Tas Lever Action State Championships

September 29, 2019

Blue Hills Range, Copping, Tas  
Program: See website for full details. Nominations: \$35, juniors half price. Prizes: State medals. Facilities: Limited camping and kitchen, lunch and drinks available. Contact: David Moulton 0488 441 499 or [secretary@ssaabluehills.org.au](mailto:secretary@ssaabluehills.org.au). See website for full details.

### SSAA/IHMSA Tasmania Big Bore Handgun Metallic Silhouette State Championships

November 16-17, 2019

Oakdale Pistol Range, Flagstaff Gully Rd, Clarence, Tas  
Program: Gun checks 9am daily, match starts 10am. Entries must be received by November 4, 2019. Contact: Cody Abel [codyabel@spin.net.au](mailto:codyabel@spin.net.au). See website for full details.

# SSAA Official Calendar

## INTERNATIONAL

August 19-24, 2019

12th MLAIC World Long Range Muzzleloading Championships

Bisley, England

Kim Atkinson [27honeysuckle@msn.com](mailto:27honeysuckle@msn.com)

## NATIONAL

Feb 1-Nov 30, 2019

Big Game Rifle National Postal Championships

June 1-August 31, 2019

National Rifle Metallic Silhouette Rimfire Postal Competition

June 1-Nov 30, 2019

National Junior Rimfire Field Rifle Postal Championships

July 1-Sept. 23, 2019

Combined Services National Postal Competition

August 3-4, 2019

Harry Madden Memorial Benchrest Championships with Barry Edgley Trophy

August 16-18, 2019

WGAA Multi-Level National Championships

September 21-22, 2019

Target Pistol National Championships

Sept 27-Oct 4, 2019

SSAA/IHMSA National Championships

October 4-7, 2019

National Benchrest Rimfire Group and IRB Championships

October 5-7, 2019

SSAA Lever Action National Championships

October 17-20, 2019

SSAA Combined Services National Championships

National event

All clubs/branches

Postal shoot

SSAA Madden Range, Belmont, Qld

SSAA Stewartdale, South Ripley, Qld

Madden Range, Belmont, Qld

Eagle Park, Vic

Newcastle Range, Seaham, NSW

SSAA Blue Hills, Copping, Tas

Micket Creek Shooting Complex, NT

Graeme Wright [thepilotgw@hotmail.com](mailto:thepilotgw@hotmail.com)

[toblerkathy@gmail.com](mailto:toblerkathy@gmail.com)

[juniorsports@ssaa.org.au](mailto:juniorsports@ssaa.org.au)

0428 876 991 or [combinedservices@ssaa.org.au](mailto:combinedservices@ssaa.org.au)

07 3395 0911

[wgaqld@gmail.com](mailto:wgaqld@gmail.com)

07 3395 0911

0418 819 945 or 0419 429 485

0429 335 389 or 0418 478 160

[secretary@ssaatas.com.au](mailto:secretary@ssaatas.com.au)

[treasurerssaant@bigpond.com](mailto:treasurerssaant@bigpond.com)

or [sean.glenendenning@cdu.edu.au](mailto:sean.glenendenning@cdu.edu.au)

## STATE

May 1-August 31, 2019

SSAA Qld NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette Postal Shoot No.3

August 1-Nov 30, 2019

SSAA Qld NRA Pistol Metallic Silhouette Postal Shoot No.4

August 9-11, 2019

SSAA Qld Target Pistol 'Bullseye' State Championships

August 17-18, 2019

SSAA Bananacoast Centrefire Championships

August 23-25, 2019

SSAA Qld IHMSA Handgun Metallic Silhouette State Championships

August 31-Sept 1, 2019

SSAA Qld Lever Action State Championships

September 14-15, 2019

SSAA SA Gallery Rifle State Championships

September 14-15, 2019

SSAA Tas Single Action State Championships

September 21-22, 2019

SSAA/IHMSA Tas Smallbore Handgun Silhouette State Championships

September 29, 2019

SSAA Tas Lever Action State Championships

October 5-6, 2019

Police Service Match Qld State Championships

October 18-20, 2019

SSAA ACT Single Action State Championships

November 16-17, 2019

SSAA/IHMSA Tasmania Big Bore Handgun

Metallic Silhouette State Championships

SSAA Bundaberg Branch, Qld

Dairyville Range, Coffs Harbour, NSW

SSAA Bundaberg Pistol Range, Qld

SSAA Bowen, Qld

SSAA Para Range, SA

SSAA Glenorchy, Tas

Oakdale Pistol Club

Blue Hills Range, Copping, Tas

QPPC Range, Belmont, Qld

Majura Range, ACT

Oakdale Pistol Range, Clarence, Tas

Hazel Bozic 07 4128 0467 [hbozic1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hbozic1@bigpond.net.au)

Hazel Bozic 07 4128 0467 [hbozic1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hbozic1@bigpond.net.au)

0403 727 770 or [targetpistol@ssaaqld.org.au](mailto:targetpistol@ssaaqld.org.au)

David 0418 478 160 or Ray 0408 649 126

0428 136 527 or [jnjharding@bigpond.com](mailto:jnjharding@bigpond.com)

0428 790 940 or [asmcd2@gmail.com](mailto:asmcd2@gmail.com)

[atm3855@yahoo.com.au](mailto:atm3855@yahoo.com.au)

0487 334 714 or [sec@ssaat03.com](mailto:sec@ssaat03.com)

[codyabel@spin.net.au](mailto:codyabel@spin.net.au)

0488 441 499 or [secretary@ssaabluehills.org.au](mailto:secretary@ssaabluehills.org.au)

Bob Pierce 0427 172 277

[majurarangers.matchdirector@gmail.com](mailto:majurarangers.matchdirector@gmail.com)

[codyabel@spin.net.au](mailto:codyabel@spin.net.au)



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## CLOTHING

### SSAA Shotgun Vest

The new SSAA Shotgun Vest is made to our usual high standards and now comes with upgraded features such as the ability to insert additional padding in the shoulders to absorb recoil.

The vest comes with lots of pockets, has front and rear leather trim and Velcro adjuster, while the back sections are mesh for added breathability.

Comes in blue and green.

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SVB004 - XL  
SVB005 - 2XL  
SVB006 - 3XL

**\$74.95**



### SSAA beanies



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C0024



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Pink  
C0019



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**\$14.95**

### SSAA Softshell Vest

Our SSAA Softshell Vest is water resistant and made from 100 per cent polyester mechanic stretch fabric and comes with comfy microfleece on the inside to keep you warm.

CSV001 - small  
CSV002 - medium  
CSV003 - large  
CSV004 - XL  
CSV005 - 2XL

**\$64.95**



Front

Back

### SSAA mens t-shirt

Get noticed with the Gildan Soft-styled SSAA men's shirts and wear the SSAA logo with pride.

- Pre-shrunk jersey knit
- Seamless double-needled 1.9cm collar
- Taped neck and shoulders
- Rolled forward shoulders
- Double needle sleeve and bottom hems
- Quarter-turned to eliminate centre crease.

MSN001 - small  
MSN002 - medium  
MSN003 - large  
MSN004 - XL  
MSN005 - 2XL  
MSN006 - 3XL

**\$29.49**

See complete size  
details online



## CLOTHING

### SSAA Buffwear



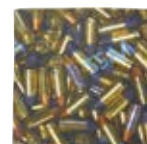
These SSAA Buffs offer a multitude of uses and can be worn to keep dust and dirt out of your face when riding the quad or as a basic headscarf.

They also offer sun protection and are great for fishing as well as hunting and come in a range of colours that can match your favourite outdoor gear.

**\$17.95**



CBW001  
Iron Bark



CBW002  
Bullet



CBW003  
Coloured Leaf

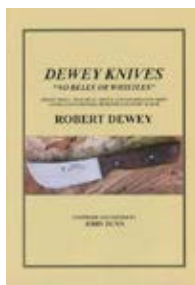


CBW004  
Distressed Leaf



CBW005  
Oz Flag

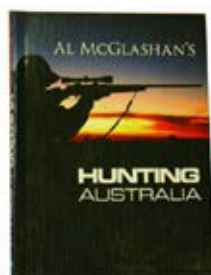
## BOOKS



### No Bells or Whistles

The story of Rob Dewey's journey as a knifemaker, giving an insight into his philosophy on knife-making and design and a wealth of technical detail about materials and construction.

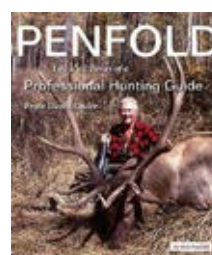
P0058  
**\$34.95**



### Hunting Australia

Al is one of Australia's favourite outdoors men. A must read for all hunters.

**\$29.95** PHA28



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

P0050  
**\$99.95** See online for special offer for Hunter subscribers



This book contains the edited proceedings of papers presented at the Conservation through the Sustainable Use of Wildlife conference in Brisbane in September 2016.

P0055  
**\$94.95**

## PATCHES AND PINS



### Hat badge antique gold

Our SSAA hat badge is finished in fine antique gold (not real gold), attach on your favourite hat or shirt.

A0068  
**\$12.95**



### Hat badge SSAA logo (brooch)

Traditional logo SSAA metal badge for you to proudly wear.  
Measuring 22mm x 24mm

B0006  
**\$8.20**

### SSAA bullet-case pen

The SSAA bullet-case pen has been crafted from a part form bullet case, they take a standard pen refill and is comfortable to hold for smooth writing. The pen comes with black ink and is beautifully presented in a velvet pouch. It measures approximately 14 1/2cm long with a 13mm diameter.



A0020  
**\$35.95**

**SHOP NOW - IT'S EASY! Go to**

**onlineshop.ssaa.org.au**  
**or call 02 8805 3900**  
**for phone orders**





# onlineshop.ssaa.org.au

**Order online NOW or Call 02 8805 3900 or  
Fill in the Mail Order below**

## KNIVES

### SSAA Ka-Bar folder

The SSAA Ka-Bar folder comes beautifully presented in a box to make gift giving a pleasure.

Measurements  
Blade length: 10cm  
Blade width: 3.5cm (at its widest part)  
Handle length: 12.5cm  
Handle width: 3cm  
Weight: 187grams

**\$48.95** KBF001



### JKR camo folding knife



The SSAA JKR Camo Folding Knife comes with a handy belt clip so no pouch is required.

JKR203  
**\$34.95**

### Leatherman-style his/hers



A his and hers pack that comes with a smart presentation case. Great gift for your favourite couple.

## CAMPING AND HUNTING



### 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 get 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 stainless construction.

**\$69.95** 1L Kettle BK001

### Pocket-size knife sharpener

This carbide and ceramic hand-held knife sharpener features:

- Non-skid base for stable sharpening
- Crossed carbide blades providing quick edge setting
- Crossed ceramic rods providing a razor-sharp edge
- Pre-set sharpening angles providing guaranteed results

KNS001  
**\$14.95**



MPK00  
**\$64.95**



## MAIL ORDER FORM

ALL ITEMS ARE  
WHILE STOCKS LAST

**AUGUST 2019**

SEND ORDER TO SSAA SHOP, PO BOX 282, PLUMPTON, NSW 2761 INQUIRIES 02 8805 3900

Please note: For knife purchases, Member No. needed for age verification, as purchaser must be over 18.

### DELIVER TO

NAME .....

ADDRESS.....

STATE..... P/CODE.....

PHONE .....

EMAIL.....

MEMBER NUMBER .....

Please allow 14-21 days for delivery

**ALL PRICES GST INCLUSIVE**

Please find enclosed payment in the amount of \$.....

or charge my MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

Card No.

Expiry date ...../..... Signature.....

**DISCOUNT RATES AVAILABLE FOR SSAA CLUBS - CONTACT 02 8805 3900.**

The color of some of the photos may vary from the actual product due to dye batch lots or current availability.



# 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 August 31, 2019.

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

Enter online at  
[ssaa.org.au/win](http://ssaa.org.au/win)

## Nextorch - TA40 Hunting Set Valued at \$149.95

Kindly donated by Beretta Australia  
[berettaaustralia.com.au](http://berettaaustralia.com.au)



## MOA or MIL Sight-in Targets

Valued at \$75.80

Kindly donated by Black Carbon  
[blackcarbon.com.au](http://blackcarbon.com.au)



## Juniors

### 1 of 2 .22 ammo dispensers

Valued at \$35.85

Kindly donated by Little Mountain Traders  
[keyband.com.au](http://keyband.com.au)



## Competition winners!

### Australian Shooter June 2019

**Optisan EVE 3-12x56i scope**  
John Gooding, Qld

**MOA or MIL Sight-in Targets**  
David Mardon, Vic

**June Junior - Browning hoodie size L and 2x decals**  
Kaidel Wilson, Tas

**June Best Shots Mug**  
Thomas Gall, Qld

### Women's Shooter

**Outdoor Edge SwingBabe knife**  
Angela Buchanan, Qld

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## We can only play the hand we're dealt

At the back of a shaded water-hole tucked into the trees above a bend in the road a trio of red deer hinds watched the approaching vehicle. That they didn't want to leave was a given - it was warm in the afternoon sun. It made no sense to be out there unless it was really necessary and in any case, the stag who was holding them wasn't about to let them wander.

As red stags go he didn't have much to offer. Though large enough in the body he was lean, bordering on skinny, his dark antlers small and spindly with two points on one side and three on the other - a second, perhaps third head at best. He'd no chance of holding the hinds against the bigger stags who'd start drifting in as the rut cranked up, but that didn't mean he couldn't wear himself out trying before they arrived.

"That's the stag I saw the other day," Greg Coyne said as he wheeled the ATV to a halt. "He has a bad face though I'm not sure if he was born that way or was injured.

A week ago he wasn't even here."

When another stag roared nearby our boy quickly rounded the hinds up and chivvied them away. As he came past, we could see his face and the first descriptive word that sprang to mind was ugly. That's a human concept I know, but in terms of normal red deer appearance he had nothing going for him at all.

His jaw seemed twisted with the lower teeth exposed. His nose was foreshortened

and his tongue hung out of his mouth as he ran. Even so, he was clearly an ambitious individual and for that you had to admire him - what he lacked in looks he more than made up for in determination.

The following morning I collected the Moluccan rusa stag I'd travelled so far to hunt. Heading back to the house with my prize, we passed the water-hole where we'd seen the stag with the bad face. He wasn't there but his memory lingered. He became a discussion point over a late breakfast and

where they couldn't easily be taken back.

The bad-faced stag was roaring furiously, his frustration obvious. He trotted away when he heard us coming, then made the mistake of stopping to look back down a narrow laneway of open ground between the trees.

He buckled at the strike of the bullet then straightened himself and raced away, dead on his feet but not quite ready to acknowledge his expired mortality. He didn't get far. Though generally regarded as benevolent,

Mother Nature can be a cruel old bird at times. Accidentally or otherwise, she throws up deformities that limit or hinder some creatures' capacity to survive, the bad-faced stag a case in point. His nose was a least 5cm shorter than his jaw, the nostrils flattened and rhinarium twisted to the left.

Though it didn't appear to have ever been broken his jaw was twisted to the right, his tongue hanging out and exposed teeth worn down on the same side. He had a face that only a mother could love and you had to wonder how he'd managed to suckle as a calf let alone feed

himself as an adult. It couldn't have been easy but he'd obviously adapted and learned to live with the deformity that ultimately brought him undone.

He had to go for the sake of the herd. For that I was sorry, even though I suspected my sentiment was wasted - he'd always been too busy surviving and being a red stag to be worried about a bad face.



somewhere along the line the decision was made to go back and find him. His chances of breeding were slim but they needed to be reduced to none at all.

We found him early in the afternoon just a few hundred metres from where we'd last seen him. He was by himself, trotting disconsolately, his girls having been stolen by a rival not much bigger but better antlered with five points on either side. He was holding them under a patch of low trees





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