

A lifetime of sports shooting • Rimfire vs. centrefire • Allen rifle sling • Cherished hunting moments

# AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SHOOTER

*Hunting  
magnificent stags*  
*On deck with ZeroTech*



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# Contents

- 3 Taking aim with Laetisha Scanlan – The golden glow of Italy's shooting heritage

Women's-only competition

- 4 On deck with ZeroTech

- 8 Rimfire or centrefire?  
– In the eyes of a beginner

- 10 Hunt smarter with an Allen rifle sling

- 12 Brummell inspires in lifetime of sports shooting

- 14 Cherished memories in the great outdoors



# Editorial

## Gemma Dunn



Laetisha Scanlan discusses her seven-week European tour with the Australian National shooting team, including the World Cup in Lonato, Italy – the mecca of shooting, where she, Catherine Skinner and Penny Smith secured Gold in Trap Team Women.

Purchasing your rifle is not as simple as it may seem, so I weigh up the pros and cons with centrefire versus rimfire to help guide you through that all-important first rifle acquisition.

Ann Brummell has dedicated her life to sports shooting and we speak with her about being an inspiration to newcomers in our sport as a competitor and mentor.

In the field, the bond between hunters is something almost indescribable but a proud father reflects on treasured moments spent with his daughter hunting and enjoying nature, keen hunter Ashli Webb covers her recent experience procuring impressive stags in South Australia with a crew from ZeroTech and we review an Allen rifle sling, designed to make life easier out on the hunt.

Gemma

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## AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SHOOTER

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# Taking aim with Laetisha Scanlan

## The golden glow of Italy's shooting heritage

I am often asked where in the world is my favourite place to shoot. And the answer is always the same – Italy. It is where the best guns are made and where the best pasta is to be had. Italy seems to be the holy grail of shooting, as it has a rich history of firearms, an impressive number of strong competitors and ranges galore all over the country.

Through April and May the Australian National shooting team were fortunate enough to travel on a seven-week European tour, which included three weeks of competition and training throughout the Italian region. This time around I was able to make some important stops while being in this beautiful country. The first port of call was the Beretta factory/headquarters, in which I was able to acquire a custom stock made from their talented gunsmiths, start to finish, in less than eight hours. And the second destination was to the Baschieri & Pellagri ammunition factory in Bologna.

And all I can say is – what impressive facilities! It was beautiful to witness what goes into the production of a single

shotshell. I must admit, I had never given a lot of thought on the intricate details and components that go into the production of ammunition.

This was my first visit to any ammunition company and I now have a greater appreciation for the workers, machinery and time that goes on behind the scenes to be able to shoot, produce and use ammunition.

It's incredible to think that the B&P company started 137 years ago, in 1885. When I pictured an ammunition factory, I did not envision 50 hectares of beautiful farmland (it's certainly not your typical concrete jungle).

Within this acreage is a converted home-  
stead of offices, multiple buildings spaced out and smiling employees going about their business. And among the established trees and roaming wildlife the company

manufacture all their own plastic casings and wads, including their famous Gordon hull system and produce their own powder, all onsite.

It was an absolute treat and honour to have had a two-hour tour around the grounds by one of the fifth-generation family members of the company.

Let's just say, when I open a packet of 25 shotshells and put them in my shooting jacket pocket, I will think about the work that has gone into getting them to this stage of their journey. I take the saying "make every shot count" a little more meaningfully.



All smiles at the Baschieri & Pellagri ammo factory.



## Women's-only competition

Only female SSAA members are eligible to enter. One entry per member. To enter, simply write your name, address and membership number on the back of an envelope and send it to:

Spika Valley Jacket & Xone Pants,  
Australian Women's Shooter,  
PO Box 2520, Unley, SA 5061

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

Competition closes June 30, 2022



## WIN Spika Women's Valley Jacket and Xone Pants

\*Please provide your desired  
size (S - 3XL) upon entry

Kindly donated by Spika  
[spika.com.au](http://spika.com.au)

Valued at \$304.95

# On deck *with ZeroTech*

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a camouflage jacket and pants, is sitting in a field of dry grass. She is looking down and to the right. The background shows a sunset sky with orange and pink hues over a line of trees.

Ashli Webb

I recently flew in to South Australia from Queensland for a deer hunting trip with ZeroTech. I was super excited but mindful of what was ahead. I was also feeling a bit sad as it was the first hunt for a long time without my husband Simon with me, who is my main hunting partner. He was extremely supportive of me going on this journey and encouraged me to pursue the hunting trek I have always wanted.

I was picked up from Adelaide airport by ZeroTech CEO Chris, and we quickly started chatting about hunting and other outdoor activities. After three hours we rolled into the private property we had access to and were greeted by the other ZeroTech team members.

Most people know I'm not a morning person but waking up for hunting is a different story. We were all ready early to start our first day of filming and hunting. Working with this film crew turned out to be super-relaxed. I always felt calm as they safely functioned around my hunting.

I began the long walk and slowly approached a rutting stand that I knew was in the area. As I neared it, I could hear croaking and instantly started smiling. I offloaded my backpack and started crawling up the hill with my Weatherby Vanguard Kakadu .270 rifle.

As I could just see over the top, I glassed the hill with my binos to spot several decent fallow bucks. There was one that stood out to me, roughly 250m away. His antlers and his palms (antler ends) were slightly larger than the rest. I had decided that he was the buck I was after.

I positioned myself, lying down and set my bipod to a good height and prepared for the shot. I could see him through my scope, running around croaking. I made sure my breathing was steady and I kept my cross-hairs on the side of his chest. As he stopped, I let my breath out halfway and squeezed the trigger. I heard a good

solid thud and saw him curl himself over and do a slight upwards jump before dropping. I was pleased that my shot placement was spot-on and I had taken him humanely.

I walked down to my backpack and grabbed it, then started heading up to where he had dropped. I could see his antlers sticking up on the side of the rocky hill and I smiled as I came closer to him. He was a beautiful animal with decent sized antlers. The camera crew took some videos and pictures that looked amazing in the sunset.



I grabbed my skinning knives and started caping him out and also taking sections of meat, including the backstraps and tenderloins. I know a lot of people prefer not to eat bucks in the rut, but if dressed and prepared properly, I have had some really nice fallow venison.

After loading the meat into my pack, I put his cape in the section of my backpack and lifted it up onto my back. It can be slightly awkward as the antlers will move around and hit you if you are not careful. As I started walking down the hill, the sunset was stunning as I headed on my long trek back.

The next day we were all up early again. Although I wasn't shooting this time, I was really excited as I headed out with the crew from ZeroTech and Chris took a beautiful fallow buck that we came across.

A stunning 10-pointer red stag was also taken by Ben with a remarkable clean shot from long range. It was a

great end to the day. Before I knew it, it was time to head to bed and we were up again bright and early the next morning.

The next day flew upon us. We did some more filming and the boys took a few more deer. Aaron shot an impressive fallow buck and by the afternoon I really wanted to try and find a red stag.

We came to a swamp and I scanned the area with my binos to see several red stags running around roaring. This sound instantly gives me goosebumps and a feeling only other hunters experience.

I could see a couple of 10-point stags and 12s but one stood out to me. He had much darker antlers with white tips. He was further up the back rounding up all his does. A wave of excitement came over me and I thought about how I was going to try and move to where he was. I had to walk around the right side of the swamp to edge behind him as the wind was blowing his way. I reached a patch of trees, moving slowly and quietly, as there were a couple of does feeding in the area. There were also several roos that I snuck past within 5-10m.

*His antlers and his palms were slightly larger than the rest. I had decided that he was the buck I was after.*



I found the next section of trees, moving gently when a young spiker jumped up. I froze. He was on the wrong side of me and the breeze was blowing straight towards him. He trotted off in front of me towards the does and the stag I had my eye on. The others spotted him and they all fled, running across the swamp. This meant instant disappointment, especially being my second-last night. But hunting isn't easy. One small thing can happen and then it's all over. I headed back to the hut as there wasn't much light left. We had a feed and went to bed.

The final morning rolled in. I was drained. I felt wrecked, but I pushed myself, knowing that it was my last hunt to try and grab this stag. Once I was up and out there in the cold breeze, I soon woke up.

We headed to the spot as the boys snapped a few pictures of the sun rising. I was eager to keep trekking as I wanted to be in a good spot before the sun came up, so I could work out my hunting strategy.

We finally reached the same location from the afternoon before and again I glassed the area to see several stags. I couldn't find the fella I saw the previous day but decided on a different approach as the wind was in my favour. I stalked into the swamp rather than around. I kept glassing and found a really even 12-point stag roaring.

He was in a position I was able to stalk to. I had to also bear in mind that the camera batteries were low, so I needed to go up to him so we were able to obtain some footage. I still couldn't see the fella I had my eye on, so I decided this other 12-pointer would be ideal.

I needed to be patient as I had hinds around me. The stag I was going to take bedded down. I stalked through the rushes and moved into a position about 200m away, where I could just see the tips of his antlers but if he stood up, I would have a clear shot.

I set up my .300 rifle and kept watching, waiting for him to stand. Finally, he stood up. I had the cross-hairs on the side of his chest and he let out a big roar so I squeezed the trigger. I heard a good solid thud through the chest near his lungs. He moved slightly to the left then dropped.



Caping the fallow buck.




I gave him a moment and started making my way over there. Reds are such incredible animals and their body size is much larger compared to other deer species. He was thick, even and a great deer. I was so happy that I was able to claim my first decent red stag.

We finished some more pictures and videos then I dressed him out. We took the car as it was just over the hill on the



The fallow buck packed for carry out.





*The environment was extremely uplifting and I was never made to feel like I wasn't an equal hunter.*

Ashli took her first decent red stag on this trip.

other side of the swamp. When we drove the vehicle over to him, we lifted him in and took him back to the hut. We hung him up and I caped him out. I was lucky enough to have Nev, who is a taxidermist, show me how to cape the head ready to go off to be mounted.

Even though this part took me a while, I was extremely proud of myself for being able to have another skill that will be

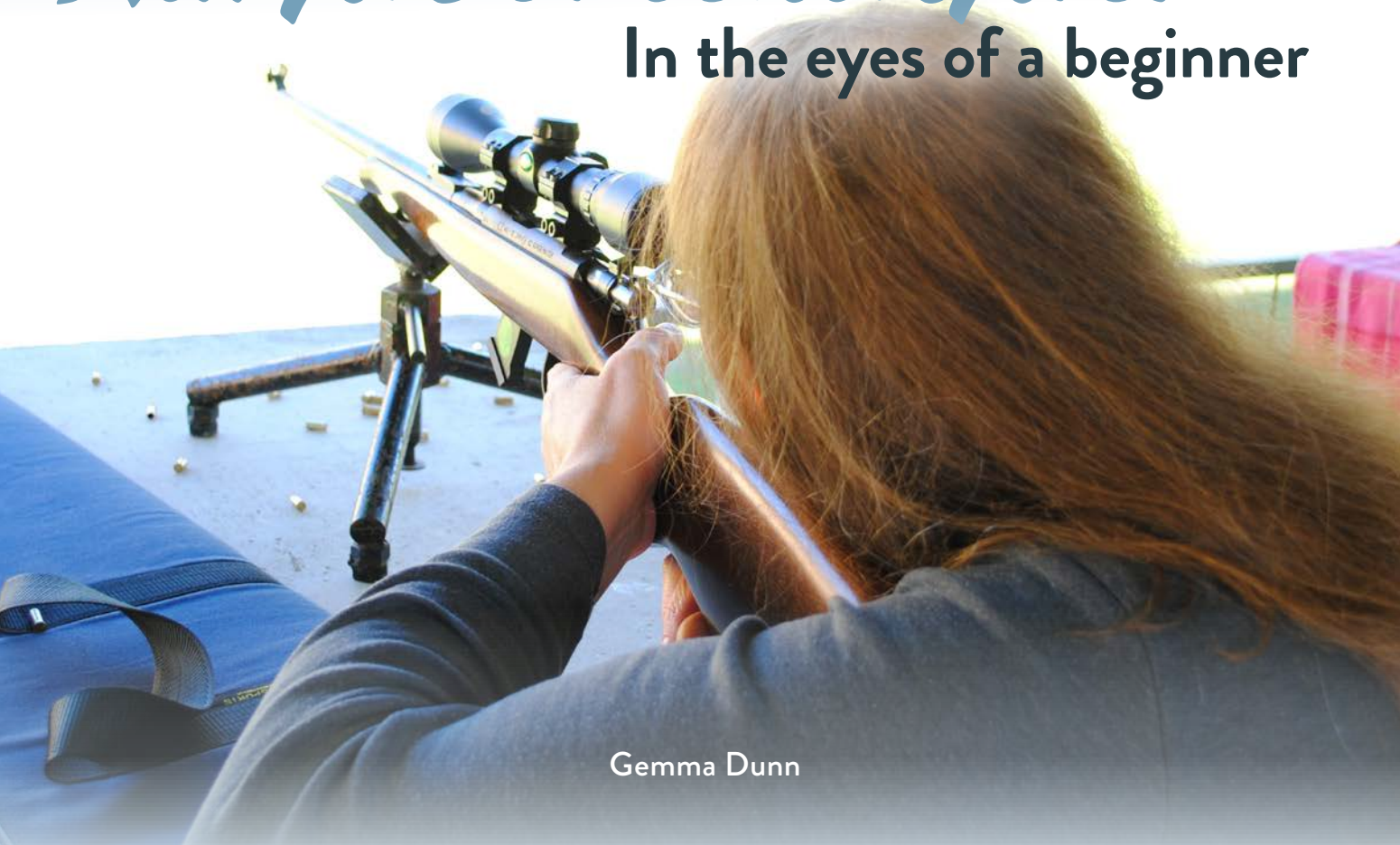
helpful if I ever want to have other heads mounted. We all sat down later in the evening for a few cold ones on our last night before I headed back home in the morning.

I have hunted with a lot of different people over the years but this particular group are some of the most supportive men I have come across. The environment was extremely uplifting and I was never made

to feel like I wasn't an equal hunter. The camera crew and other ZeroTech members were all a pleasure to be around and I had a great trip, especially claiming good mountable deer. It was an experience to remember and I hope we are able to plan another one soon.

# *Rimfire or centrefire?*

## In the eyes of a beginner



Gemma Dunn

Recently I was contacted by SSAA member Jenny, who wanted some advice on buying her first firearm and whether she should start with a rimfire or centre-fire rifle.

I am asked this question more than you would ever know. The answer is never just a simple “go and get X”. To answer this question, first you must understand a lot about WHY they want to buy this firearm – what is its main purpose? Secondly, you need to comprehend WHO is going to be shooting it and lastly, WHERE?

So, I did just that. I asked Jenny about herself and where she is at with her shooting journey. Jenny explained to me that she has never really shot before, but lives on a farm and would like to learn so she can control pests around her property. She also recently shot targets using a .22 rifle with an experienced friend at the range and loved it. I then proceeded to

ask Jenny about what type of pests she wanted to control on her property, to which she replied: “mainly wild dogs and foxes for my livestock.” Here was my ‘why’.

Next, I needed to understand the who. I asked Jenny to tell me about herself physically as we haven’t actually met and she explained she is of average stature for a woman, mid-late 50s and has a bad shoulder (the one she would be shooting from). Jenny also reiterated she doesn’t know a lot about shooting and is very new to it all. So, I asked her if she knew the differences between rimfire and centrefire. She said she didn’t. This told me everything I really needed to know about Jenny to begin formulating a response to her question of what gun she should buy.

However, the conundrum I quickly found was that Jenny had need for a centrefire calibre for her pest control duties on the farm but wasn’t confident enough with her

shooting knowledge and skills to be ready for any centrefire calibre larger than .222 or .223. And also, how can I know how she would handle recoil with her injured shoulder?

Because we had not met, I had not been able to spend time with her at a range before making my suggestions. This made me lean towards putting forward a rimfire rifle for her to learn the basics on, without Jenny having to deal with recoil for her shoulder. She could then learn enough to help her choose a centrefire rifle later on.

The main thing to consider for people like Jenny, who is inexperienced and also carrying an injury, is starting with a larger calibre can cause all sorts of issues, stretching from safety right through to developing bad shooting habits such as flinching, trigger jerking and even potentially scaring them from shooting altogether.





Spend time with an experienced shooter at your local SSAA range to become familiar with your firearm and practise safety before using it in the field.

It is really important to not impel someone into something too soon, or too forcefully, otherwise you will end up pushing them away, frightening them or being just plain unsafe.

I then explained to Jenny that this would be a testing process for her as the main thing for now is she needs to learn to shoot, feel comfortable with handling the firearm and ultimately know how to safely handle a firearm. Based on this, I suggested she begin with a .22 rifle, something like a CZ 457 or similar. Ideally, I would have loved to suggest a centrefire rifle to start with straight away, but I decided that Jenny needs to absorb firearm safety at a SSAA range and to shoot with support before she goes operating one on her property alone.

The positive to this is a .22 rifle is always useful around the farm coupled with any .223 or .243 rifle. Jenny agreed and is off to purchase her first rimfire from her local

gunshop while I make some calls on her behalf and arrange for her to have some lessons at her local SSAA range.

I also let Jenny know she can utilise the services of the SSAA Farmer Assist program in the meantime to help control pests on her property while she learns to shoot. For more information on SSAA Farmer Assist visit [farmerassist.com.au](http://farmerassist.com.au)

There are a lot of Australians in the same position as Jenny and it's not to say rimfire is better than centrefire. The important thing is that they each have a purpose with pros/cons and it is crucial to understand someone's unique situation before recommending any kind of firearm. However, rimfires are a really good rifle to start someone with as they have zero recoil and are easy to teach firearm safety and handling.

If you are ever asked this question, you can apply the same process of why, who and where as well. Or, next time you are pondering your own choice of firearm, follow this simple process. It will help you to either communicate this with the sales staff at your gunshop so they can recommend things for you or give you a starting point to begin your own research. And as always, if you ever need help you can email us at [aws@ssaa.org.au](mailto:aws@ssaa.org.au)

## Pros and cons for Jenny

### Rimfire

#### Pros

- Lightweight
- No recoil
- Cheap ammunition
- Easy to handle
- Simple mechanisms
- Generally cheaper firearm to purchase
- Easy to maintain

#### Cons

- Limited pest/game capability
- Close-range shooting

### Centrefire

#### Pros

- Expanded pest/game capability
- Can shoot longer distances
- Often more reliable
- A lot more choice in styles/designs

#### Cons

- Often heavier
- More expensive ammunition
- Recoil
- Cost of setting up generally more than a rimfire
- More maintenance required



...it is crucial to understand someone's unique situation before recommending any kind of firearm.

It's important that the firearm you pick is comfortable to shoot and does the job properly, as with this rimfire .22 rifle.





# *Hunt smarter* with an Allen rifle sling

Chris Redlich

Fatigue can be brought on by a number of factors and when it happens, it has the potential to ruin a good hunt or at least end it prematurely.

One of the biggest contributors to arm fatigue is the weight of your favourite rifle. Lugging around a three-to-four-kilogram lump of steel and plastic, up and down hills while riding shank's pony, doesn't go unnoticed and becomes tiresome over a long stretch of time.

Enter the humble sling, a simple but effective way of carrying a rifle, relieving the added stress from your arms to the much stronger, shoulder platform. Slings come in all shapes and sizes and with the market completely flooded by many brands and custom designs available, the modern shooter is spoilt for choice.

One brand that's been churning out hunting slings for the past few decades is US-based Allen Company Inc. They are a reputable shooting accessory outlet that makes products including gun bags, shooting rests, packs, protective equipment, targets and slings just to name a few. Allen are known for their high-quality rifle slings. In fact, I own a few, with my first purchase being more than 20 years ago.

The padded Odessa sling contours to Sue-Ann's shoulder to provide comfortable support.



More recently, after a trip with my wife to Qld Gun Exchange (one of our favourite retail stomping grounds), a new sling of particular interest to Sue-Ann's taste grabbed her full attention. Pink happens to be Sue-Ann's favourite colour and the bright pink borders of the sling unashamedly appealed to her. At first glance, we knew the Allen Odessa sling, would be a perfect mate to her deer hunting rifle that has a custom painted thumbhole stock, including a hint of pink in the camo pattern.

The Allen Odessa is a non-slip neoprene (wetsuit material) padded sling approximately 50mm wide that enables a large surface area of support over the shoulder. The neoprene outer wears the Realtree camouflage pattern, highlighted by two pink longitudinal edges.

The main sling strap is constructed from durable woven Cordura webbing and measures a generous 30mm wide. The fully adjustable sling strap is coloured brown and matches well to the Realtree camo neoprene padding. Importantly, all stitching appears to be heavy-duty triple stitching that includes cross stitching at critical points of support.

Unlike many other slings on the market, Allen have not used plastic fastening components but provided metal sling swivels and a metal adjustment buckle on the Odessa. Upon further investigation using a magnet, the buckle and sling



A hint of pink in Sue-Ann's rifle, gun bag and sling add to her custom style.

swivels are manufactured from a heavy-duty alloy and only the two locking pins of the swivels, are made from steel. For those familiar with traditional steel sling swivels, you would be conversant with the rusting of steel components. I can only ascertain that Allen combining alloy and steel is an attempt to alleviate potential rusting issues in the future, adding to the quality.

rifle's colour scheme perfectly and added a hint of personalisation to her favourite deer hunting set-up.

For those looking for a quality sling made by a company with years of experience, you can be certain that an Allen sling will last a long time and provide you with a fatigue free hunt. I must disclose that when hot on the trail of game species,

*...a comfortable sling is worth every cent when the haul in and out of your chosen hunting patch is long and hard.*

Upon fitment, to Sue-Ann's 7mm-08 rifle, it was immediately apparent how comfortable the neoprene padding felt as it stretched and moulded to her shoulder. I must admit that I haven't owned a neoprene sling before, instead opting for the traditional style of leather and lambswool padding. However, the Odessa sling has me impressed. Unlike myself, Sue-Ann has used neoprene slings before, but Allen's Odessa is the best so far. She is also rapt with how comfortable it feels on her shoulder under the weight of the rifle and how well it grips to her shape. As expected, the Realtree camo and pink mix match the

our rifles are mostly carried and ready for shouldering if a targeted animal appears.

A slung rifle is no good if a trophy animal presents for a quick shot, but a comfortable sling is worth every cent when the haul in and out of your chosen hunting patch is long and hard.

For the ultimate in comfortable carriage, regardless of colour preference, you can't go wrong with the well-priced Allen range of slings. You may struggle to come across this exact model due to the Odessa's popularity but you can check out their tantamount 'Girls with Guns' slings at [nioa.com.au](http://nioa.com.au)





# Brummell inspires in *lifetime of sports shooting*

Rachael Oxborrow

Ann Brummell places a lot of value in junior shooters having people to look up to, both female and male, to guide and inspire them in their chosen sport. It's one of the reasons she has spent many years of her life leading the next generation of shooters as a coach, mentor and provider of equipment to encourage and foster junior involvement.

The SSAA New South Wales Life Member joined the Association in 1969 and began shooting in her chosen discipline of Benchrest in 1971. She went on to compete in her first NSW State Titles that year and returned the next year to win the competition. In 1973 she continued her success and won her first National Benchrest Title at the SSAA Para range in South Australia. Over time she won enough national competitions to gain entry to the National Benchrest Centrefire Hall of Fame. She was the first female named in this prestigious group and remained so for 21 years, now being one of two women to have received this honour.

"The juniors are the future of our sport and they really must be supported," she said. "Helping younger shooters find their feet and seeing them master new skills is something I really enjoy."

When she first began shooting, Ann remembers following the career of Rosemary Chinnock and having the chance to meet her idol and see her in action still forms an important part of her memories.

Initially she participated internationally via postal shoots from around 1970-1989. When shoulder-to-shoulder international events came about, Ann travelled to the US several times. She shot in a few Benchrest events, super shoots and various state titles. She placed fourth in the

Californian State Light Rifle Titles, won the New Jersey Light Rifle State Titles and came second in the 2-Gun event. In 2011, Ann was named as the sole female in the 12-person team sent to the World Benchrest Championships in France.

Ann was named as a finalist for NSW Sportswoman of the Year three times in the 1980s and in 1988 she was acknowledged with a Bicentennial Award for services to



women's sport. In 2000 she was awarded the Queen's Australian Sports Medal and in 2018 she was given the honour of carrying the baton in the Queen's Commonwealth Games Baton relay.

Ann's affinity for Benchrest shooting was obvious from the start, but she claims it has always been something she has had to work on.

"There is always a learning curve and when you think you know it all, it is time to give the game away," she said.



"If things go bad, don't brood as tomorrow is another day and you just have to try not to repeat the mistake. It is just a sport and there are no gold ingots (for the winner)."

"No matter how much or how hard you practise, you always need that little pat from Lady Luck."

Her efforts to support junior development have spanned several decades and she

has been heavily involved in the National Junior Challenge, NSW Junior Target Shooting Camps, Australia Day and Pacific Regional Shooting Championships. She has also held a number of roles within the Association including the NSW committee for almost 15 years, SSAA National Secretary and Senior Vice President for eight years and National Benchrest Chair and Assistant.

"The most memorable for me was being Co-Director of the 12th World Benchrest Championships in Sydney in 2013," Ann said. "To be a part of that on home soil was amazing."

Ann has still been competing, when possible, amid past COVID restrictions and taking on a carer role at home. She said her monthly shoots at the SSAA Canberra range have helped keep her involved.

Over the years, Ann has made lifelong friends along the way and said this has been one of her highlights of being a shooter.

"The friends and the people I've worked with have become an important part of my life and my travel companions as we have gone to competitions together," she said.





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 **HUNTER**



A woman wearing a camouflage jacket, dark pants, and a cap stands in a shallow creek bed. She is surrounded by large, light-colored rocks and some green vegetation. The water is clear, and the scene is brightly lit.

Naomi in the creek bed  
near wild dog tracks.

# *Cherished memories*

in the great  
outdoors

Perry Magowan

My daughter Naomi's devotion for the bush started when she was eight years old. I took her out camping over the Easter weekends with my wife Lorraine. We would go to different places to set up camp, such as Emu Creek, Kilcoy Creek and various dams in the South East Queensland area. Sometimes my brother Darcy and his family were there fishing with his boat as well and he would take us out to join them.

We would go with him to seek winter whiting a couple times through the year as well. Naomi always caught more fish than me and constantly let me know about it. That was even after I taught her to bait her own line and take off the fish.

When we went camping, all three of us loved to sit around the campfire at night with a cup of hot chocolate in our hands and listen to red deer stags roar all around us.

On Easter Sunday morning, we would break out the chocolate eggs after a good feed of bacon, egg and toast for breakfast.

Naomi loved fishing. We put traps in the creeks and dams to catch shrimps for bait and lobsters and red claw to eat at night. Of course, catching fish like yellowbelly, bass and catfish on bait or lure was the main priority.

She loved to shoot at targets with the .22LR (Long Rifle) and became a very

go camping and just enjoy the Easter weekend. One break time though was in the middle of winter, so we camped on a mate's estate on the banks of Emu Creek. It was a cultivation property and the creek flowed through it. Deer were coming in at night and leaving first thing in the morning.

*...all three of us loved to sit around the campfire at night with a cup of hot chocolate in our hands and listen to red deer stags roar all around us.*

good shot. My wife Lorraine is a better shot with the .22LR than me and I taught her too.

Naomi grew up seemingly all too quickly, graduated from high school and was off to join the Navy at a young age so was gone.

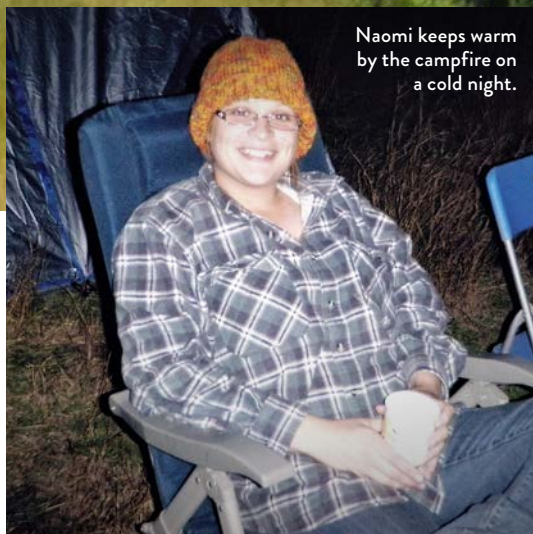
So, on the times when she came home on leave after deployment we would

We didn't catch any fish on that trip, but Naomi was lucky enough to shoot a young rusa spiker with my .243 Win rifle late in the afternoon the first day. It was cold that weekend and we burnt up lots of firewood to keep warm. Naomi cooked some good tucker as I recall as well on that trip. Cooking is another one of her passions.





The red doe flushed out of the gully.



Naomi keeps warm by the campfire on a cold night.

A few years ago I took her out to try and take her first red stag. We went on an afternoon hunt west of Toogoolawah in Brisbane Valley, where she saw her first deer, a red spiker, feeding about 350m away from us. I said to her: "he is not worth taking, we will look for another one."

As we crossed the creek there were wild dog tracks in the sand at the water's edge, so the animal must have taken a drink in the clear running water. We walked 500m up out of the creek before setting down on a log for a spell, to look and a listen. About 600m away a stag started roaring, so we made a beeline towards him and reached the boundary fence line. We realised the stag was still another 300m away in the neighbour's property - he was camped in the middle of a thick lantana bush and was not coming out for anybody.

Time was beating us that afternoon, so we headed off in a different direction and came to an open gully where a red doe ran out in front of us. It was just the one deer, but I snapped a quick photo of her and then she moved off.

Half an hour later, we were moving in on one more roaring stag, again about 350m from the boundary fence on the wrong side. He looked like a double-six, which is what you would like to collar for your first red head.

We trudged off back to the car to head home feeling bad that things had not worked out for us. We packed everything, including the rifle, to drive out.

Naomi said: "why don't we leave the gun out as we drive out of the property just in case." I replied: "I've never seen

anything on the drive out before." As we set off, it was nearly dark.

Only 300m from the front gate of the property and the main road. Naomi said: "dad, there is a big stag standing on the other ridge, over there." I stopped the car and looked to see a big-six red stag standing side-on at 150m away looking at us. Had I left the rifle out, Naomi would have shot the easiest red stag she was ever going to take.

Of course, there is always someone smart around to tell you: "I told you, I told you." Maybe it's a good thing that she lives over in WA. But there is always next time...



Naomi with her rusa spiker.



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