

News from IWA 2010

Once again I visited the massive IWA exhibition in Nurnberg, Germany to see the latest new products that we can bring to our customers; this show is spread over 6 huge halls and is an amazing snapshot of the best the world wide gun trade has to offer to the target shooter and hunter. There are major conferences held in conjunction with the event and there is also a hall full of police, defence & security equipment, largely of little interest to our clients and much of it would never get past the Customs in Australia. In this hall you get Americans promoting “how to defend yourself in a knife fight” and similar presentations, if I was a copper I think I would pull my gun.

For the target shooter all major suppliers are there presenting their range of new and interesting product to the dealers from all over the world, we have some new products from Gehmann to interest our customers, for the full-bore shooter we will be offering “The Right Sight” 30 mm front tunnel which is designed to clamp to the barrel of the usual target rifles, the tunnel is adjustable for elevation and has an inbuilt spirit level to aid in the avoidance of cant, particularly important for the long range shooter (photo below).

		
<p>30mm Right Sight for the fullbore shooter</p>	<p>The Edge, entry level PCP target or hunting rifle</p>	<p>Action and sight of The Edge</p>

The tunnel has a built in shade tube and can be supplied in different adjustment ranges, the same as the other smaller diameter iris foresights, it can also be supplied with a dovetail base to fit the standard European dovetails found on small-bore rifles or European full-bore rifles.

From Gehmann we have the 579 series cylindrical lens system which allows the shooter to compensate for many types of optical problems, the detailed explanation of how it works can be found on the Gehmann website www.gehmann.com, this item has really taken off in overseas markets and we are hoping it will do the same in Australia.

Gehmann also presented a new entry level PCP air rifle “The Edge” (pictured above) which is suitable for use with either target type sights or a telescopic sight, it is of quite striking design with a red or

blue colour anodized stock, it could be used for 10 metre ISSF competition and or silhouette completion or hunting with its highly accurate “Lothar Walter” match barrel.

Gehmann are continually developing new products for the target shooter and the have over 100 patents for target shooting gear, the first shooting frames, adjustable iris’s, the JGA Match 54 action, the Mauser Model 66, the FWB Model 65, 150, 300 and the FWB 2700 all owe their success to Gehmann designs, chances are if you need target shooting gear it will be available from Gehmann.

For the black powder and the cowboy action shooters we have some interesting news from Pedersoli. They have already completed the tooling design and prototypes of a new single action revolver and also a new lever action 45-70 styled after the 1886 Winchester, deliveries of this model are expected about the end of September. In our next delivery we are expecting the new “Wyatt Earp” hammer type shotgun, designed specifically for the Cowboy action discipline with 20” barrels, it can be closed one handed with a flick of the wrist for speedy follow up shots. Probably good for pigs in the lignum scrub too.

		
<p>New Western Action models 1886 Lever Action in 45/70. Wyatt Earp 12# Shotgun and new 45 Colt Revolver</p>	<p>Continental Pistol with 209 shotgun primer adapter, as described below</p>	<p>Deluxe Gibbs .451 cal long range target rifle.</p>

Pedersoli also showed a new attachment for existing percussion rifles and pistols which allows the use of 209 shotgun primers to propel a synthetic non lead patched ball without using black powder, this device is intended for indoor practice particularly with a pistol or small calibre rifle, it will initially only be offered in .36, .44 & .45 but later deliveries will probably include .50 cal ball for rifles.

There is also a plan to produce brass shell holders for the 209 primers to allow indoor practice with Single Action guns so the cowboy shooter is being increasingly catered for by Pedersoli.

We expect the lever action 45-70 will also be of interest to the deer hunter as fast handling rifle can mean the difference between meat on the table and nothing from the hunt.

RWS have introduced some new lines in Match Ammunition, there are two levels of high performance ammo and a mid priced target line offered for the full-bore target shooter market, in addition to the rimfire and air pellet lines.



RWS stand at IWA



New Silver Selection Ammunition tested from minus 40 °C to +50 °C

They have also introduced Geco .223 FMJ ammunition derived from their military production line at very favourable pricing for the service rifle shooter.

New from RWS is “Cineshot” ammunition loaded with non toxic priming and fast expansion bullets designed for use in a new phenomenon in Germany, indoor ranges where various images are projected on a large screen and players/trainees can use live ammunition to shoot at various targets presented on the screen, I had a tour of one of these facilities near Frankfurt, the range is completely underground, indeed, under a pharmaceutical production facility (the Pharmacist is a mad shooter so he purpose built this range under the pharmaceutical lab).

The main interest though was from a hunter’s point of view, they have over 400 hunting scenarios which you can request, if you want to practice duck shooting they have ducks flying through the scenery (filmed from real life situations or animations as a choice) you can use your own shotgun or rent one from the range. If you choose the animations and you hit the “bird” it drops out of the sky and you can also replay the shot to see where your shot pattern was in relation to the target, this helps with development of the art of leading the flying game correctly.

With the live action films the bird does not drop as they can’t modify the live action images so easily but the replay is still available so you can see if you are consistently shooting behind or high or low etc. so you can adjust your swing to suit.

There are also wild deer, boar, mountain sheep, fox, rabbit and hare simulations; there are hundreds of scenarios to simulate various situations, as with the wild birds etc. When you shoot the game it may either drop on the shot if it is an animation or keep running if filmed live, but the impact point shows as a red dot on the target, you can see on a smaller screen in the top corner where the shot struck in relation to the vitals of the game.

If using the animated targets if you hit the right spot the animal drops as it would in life, if it was gut shot or hit in a non vital area it may keep running badly, the shooter can also be trained to decide whether to shoot or not in accordance with the applicable hunting regulations in the area. At times the hunter may not be permitted to take breeding game with newborn at foot or else may be required to recognise game which should be culled to strengthen the gene pool in accordance with the game laws of the area.

The range is sound proofed and certified for calibres below 7000 joule ME, not sure what that is in foot pounds but a 460 Jeffery is apparently OK to use, as are various military machine guns which can be rented for a “yippee shoot”, the range time is about €80-100.00 per hour but you can have a group of shooters at the same rate so you can show your mates how good or bad your really are.

I would love to see such a facility set up somewhere in each major city but I won't hold my breath, it could be done at SSAA St Marys or any good indoor range at much lower cost than the German set up I saw which was in typical German fashion over engineered to the highest standards going, 17000 litres per minute air flow to remove fumes etc. as an example. The major problem would be getting the images that would be applicable in Australia, the wild boar and elk scenes etc. while realistic in the local area would be quite out of place for the Gippsland Sambar hunter or the black soil pig hunter.

The Cineshot ammo has a cheaper projectile with the same ballistic characteristics as hunting ammo so it provides realistic simulation for the hunter. It would also be OK for certain game situations in Australia but probably no good for “bullet proof” Sambar or Buffalo.

RWS are to be the major sponsor of the ISSF World Championships to be held in Munich later this year, as part of their commitment they have produced some “Championship Edition” .22 rf ammo and also some “Championship Edition” air pellets, both these products are just slightly below the quality of their top line products but at a very favourable price to promote the products in conjunction with the event.

We will probably have these lines from around July in our next container.

We are expecting a new container (already packed) to arrive in May at this stage, this has new supplies of all our popular lines however due to continuing orders coming in some lines may sell out very fast, particularly the popular cheaper lines such as Geco Pistol and rifle ammo, we only have about 30000 of each uncommitted from our order of 750000 rounds of these two lines so if you want some you should order soon or miss out until July or later.

RWS also released some new Match Cartridges for the long range shooter, “Target Elite” for 300 metre shooting in 308 Win and Target Elite Plus for use up to 1200 metres, the top line product is loaded in Switzerland using “Double Step Loading Technology”.

They claim a maximum standard deviation of 16.9 to 25 mm at 300 metres for this ammunition (not exactly sure by what that means but it is in the brochure), this line is loaded in .223 Rem, .308 Win, .300 Win Mag & .338 Lapua Magnum.

RWS is also about to go live with a new website very soon (www.rws-ammuntion.com) which will have their complete range on it with look up tables for various calibres and also charts recommending suitable loads for various game etc. I believe it will have data in Imperial units for those of us who have trouble with Metric information about shooting.

We also had some time with Walter Rossler, the Master Gunsmith from the Titan factory to see what he had to offer for the future, he say he intends to make a new design of front locking rifle for smaller .22 calibres such as .22 RF and Hornet, it will be interesting to see this when it comes to light,

we often get asked for rifles in Hornet but there is not much on the market these days even though it is highly suitable for many uses where the more powerful .223's are too much gun.

We spent some time with Kurt Thune looking at his range of target shooters clothing and accessories, this is really top line product for the serious target shooter, his clothing lines are used by numerous Olympic and World Champions, we have sold his gear for many years, his jackets, pants and ancillaries are simply the best there is for the competitive shooter.

	
Kurt Thune TL2 stock size jacket - in stock now	Kurt Thune Xpert 3P Jacket as worn by World Record holder Warren Potent

I looked a bewildering array of general hunting gear and hundreds of toys such as air soft guns which are a threat to civilisation as we know it with 0.5 Joule muzzle energy but they come as lookalike of just about any modern handgun, machine pistol or service rifle, just the thing for the "Tactical brigade", you can pretend to be a warrior and shoot these toys without any danger to anyone but here they are banned as they look scary!

Air rifles & air pistols with muzzle velocity below 175 metres per second are treated as toys in Europe and can be purchased without a licence hence air guns and air soft are huge business and enormous numbers of these where on show.

	
Some of the beautiful custom guns - more than a years salary in each.	

Some amazing custom guns on display, the result of the work of highly skilled artisans and a customer base prepared to pay for quality work, all in all a great exhibition which attracts about 45000 trade visitors every year, many visitors even bring their dogs and you get the occasional dog fight in the aisles, some exhibitors even put out a bowl of dog food and water to the four legged customers, this show must generate millions for the local economy every year, how different things are than here!



Eagle and handler with flying shows 3 times daily - pigeons beware



Even dogs get tired looking at guns



Hawk and handler