

News from IWA, Nurnberg 2011

Once again I attended the IWA trade fair held annually in Nurnberg Germany, this is the most important gun trade fair held in Europe each year, although it is dwarfed by the SHOT Show held in USA it suits us better as most of our suppliers are based in Europe and they all come to the Fair to display their new and existing products. Most of our suppliers and indeed many others release their new lines to the World market at the show so it is easy to see the new wares all under the one roof.



Entrance to IWA 2011 Exhibition

As you enter the complex of 6 very large halls at each of the 3 entry points you find a pianist on a Grand Piano playing to entertain while you are getting your ID recorded and a ticket issued, the main ticket sales foyer is about the size of a typical Australian gun show display area complete with a fountain, a magazine stand where you can freely browse various trade publications, a coffee shop and two areas to leave your jacket and luggage etc. if you wish, as the outside temperature is usually under 5 degrees you need a jacket but the halls are more like 20-25 degrees you need to strip off before walking the halls.



Pianist entertaining the visitors while they are accredited to enter the show

This year the organisers moved many of our suppliers to new locations within their building perhaps to try to get visitors to go to halls they may not have in the past, I found it a bit tricky as when I made a bee-line to the usual location for several appointments only to find they were not where I expected. This compounded by the unusual floor plans of the building can easily get the visitor lost and I did several times!

Pedersoli showed their new 1886/71 Lever Action Model rifle available in 45-70 and 444 Marlin, this rifle was displayed with a range of sights including a "Ghost Ring", a standard buckhorn or an attachment for a "Piccatinny Rail" which will accept a wide range of sighting equipment including a long eye relief scope to allow the top eject design to function. This model



Pedersoli Display 2011 IWA Exhibition



should be an ideal choice for those who hunt in rough country, the 45-70 has adequate power for most hunting in Australia and I would expect it to be of interest to the Sambar hunter or indeed some of the Cowboy action shooters as well for the rifle calibres events.



Pedersoli Gibbs Deluxe display 2011 IWA Exhibition



Pedersoli Sharps Deluxe on display at 2011 IWA Exhibition

Also new from Pedersoli was the "Doc Holliday" range of revolvers clearly inspired by the Colt revolver featuring a Birds Beak grip with 4.2" or 5" barrels chambered in 38 Special designed to complement the "Lightning" pump action range now also available in 38 Special specifically for the "Cowboy Action" shooter, this calibre is more pleasant to shoot than some of the more heavily loaded calibres and the revolver is sure to find favour due to its excellent balance and precise trigger system.

For something entirely different Pedersoli has also introduced the "Turbo Gun Cleaner" a lightweight portable steam generator designed to produce superheated dry steam at 130C to get every bit of fouling from any gun

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barrel, suitable for use on black powder or smokeless loaded guns it even assists to remove leading or copper fouling from the dirtiest barrel without harsh chemicals which can be a health hazard.

Our supplier Rossler Waffen from Austria has introduced a new catalogue with a wider range of calibres many of which will be of interest to hunters, for smaller feral game 6.5 x 47 Lapua has been introduced and for heavier game .375 Ruger joins the line up, the Titan 3 & Titan 6 rifles are switch barrel design allowing simple barrel switching within bolt face sizes, the hunter can have a range of barrels to suit a wide variety of hunting scenarios.



Titan display at 2011 IWA Exhibition

Ruag Ammotec, the makers of RWS and Geco ammunition have widened the range of the popular "Geco" branded (largely Swiss loaded) handgun ammunition, this is their "no frills" line which uses the same metallurgy in the cases but skips the polishing which reduces the price of the product considerably, a number of the RWS ammunition lines have also been reduced in price due to improved production technology and the more favourable exchange rate. They have also introduced a range of lead free rifle, pistol and shotgun ammunition for use in sensitive areas and indoor training ranges, which could be of interest to some shooting clubs and security trainers.



RUAG stand at the 2011 IWA Exhibition



There is also a new economical line of ammunition probably very suited to practice applications but in Europe dedicated for use in "Cineshot" ranges, these are indoor ranges which are becoming very popular all over Germany among shooters who wish to practice using their favourite hunting guns in a simulated field situation, any kind of hunting (or for that matter military or security training) scenario can be put up on the screen and the shooter can practice shooting their chosen game/targets in a comfortable atmosphere whatever the weather, the Muller Scheisszentrum in Ulm is perhaps the zenith of shooting range design worldwide, have a look at the future at www.mszu.de and wish for a group with deep pockets to set up others like it in Australia. Most feature a decent restaurant with a good standard of food and drink on offer, a far cry from the pies and hot-dogs at local ranges.



Entertainment at the RUAG Stand 2011 IWA



Discussion area on the RUAG Stand



Part of the RUAG Ammotec stand, as this show caters to hunters many visitors bring their dogs, many exhibitors provide food and water for four legged customers.

Also new from RWS is a range of air pellets especially designed for use in the latest PCP and .25 cal air rifles, these pellets are much heavier and more strongly made.

This is necessary to withstand the greater firing pressure generated in modern air rifles, many shooters try to use cheap inferior pellets and then wonder why their air rifle wont group the size of a beer can at 20 metres.

The usual problem with low grade pellets is the high pressure required to accelerate a pellet to 1250 fps or thereabouts blows the skirt off the pellet as it leaves the barrel, the skirt stabilizes the pellet, without it the head of the pellet will rapidly tumble destroying any hope of accuracy. A shipment of the new pellets and other

new lines will arrive November along with many other orders in transit including a wide range of rimfire, centerfire and some special shot shells requested by dealers.

While the RWS range of ammunition maybe more expensive than other brands it does offer totally reliable performance in use, the hunt of a lifetime can easily be ruined by inconsistent ammunition which fails to perform at the critical moment, as RWS say "The ammunition counts", have look at their website for information on the various products available and their recommendations for various game hunting.

RWS have also released a new range of hunting ammunition under the Geco brand, this will be available in popular calibres for various needs. The line will be priced competitively with other major brands. Have a look at the new website at www.geco-ammuntion.com for details of the new products.

Gehmann, our longest established supplier presented the new Article 560, a micro-Optical device which is fitted between the rear iris and the sight, it sharpens the focus of the front sight and the target, no more blurred front ring and sharp aiming mark (or vice-versa, both are sharp), this device has no magnification so it is legal for all disciplines but you have to look at a target with it to appreciate the improved sight picture, it has taken Gehmann 3 years of research to perfect and patent. Gehmann have over 200 patents for innovations for the target shooter, the company specialises in target shooting and has a well deserved reputation for their products.



Gehmann display at the 2011 IWA Exhibition

Feinwerkbau have consolidated their range this year with only minor detail changes to the existing models, they have however introduced a new entry level air pistol the "P11" which is an ambidextrous model aimed at the new pistol shooter or club use. FWB said that they have introduced this model to replace the ubiquitous Model 65 first released in 1954 as they cannot economically continue to make parts for a model out of production for over 15 years. This model should suit the new shooter or the club with older guns which can no longer be maintained.



New from Feinwerkbau at the 2011 IWA Exhibition

Kurt Thune showed a new range of shooting clothing designated as the X.9 line in a new fabric which is still undergoing final testing by the test team (all top shooters, World and Olympic champions) plus Kurt himself is shooting in the new line to make certain he gets it perfect before release.

I looked at a wide range of other product much of which could not be sold in Australia, US suppliers seem to be promoting more and more "tactical weapons systems", sniper and assault rifles plus ammunition described as "tactical home defence munitions" such as solid slug ammo for shotguns and hollow point pistol ammo "to stop home invaders etc" Most of these products look very military and they are also becoming more widespread in the EU market among the gung ho types and those who would want to be, there seem to be many frustrated commandos out there, makes me wonder why they don't sign up, there seem to be a few wars around looking for fighters.

The "Air Soft" lines with > 0.5 joules muzzle energy can also be had in just about any scary looking configuration you want, AK 47, AR-17 MP3, MG42 etc and the locals have war games with them using soft plastic pellets, these very low powered toys are of course a prohibited import as they look too scary for our politicians but they are a huge market in Europe. Silencers where also popular as in many parts of Europe you are required to use one when hunting.

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At the other end of the scale are the high grade handmade hunting rifles in various designs, single shot's, double and triple rifles engraved like works of art at very high prices, I would be amazed to see any of them in an Australian hunting situation, as an example Perrazi was offering a 4 gun set of shotguns in .410, 28#, 20# and 12# for a mere €299,000.00, I am expecting a few of these on the local duck swamp soon!

Plenty of rifles on display starting price around \$5,000.00 quite a few around \$50,000.00 too, just the thing for the back of the Ute!

There is also a huge range of accessories for every hunting need from the cheapest products from China and Pakistan to the best products of Europe particularly in optics and gunsmiths equipment, stock makers, barrel makers, tool makers, special steel and walnut suppliers abound, anything for the gun trade can be found here, it is truly a major event for the firearms trade.

We make a point of attending the fair each year to see the latest developments and talk to our suppliers to find the latest developments for our customers.

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