

DOING BUSINESS WITH A U S T R A L I A

Despite what you might have heard about Australian gun laws, the shooting sports are well and truly alive in the 'Lucky Country'. *Gun Trade World* previews what to expect from this stable and wealthy market.

A

ustralia is one of the wealthiest countries in the world per capita. It's also one of the largest in land mass, which means there's plenty of room for shooting ranges and hunting. Ever since colonial days Australia has been steeped in the shooting sports and firearm ownership is common among the

population of 25 million.

Australia does manufacture firearms, in particular Lithgow have created several world-renowned firearms, but this is greatly outstripped by the country's thirst for high performance and quality firearms and accessories.

Last year a study conducted by the Australian

Government found that hunters and shooters contributed \$2.4 billion to the country's economy.

Several shooting Olympic champions have come out of Australia. The country is punching above its weight claiming multiple medals at each Olympics and even more at the Commonwealth

FACT FILE

Capital: Canberra
Dialling code: +61
Population: 25,772,300
Currency: Australain Dollar
Prime Minister: Scott Morrison
Official language: English
Timezone: UTC+8; +9.5; +10



Games, with shotgun events proving the most fruitful.

With a high quality of life in Australia, many recreational shooters can invest a lot of money into their hobby. It's not uncommon to find rifle setups exceeding \$5,000 being used in friendly weekend competitions in any part of

the country.

The most prominent shooting organisation in the country is the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) with almost 200,000 members. SSAA runs more than 400 shooting clubs throughout the country and presides over more than 20 shooting sports while

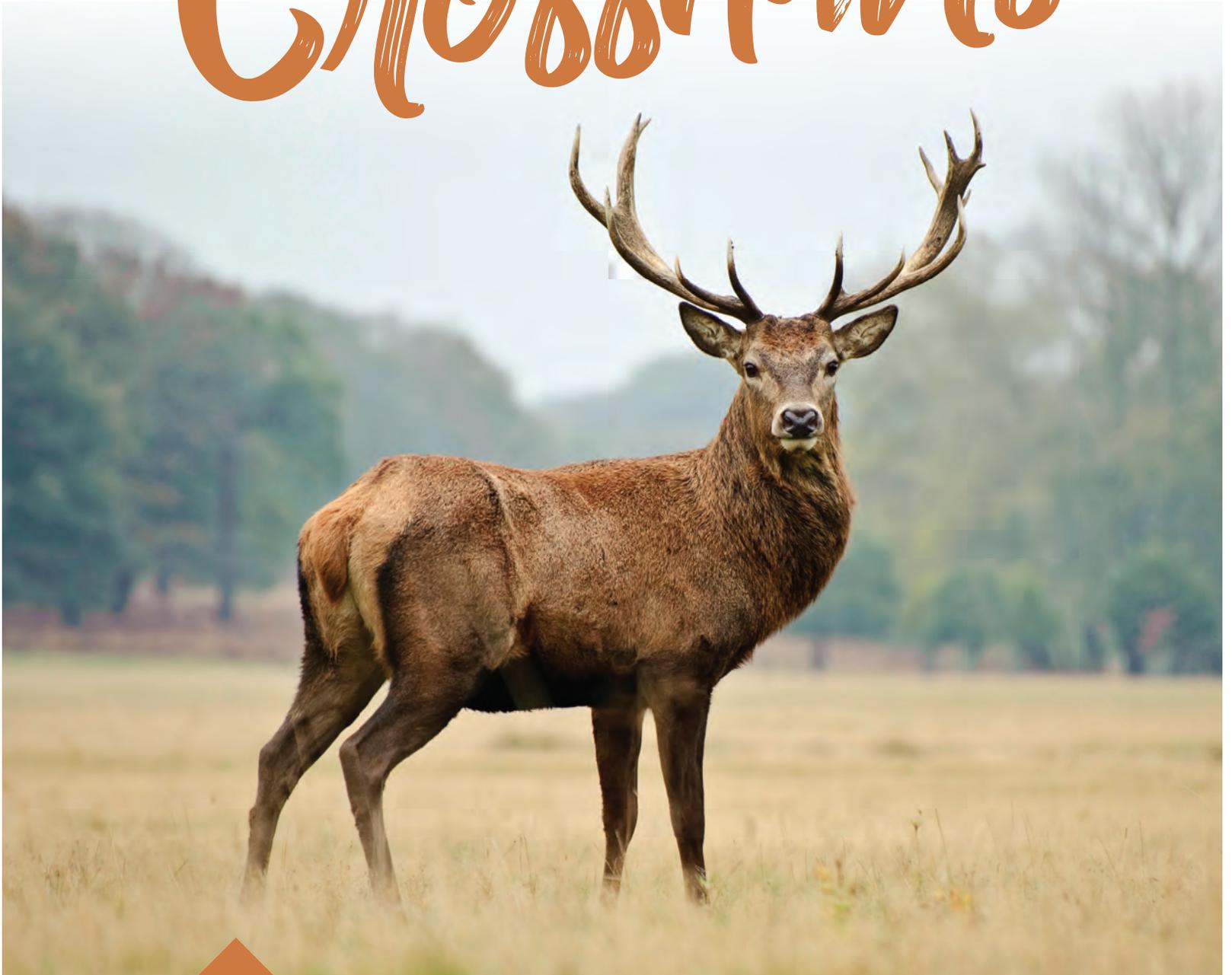
ensuring the grass roots side of shooting stays in good hands. SSAA membership continues to blossom and during the past 12 months it has increased female members by 10 per cent – a rapidly growing segment of Australian shooters.

Licensing in Australia involves more red tape than

in a lot of other countries in the world, but with a weekend course and a background check anyone older than 18 years of age can own a firearm. Storage requirements see firearms owners invest in top-end safes to keep their equipment secure and meet legal requirements.

Australia is home to some >>

In The Crosshairs



DEER

Wild deer of various species can be found in good number across most states and territories, especially on the east coast. To most hunters they tend to be a prized game animal and many dream about coming home with a huge antler trophy. Hunting on foot for deer can be both demanding and rewarding in the habitats that wild deer generally seek refuge.

An animal with exceptional senses makes the challenge of close contact difficult. Wild deer vary in size. A mature hog deer stands around 70cm at the shoulder and weighs about 50kg. A sambar deer on the other hand can stand 130cm at the shoulder and weigh up to 230kg. Other species such as fallow, rusa, chital and red deer fall between these sizes and all deer offer generous amounts of meat for the hunter.

SEASON:

Check individual state rules



PIGS

Feral pigs have been a popular target for Australian hunters for many years. They are widespread in the eastern states as well as the Northern Territory. They inhabit vast areas of farmland, forest and marsh areas. They are seen as an environmental and agricultural pest. Generally feral pigs congregate in large mobs, making hunting action thick and fast depending on the accessibility of the area. Being largely nocturnal, feral pigs can be targeted by spotlighting, the use of dogs to flush or point/hold at distance, thermal imaging and night vision equipment, stalking and waiting around sources.

Large boars grow tusks that many hunters collect as a trophy. Mature male pigs weigh 80-100kg and they have a keen sense of smell and taste as well as good hearing. Their eyesight is considered to be poor, which allows hunters to move close if they are smart with their approach.

SEASON:

Check individual state rules



RABBITS

Rabbits have provided many hunters with their starting point to the hunting pastime and many will never pass up a chance to harvest a bunny or two for the pot. Seeing that they were deliberately released for hunting in the 1800s, it's probably fitting that most young hunters cut their teeth on a species introduced into Australia as a game species by acclimatisation societies. Rabbits are widely distributed and occur in a variety of habitats across the country and offshore islands. Rabbits are seen as Australia's most widespread and destructive environmental and agricultural vertebrate pest. They provide good hunting in both daylight and night-time hours and can be found in both small and large numbers depending on warren structures and numbers.

SEASON: Check individual state rules

of the most exotic animals on earth and hunting is also extremely popular there. For instance, its coat of arms features the iconic kangaroo, which in different parts of the country is either considered a pest that competes with livestock or is hunted to sell

as meat in grocery stores. Beyond the native species, a number of introduced groups have established themselves there and provide ample hunting opportunities. This includes deer, goats, camels, foxes, wild pigs, feral cats and many others. Like kangaroos,

depending on the area and landscape, these species could be culled as part of pest control or hunted as food for the dinner table. Pest control is an important part of the Australian shooting landscape, as it is considered one of the most reliable,

cost-effective and humane methods of protecting Australia's delicate ecology. Gun sales and gun ownership in Australia have gone up every year for the past few decades and continue to be a preferred pastime within the country. >>

Show business

WHAT: SSAA SHOT EXPO
 WHERE: ROSEHILL RACECOURSE, SYDNEY
 WHEN: 2020 EVENT POSTPONED, 2021 YET TO BE DECIDED
 LEARN MORE: WWW.SSAA.ORG.AU



The SSAA SHOT Expo is Australia's premier event for the shooting sports industry in Australia. The event showcases shooting, hunting and outdoor activities to the firearms community and public. The event attracts more than 15,000 people per weekend and is now an annual event held in different capital cities throughout the country.

The event also has demonstrations of

working gundogs, butchering, firearms maintenance and much more, as well as talks from Australia's shooting elite. More than 150 brands showcase their wares at the Expo, which has been growing each year since its inception.

At the 2019 SSAA Shot Expo, Winchester's National Sales Manager Brian Mortensen said he was impressed with the turnout. "I could hardly believe it actually," he said. "The doors had

been open for less than five minutes and the first of the CZs was sold. So many people had been telling us how much they were looking forward to the Expo and that customer knew exactly what he'd come for. He was a happy man - and so was I."

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 event has been postponed but the Expo is set to return bigger and better than ever when restrictions allow.



Lithgow Arms is a brand built on over 100 years of weapons expertise at a small arms factory in Lithgow, New South Wales.

Since 1912, Lithgow has proudly supported Australia's soldiers on battlefields around the world. From Gallipoli, Fromelles and Pozieres to North Africa, Borneo and Kokoda, and from Korea, Malaya and Vietnam to East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, Australian troops have carried

weapons made in Lithgow.

From the .303 and SLR to today's Austeyr SA2 and the EF88, Lithgow represents a unique heritage - the home of small arms in Australia.

Originally conceived as a factory to make and support weapons created elsewhere, over recent years Lithgow has evolved into a true small arms designer and manufacturer.

The Lithgow Arms team includes local experts plus people with international

experience from some of the world's most renowned arms manufacturers, as well as former military personnel.

All this means the team now designs new Australian weapons for military and civilian markets - along with the LA101 CrossOver, the innovative EF88 rifle is being developed for the Australian Defence Force, while the export F90 version has captured attention around the world.

For over 100 years the men and women of Lithgow have supported the factory, the production of small arms, and the Australian Defence Force at home and abroad. Lithgow Arms employs over 130 full time personnel across all trades and backgrounds - and everyone takes enormous pride in producing quality work. Many of the company's workforce are former military members, and some continue to serve in a reserve capacity.

WWW.LITHGOWARMS.COM

Economy In Focus

Australia has entered its 28th year of consecutive annual economic growth, setting a new record among developed economies for uninterrupted expansion.

This enviable record of steady growth proves the robustness of Australia's economy and its reliability as a low-risk and safe environment in which to do business.

The country's strong regulatory institutions, ability to respond to global changes, and diversified, services-based economy underpin its steady growth.

Despite Australia comprising just 0.3 per cent of the world's population, its economy is expected to be the 14th largest in the world and the fifth largest in the Asian region in 2019. Australia's nominal GDP is

estimated at US\$1.5 trillion (almost A\$2 trillion) and accounts for 1.7 per cent of the global economy. In 1999, Australia's total production value was just US\$411 billion, meaning it has more than tripled in two decades.

Australia's economy is rated AAA with a stable outlook by all three global rating agencies. Before Covid-19 hit the country was forecast to realise average annual real GDP growth of 2.7 per cent over the next five years – the highest among major advanced economies and is characterised by diverse services and technology sectors and low government debt. The impact of Covid-19 may not hit Australia as badly as some other countries due to its robust economy. **ETW**

\$1.434 trillion GDP (USD)

\$57,373.69 GDP per capita (USD)

2.9% GDP growth rate

13.3% Unemployment rate



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