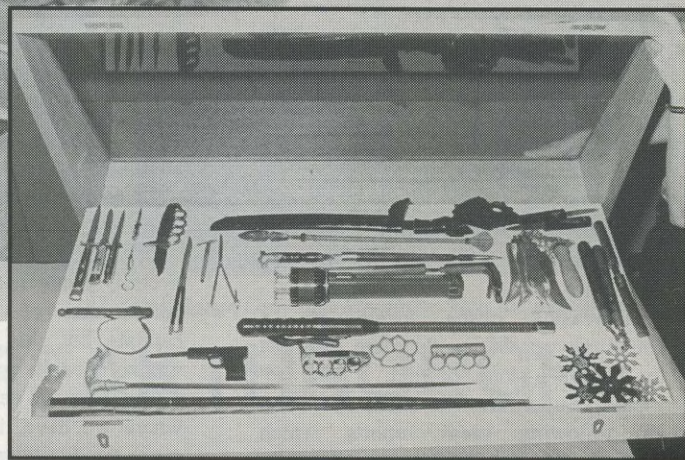


Visitors to the Australian Gun Expo inspecting the AFP Exhibit



by Keith Livingston

MELBOURNE'S Royal Exhibition Building was the recent venue for the second successful Australian Gun Expo, featuring more than 500 exhibitors.

The Expo was organised by gun collectors and dealers, Jeff Overington and Maurie Albert, and attracted other dealers and collectors from across Australia.

About 7,000 people attended the exhibition on October 31 and November 1 and saw displays of weapons and sporting equipment of all shapes and sizes ranging from hand guns to shotguns and military weapons, both old and new.

The Australian Federal Police became involved when the organisers issued an invitation to display a range of weapons

AFP Scientific Branch Senior Constable Cliff Nuttall from Southern Region headquarters, with help from First Constable Howard Griffiths and Constable Elizabeth Johnson in Melbourne and from Detective Sergeant Ian Prior at AFP Headquarters in Canberra, responded to the invitation

GUN EXPO

and set about preparing a stand.

Senior Constable Nuttall organised display cases for the AFP stand, which proved to be one of the most popular at the Expo.

He said, "I'm sure just about all of the 7,000 people spent time looking at our show and even when interest waned at the other exhibits, there was always a crowd looking at ours."

Senior Constable Nuttall said, "Apart from the firearms of historic interest because of their uniqueness, we also placed on show such things as throwing knives, martial arts weapons and other illegal items seized over a number of years."

"During the show two of Australia's leading shooters' magazines complimented us on the exhibit and my efforts to inform dealers and the general public on the technical requirements of weapons being imported into this country," he said.

During the two day Expo the AFP

members received at least 50 enquiries regarding recruiting into the Australian Federal Police and those who displayed that interest were advised to contact Canberra for further information.

When he's not taking part in the Gun Expo, Senior Constable Nuttall is the Melbourne-based Firearms Testing Officer and Registrar for the AFP.

His duties include the maintenance of the AFP armoury and the safety testing of weapons dealers and individuals seek to bring into the country.

He also supplies advice to Customs concerning the authenticity of weapons stated to be antique and the licensing criteria for all weapons.

Senior Constable Nuttall's duties also involve close liaison with the courts, Victoria Police and Customs regarding identification and evidence regarding illegally imported weapons.