

# GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 25 RIFLE TEAM TO AUSTRALIA 2005

by Emma Nuttall

<b>Captain</b>	Paul Wheeler
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	Dave Rose
<b>Adjutant</b>	Susie Kent
<b>Shooters</b>	Jen Charlton Ed Jeens Jon Kent Emma Nuttall Simon Shouler Ed Welford Rachel Wenham Mark Westmoquette Bruce Young

## Saturday 11 June

Saturday started bright and early for a relaxed session of packing and kit re-arranging. Well, all except Susie and Jon Kent who had a mad dash home to collect Jon's passport, whoops! There were only a few overweight bags, but after our care check-in didn't actually weigh everything. We cleared Customs eventually with no problems. A few albums and pairs of sunglasses later we were setting off on the long walk to the plane. Allegedly 1½ miles but then we were going to be sitting down for the next 30 hours, might as well get some exercise!

## Sunday 12 June

Sunday came and passed in a haze. Most of the flight was spent in the dark and only about ten hours officially spent in Sunday. After two hours in Dubai came another excellent flight with over 500 channels of movies, music and games to choose from. We were spread to the four corners of the plane but as it was empty we soon shifted to make the best use of the 13 hours together.

## Monday 13 June

We touched down at Sydney International airport at 6am. The Australian Customs officers were extremely efficient and thanks to Susie's preparations, we passed through in a little under 45 minutes. Shocking! It was all too good to be true though as there was a long wait for the hire cars. So we had more time to admire the, um, airport!

Once the rifles were safely stowed away at the Sydney International Shooting Centre we set off in our fabulous Postman Pat vehicles to our accommodation in the centre of Sydney. We found the Railway YHA with not too many dramas and were suitably impressed. The accommodation consisted of two bunk beds per room (oh brings back childhood memories) and a pool table - what more could you need?

We headed off to explore Sydney. We had a much-needed lunch, which was amusingly interrupted by a seagull which left a present on Jon Kent and also in Jen Charlton's drink. After lunch we visited the Aquarium where Emma Nuttall scared everyone by being so tired

that she fell asleep standing up; the only thing that woke her was Susie Kent telling her she had found Nemo! The Aquarium completed we headed back to our accommodation where some stayed up, some went to bed and some did both, namely Dave Rose who we found made a very good artist's canvas!

## Tuesday 14 June

A day of essential tourism. After some souvenir hunting, we took the harbour taxi to the Opera House via the Sydney Harbour Bridge, well worth 12 dollars. With the Opera House and the Bridge as backdrop we lunched at a waterfront café where the salad bowl was a hollow loaf - edible crockery!

With the team reunited at lunch time ten of us took our seats for the wildest ride in Sydney. Oz jet boating was definitely the way forward, tail spins, wake riding and many other tricks and stunts; 45 minutes later and ten soaked under 25s were returned to the quayside.

## Wednesday 15 June

Manley Beach was the venue for sunbathing and body boarding. Also chasing the surf were some of the GB team, namely Cload, Morton, Pollock and Luckman D (which made Susie Kent's day).

After lunch the team split with half going back to Sydney for more shopping and to go up the tower, with the remainder deciding to stay and soak up more sun. Jon and Susie Kent showed their brotherly-sisterly love with a sand fight and after burying Simon in the sand we reluctantly headed back to the Hostel.

That evening some watched the State of Origin Game while the rest went to the Australia Hotel for some crocodile and kangaroo pizza, followed by a few bars in the Kings Cross area.

## Thursday 16 June

It was an early start for the drive to Hunters Valley. Ed Jeens entertained himself by taking pictures of jelly babies in various poses. A little shuteye on arrival prepared us for dinner at the Windmill Restaurant with some fantastic wines.

## Friday 17 June

We started with a guided tour of a vineyard learning about different grapes and how wine was produced. However it all too soon became hard work with the first wine tasting at 10am at a cellar that specialised in sparkling wine. After lunch and a quick stop at the smelly cheese shop a few members of the team decided to go horse riding, while the wine tour continued.

## Saturday 18 June

Up at daft o'clock and a lot of driving and seven hours later we arrived in Coffs Harbour. With not a lot to do in this sleepy town we played ball; we then lost the ball