



# BOOMERANG BULLETIN



BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
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## Many Happy Returns

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Fall 1996

# USBA Turns Fifteen Years Old!



Left: From the South Australian Museum's collection of boomerangs and related material, on display at the San Francisco Airport's North Terminal Connector Gallery this past summer. This Australian post-card features "Youth and Age" at Lake Tyers, Gippsland. More pictures from the display are inside!

Its hard to believe, but it was fifteen years ago when the United States Boomerang Association was formed as a non-profit organization that would serve as a clearing house for boomerang-related information and a central focus for various clubs that were forming across the nation. It was also

formed to help raise funds for a group of throwers who wanted to travel to Australia and challenge the Aussies in their own sport and on their own turf.

In fifteen years, the USBA has served thousands of people with information, boomerang-related products, domestic and interna-

tional competitions, and, in general, bringing together folks from across the country and around the world who have one thing in common... a fascination with the world's oldest flying machine... a 40,000 year old stick that, when thrown properly, will spin out and around... and come back to you!

# HOW MANY ?

This year's annual Albury Championships raises an interesting question. How many people do you need for a competition, and when is a competition legitimate ? For a competition you need at least two people, since you can't beat yourself! And when is a comp legitimate ? When it has been properly advertised as being on, so that people have a chance to attend.

The number of people who attend is immaterial. The numbers simply make life harder or easier for the organiser. Provided two people turn up to an advertised comp, then it should go ahead. The people who have turned up have planned their time for this occasion, which might mean travelling hundreds of kilometres, getting time off work, organising someone to look after the pets, etc., etc. They have usually paid out a fair sum of money for fares or petrol to get there, as well as accommodation. So it would be most unfair to cancel because the organiser felt "there weren't enough there." It is not the fault of those who turn up that the others aren't there, so why penalise them? You can only throw against those who turn up on a day, and then it becomes part of boomerang history.

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## Many happy returns for gang of 4

THERE were very few competitors at the annual Albury Boomerang Throwing Championships yesterday, but there were still good performances and good prizes to give out.

The present Australian and World Champion, Rob Croll, from Melbourne, was there to give the event organiser, Br Brian Thomas, a run for his money.

Br Thomas, of Sydney, organises all the events in NSW and is the State president of the Boomerang Association of Australia.

He won three events, Croll won two.

But there were enough prizes to share with the others, including a recent returnee to the competitive field, Geoff Hodgson, who picked up a few placings.

Hodgson made a return to the sport after leaving boomerangs to concentrate on work.

He was taught by Br Thomas when he was in Year 5 at St Patrick's School.

Sadir Kattan, of Melbourne, rated 10th in Australia, holds the world record for throwing the smallest returning boomerang.

He showed he was proficient with the returning boomerang.

Br Thomas said the four throwers made up the smallest field yet assembled for the Albury title, but the turnout did not dismay him.

But he said Australia had no more than 15 good throwers, unlike the U.S., Germany and France, where boomerang-throwing was an exotic but booming sport.

Br Thomas expected bigger things next year, however, when Albury is to host the national championships.



● Sadir Kattan, world record-holder for teeny boomerangs.

## COMING EVENTS

2nd BLACKTOWN CHAMPIONSHIPS at  
Blacktown Showgrounds, 31st August  
starting 10 a.m.

Contact: Peter Lewry (02) 9622 2927

BLUE MOUNTAINS CHAMPIONSHIPS at  
"Winbourne", Mulgoa Rd., Mulgoa, on  
Sun. 9th November, at 9.30 a.m.

Contact: Br. Thomas (02) 9369 0675



1997 ALBURY BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

held at Xavier College, North Albury, on Sunday 4th May 1997.

Results

Competitor	Accuracy	Fast Catch	Aussie Rd.	MTA 100	Same Boomerang
Br.Brian Thomas	43 / 1st	32.74/ 1st	59 / 1st	0 / e3rd	39 / 3rd
Geoff Hodgson	23 / 3rd	3ct / 4th	34 / 4th	0 / e3rd	24 / 4th
Peter Lewry	8 / 4th	55.45/ 3rd	38 / 3rd	10.69 / 2nd	61 / 2nd
Rob Croll	29 / 2nd	34.53/ 2nd	58 / 2nd	23.13 / 1st	61 / 1st

Nearest the Pin: Br.Brian Thomas 1220 mm

Arthur Janetzki Perfect 10 Medal: Br.Brian Thomas

Ever had one of those weekends when everything seems to go wrong ? This was it. We had an incredible number of throwers with *sickness, car trouble, and other engagements* missing out on this lovely weekend's throwing in near perfect conditions for most of the events. Of course, the media gave us our biggest coverage yet...for 4 faithful throwers who came from 1000 km apart for the events.

**Geoff Hodgson** was a boy thrower in Albury in the 70s, and decided to make his comeback this weekend. He's another leftie, who attended a number of Moomba Comps in the past.

The beautiful trophies were all engraved with Les and Arthur's names, as a valuable keep-sake for those there. Thanks again to **Xavier College** for their grounds and to **Stuart**, the groundsman, for his assistance in preparing the marking machine for us.

Let's hope the turn up is better next year, since this venue will be the **1998 Nationals** on 2nd and 3rd May.



● Geoff Hodgson, of Albury, has recently returned to the competitive field. Pictures: ROB ELLIOTT

DIMANA Boomerangs

"Artistic"

(C) Georgi Dimantshev

Hipodruma 139A-A-23, 1612 Sofia, Bulgaria, Europe  
September 1996

Shape: "2+1"-type with 120° between the arms angle

Material: Finnish Birch plywood

Thickness: 4.5 mm (8 plies)

Arm-radius: 142 mm

Mass: 40 g

Profiling: turbulent leading edges, little bevels

Holes: 2 x 6 mm + one big drop-type hole

Finishing: upper side - ONLY one ply varnish, down side - up to three plies varnish

Tuning: no necessary, flat is OK

Throwing:

- pinch gripp,
- windangle - 45-50°,
- tiltangle - 15-20°,
- aimangle - 15-20°.

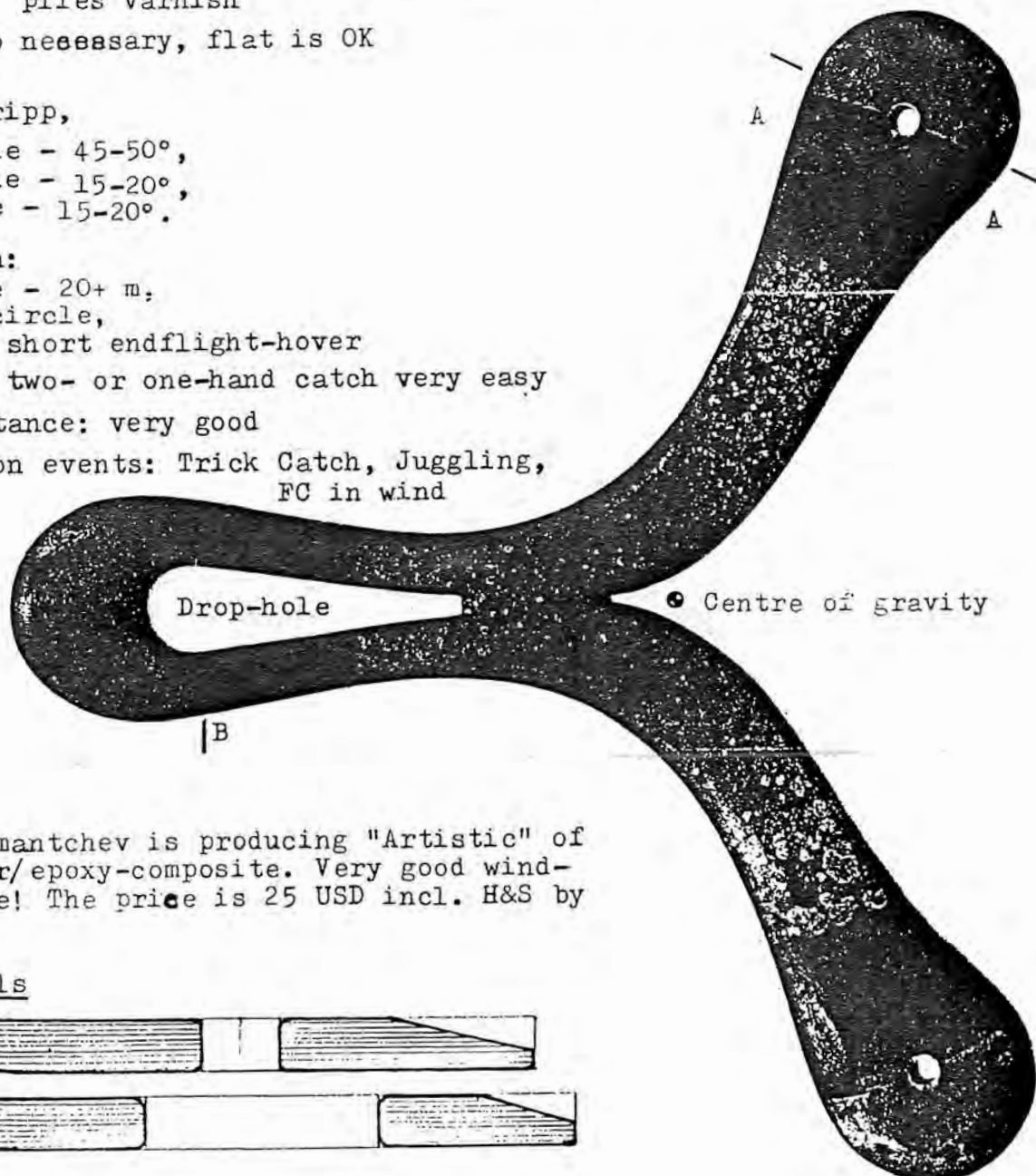
Flightpath:

- distance - 20+ m,
- form - circle,
- hover - short endflight-hover

Catching: two- or one-hand catch very easy

Windresistance: very good

Competition events: Trick Catch, Juggling,  
FC in wind



1:1.41

Georgi Dimantchev is producing "Artistic" of glassfiber/epoxy-composite. Very good wind-resistance! The price is 25 USD incl. H&S by airmail.

Arm-profilis

A-A



B-B



## **"BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY"**

The day after the Central Coast competitions a lovely parcel arrived from Kelly Boyer Sagert. It contained her book, plus two of the famous John Gorski boomerangs. The weather being reasonable I phoned Gunter Wandtke and invited him to Blackman's Park to try them out. Since Gunter is our MTA expert, I allowed him to tune them. It was a bit gusty and the best we managed at that session was about 16 seconds.

The following day I was in Wollongong (80 km south of Sydney), and here I invited Br.Rod Shoebridge to try them out. I suggested he bring some of his own along to compare them. He had two old Ted Baileys, a large and a small, both about 10 years old. I had given these to him in Canberra, when we were both stationed there.

We went to the freshly cut Kelly Park at Swan Street. It was a bit windy so we threw with some caution. Rod would throw the four boomerangs and I would collect them. Then we changed over. On about Rod's fourth round of throws he tossed the Gorskis up to achieve about a 20 second flight. He then removed one of the pieces of tape he had on the big Bailey from the dingle arm. (This boomerang did look like a hospital case with all the bits of tape going over it.) A man and woman passing through the park watched him as he flicked this into the air. And up it went, higher and higher, and along and along. I followed down the park clutching the watch and laughing as I went. The park ran out and all I could do was watch it float high over the buildings and onwards towards the city proper. It finally went from my sight and I glanced at the watch to see it was 1 min 30 secs. A careful drive around Wollongong streets failed to spot the American spacecraft.

Rod's experience is understood by the many throwers who have lost a good MTA in the same manner. I think the two extraordinary things about this case were the age of the boomerang.. 10 years.. and the age of the thrower..Rod is 67, possibly the oldest thrower to lose an MTA well over the minute mark. It would certainly be the first MTA lost over Wollongong. Needless to say, Rod is both happy and sad at such a great flight and experience. Welcome to the Club, Roddy!!

*Br.Brian M.Thomas  
Australian National Boomerang Coach. 1997.*

*Place: Kelly Park, Swan Street, Wollongong, NSW.*

*Time: 11.15 a.m., Tuesday, 4th March 1997.*

# 1997 EASTERN SUBURBS BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sponsored by WALTER CARTER PTY LTD

held at Queens Park, Waverley, on Sunday, 13th April 1997.

## Results

Competitors	Aussie Rd.	Accuracy	MTA	Accurate Catching
Terry Patterson	44 / 5th	38 / 5th	14.51 / 5th	0 / e4th
Marg Patterson	40 / 7th	41 / e2nd	0 / e7th	0 / e4th
John Vogel *	22 / 11th	15 / 13th	21.73 / 2nd	0 / e4th
Kevin Moran	66 / 1st**	40 / 4th	15.00 / 4th	5 / 1st**
Tony Butz	41 / 6th	32 / 6th	13.32 / 6th	0 / e4th
Eddie Siladi	18 / 12th	27 / 8th	DNC	3 / 3rd
Peter Lewry	39 / e8th	25 / 9th	0 / e7th	0 / e4th
Keith Andersen	63 / 2nd	18 / 11th	0 / e7th	0 / e4th
Doug Boyling	33 / 10th	16 / 12th	DNC	DNC
Ron Foley *	16 / 13th	21 / 10th #	0 / e7th	0 / e4th
Br.Brian Thomas	49 / 4th	46 / 1st **	18.90 / 3rd	4 / 2nd
Gunter Wandtke	59 / 3rd	41 / e2nd	DNC	DNC
Ken Arthur	39 / e8th	32 / 7th	24.61 / 1st**0 / e4th	

\* First time competitor

Nearest the Pin: Ron Foley 430 mm.

Catch of the Day: John Vogel (MTA one hander inches above the ground)

BUNNY READ PERPETUAL TROPHY: Kevin Moran.

### Juniors

Competitors	Aussie Round	Accuracy	2 min Endurance
Mark Patterson	0 / e7th	10 / 5th	0 / e7th
Michael Lendrum	10 / 5th	19 / 2nd	6 / 1st **
Isaac Harvey	0 / e7th	10 / 5th	4 / 4th
Peter Holmes	22 / 2nd	20 / 1st **	5 / 2nd
Megan Patterson	8 / 6th	6 / 7th	0 / e7th
Wayne Patterson	12 / 4th	12 / 4th	4 / 5th
Scott Raymond	13 / 3rd	16 / 3rd	3 / 6th
Tim Lendrum	29 / 1st **	3 / 8th	5 / 3rd

ARTHUR JANETZKI PERFECT 10 MEDALS: Terry Patterson,, Margaret Patterson, Kevin Moran, Tony Butz, Br.Brian Thomas, Ron Foley, Gunter Wandtke, Isaac Harvey, Peter Holmes.

Special thanks to Steve, the groundsman, for his assistance in marking the circles and to Waverley College for the use of the grounds.

A very big THANK YOU to Ron Foley of Walter Carter for supplying the 30 trophies for the day.

A BIG congratulations to 75 year old KEN ARTHUR on winning his first MTA ever. You are never too old. Margaret Patterson had a magnificent flight of over 55 seconds that finished across the street in a nearby house! And her husband, Terry, had made the boomerang. KEVIN MORAN had a marvellous day too in taking our both Aussie Round and Accuracy Catching. Well done, Kevin.



# Holiday in Sydney Game



**START**  
School Holidays  
two weeks of fun  
in Sydney

**DAY 1**  
Visit  
King's Cross  
Meet Nea Kelly  
and join his  
gang for a day  
Throw  
again

**DAY 2, 3, 4**  
Skippy  
the film star  
Kangaroo  
entertains  
you at  
Waratah  
Park

Help  
old salts  
fix old  
boats at  
the Maritime  
Museum  
Birkenhead  
Point

**DAY 5**  
Put foot  
through  
rotten plank  
on ship's deck  
Spend two  
days in bed  
Miss two goes

**DAY 6**  
Go fishing  
from the Opera  
House steps  
Throw all fish  
back  
Too small  
Go back 25

**DAY 7**  
Aunt takes you  
shopping for  
the day.

**DAY 8**  
Boring until  
she takes you for  
lunch at the  
Old Spaghetti Factory  
Throw again

**DAY 9**  
Have a birds eye  
view of Sydney  
on a helicopter  
flight. Go ahead  
one

**DAY 10**  
Spend all your  
pocket money  
on rides at  
Luna Park  
Go back one.

**DAY 11**  
Decide to become  
Sydney's first  
astronaut  
Go ahead first  
Try to find model  
of Sputnik II  
which used to be  
outside Power House  
Museum

**DAY 12**  
Feed Salty and Oscar  
the seals at  
Manly Marine Land.

**DAY 13**  
Learn to throw  
a boomerang at  
Blackman's Park  
Lane Cove  
Throw  
again

**DAY 14**  
Explore Fort  
of ghosts  
Stories of  
dead convicts  
give you  
nightmares  
Miss a go

**DAY 15**  
Climb the  
stairs up the  
Pylon on the  
Harbour  
Bridge

**DAY 16**  
Eat vegemite  
sandwiches  
on top of the  
Bridge Best  
View on earth  
Throw again

**FINISH**

# All 'rang and no kylied

15/1/96

Bent sticks have come a long way since Tutankhamun. **Andrew Eames** sees today's wangers have a fling

Picture: STEVE HILL/NEWSTEAM

WHAT with Wimbledon, the Trent Bridge Test and Henley, the sporting press was a bit busy last weekend, which is no doubt why it overlooked an international contest that took place at a quiet playing field on the outskirts of Shrewsbury.

With no traffic diversions to give the game away, only the cognoscenti spotted the signs of the seventh British Boomerang Tournament: concentric circles on the grass, the patient shouting away of small children and an air rich with the sort of amiable snickering that you usually get in kung-fu movies just before someone's head is chopped off.

Out on the field, the cream of Britain's mega-wangers were bracing themselves for stiff competition from Italy and Germany. For some, the tournament was part of a long build-up towards the Olympics — a very long build-up. "We are aiming for the year 2000," said organiser Edward Cadman, secretary of the British Boomerang Society (BBS).

The emphasis on the year 2000 is less to do with harsh training regimes — few wangers have more than a weekly fling — and more to do with achieving the status of Olympic demonstration event. The year 2000 is appropriate because the games will take place in Australia, the spiritual home of these bent sticks.

In fact, the origin of the 'rang is by no means clear-cut. Twenty boomerangs were found in King Tutankhamun's tomb and a 2,000-year-old ivory boomerang was discovered in a cave in Poland. What's more, the Australian hunting throw-stick is a non-returner, which makes it — shock! — not really a boomerang at all but a kylied. On the Shrewsbury field it was all 'rang and no kylied, not that your man-in-the-hedge-row would have been able to tell.

The first event was Accuracy, described as "a bit like archery except that the thrower is his own target". The second event was the same thing but faster: in Fast Catch the returning 'rang had to be caught and dispatched five times against the clock (world record: 14 seconds).

Between throws, competitors retired to a safe distance to examine each other's selection of multi-bladed, hooked and omega-shaped 'rangs, lovingly wrapped in old socks. Most are home-made to secret formulas, decorated with surfie paint jobs and combed-back-laster stripes, and christened with affectionate names that become unprintable once they are airborne.

Former BBS secretary Sean Slade's box harboured a real whopper of a 'rang. No kylied, this. A couple of years ago, a television crew had asked him to throw it, and when it duly returned the man with the microphone had to "leg it across the field" to get out of its way.

Slade's job as a physics teacher helps with the science and the raw materials — scooped tea trays from the school canteen. To achieve the best gyroscopic effect, he pops the cut tea trays in the microwave and then bends them with the aid of a bag of sugar and a lollipop stick.

Out in the middle, umpire Michael Hanson was getting a crick in his neck to add to the boomerang elbow which had invalidated him out of competition. Hanson, another teacher and a veteran of paper aeroplane championships, had a bag full of unusual flying objects, one of which needed attention during Maximum Time Aloft (world record: three minutes). "You've left the fields on your knob-ranger on," someone shouted. "You'll never get it started in the morning."

The oldest flying machines were scythe-like in the hands of pipe-smoking university lecturer Bob Reid. They had acquired their seasoned appearance "because my dog brings them back". Reid executed one of the slickest manoeuvres of the day when he successfully transferred his pipe from teeth to back pocket between Fast Catches.

By mid-afternoon, competition was becoming a predictable tussle for the old masters and a revelation for the new, including one who had arrived with five 'rangs only to find himself pitifully under-equipped. Others sympathised. "We had a



Return to sender: Sean Slade with his giant 'rang, made from redundant tea trays and not to be confused with a kylied

chap last year from Scotland who had this blooming great thing he used to throw off the top of mountains," said Cadman. "He'd never seen another person throw a boomerang before."

That's the benefit of competition, chipped in the Italian, Maurizio Saba: "To thief the technique!" Saba was proving to be neat and accurate, but our boys had the measure of him. Mind you, he seemed to be more motivated by *joie de 'rang* than prizes.

The German, meanwhile, was playing it cool. Volker Behrens didn't take to the field until the last event of the day: Long Distance. The Jurgen Klinsmann of the boomerang world, Behrens has been five times captain of Germany, who are (nerv-

ably) the current world champions. He was claiming imminent retirement, though we British know that any German sportsman claiming retirement is doubly dangerous.

In fact, Behrens had a score to settle on the Shrewsbury field. It was here in 1993 that Frenchman Michel Dufayard threw 147 metres, beating Behrens's six-year-old world record of 145 metres.

In the event, the Behrens Challenger reached a mere 112 metres before returning to sender, but this performance easily eclipsed the best British effort, represented by Bob's scythes, which reached 75 metres and returned dutifully to Boh without the help of his dog.

Behrens then amiably withdrew from the competition and spent the rest of the day in a huddle showing the lads how to achieve extra potency with a carefully-taped plennig.

Once every 'rang had been flung, every event done, the totting-up produced Briton Mark Harris as the overall winner, with Sean Slade a narrow second and Maurizio Saba third. It was all very satisfactory, agreed Cadman afterwards. There was no skin off anyone's nose and no one had suffered a poke in the eye with a bent stick.

● The British Boomerang Society: 01359 270895.



# SIXTH ANNUAL CENTRAL COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS

at St.Edward's College, East Gosford, on Sunday, 2nd March 1997.

Conditions: Windy.

## RESULTS

Competitor	Aussie Round	Accuracy	Same Boom	MTA
Br.R.Shoebridge	14 / 7th	12 / 6th	18 / 4th	0 / e3rd
Ken Arthur	26 / 5th	6 / 9th	16 / 5th	0 / e3rd
Terry Patterson	35 / 4th	23 / 1st*	0 / e9th	0 / e3rd
Peter Lewry	12 / 8th	8 / 8th	10 / 6th	0 / e3rd
Shirley Lewry	1 / 10th	4 / 10th	3 / 7th	DNC
Marg.Patterson	20 / 6th	19 / 3rd	2 / 8th	0 / e3rd
Adam Carroll	56 / 1st *	19 / 2nd	48 / 1st *	19.93 / 1st *
Keith Andersen	8 / 9th	10 / 7th	0 / e9th	0 / e3rd
Kevin Moran	43 / 3rd	16 / 4th	20 / 3rd	0 / e3rd
Br.Brian Thomas	53 / 2nd	13 / 5th	30 / 2nd	8.25 / 2nd

**Ladies' Champion:** Margaret Patterson.

**Nearest the Pin :** Br.Rod Shoebridge 1040 mm.

**Catch of the Day:** Mark Patterson (caught flat on the face!)

## Juniors

**Aussie Round:** 1st Wayne Patterson 10; 2nd Mark Patterson 10; 3rd Megan Patterson 7.

**Accuracy:** 1st Megan Patterson 18; 2nd Mark Patterson 13; 3rd Wayne Patterson 8.

**2 Min.Endurance:** 1st Wayne 2ct.; 2nd Mark 1 ct.; 3rd Megan 0 ct.

*Arthur Janetzki Perfect Ten Throw Medals* were won by Br.Rod Shoebridge, Adam Carroll, Miss Megan Patterson, and Mrs. Margaret Patterson.

Our sincere thanks to St.Edward's College for the use of their grounds, and to the groundsman for cutting the circles for us. In the wind, it was another challenging day's throwing for all.

The 1997 CENTRAL COAST CHAMPIONS are

TERRY PATTERSON ..... ACCURACY

&

ADAM CARROLL .....AUSSIE ROUND, SAME BOOMERANG & MTA.



# Fast Catch Flight Speeds Challenged

With speeds alleged up to 100 mph, John Flynn and Fred Malmberg hit their calculators to find out the real flight speed of a boomerang doing a 14 second round of Fast Catch!

by John Flynn

First of all, congratulations to Adam Ruhf for capturing the Fast Catch World Record. I was fortunate enough to be in Amhurst when he did the 14.98 (in fact, I was up next) and all I can say is that it was VERY FAST and VERY IMPRESSIVE. However, with numbers like 95 and 100 mph being thrown around in the press, it may help to do some math. Let's first make some sympathetic assumptions:

1. Range = 21 meters = 68.8 feet (which is also the diameter of the flight circle.)

2. Circuit time (from release to catch) = 1.95 seconds. (I was timing Adam in warm-up and this was the fastest lap I clocked. Others were in the 2.00 - 2.15 second range.)

3. The flight path is a true circle 21 meters in diameter.

The distance traveled by the boomerang in 1.95 seconds is:

$$x \text{ d, or } 3.14159 \times 68.8 \text{ feet} = 216 \text{ feet}$$

Doing the math for average speed in mph for the 1.95 second fastest round looks like this:

$$\frac{216 \text{ feet}}{1.95 \text{ sec}} \times \frac{1 \text{ mile}}{5280 \text{ ft}} \times \frac{3600 \text{ sec. s}}{1 \text{ hour}} = 75.52 \text{ miles per hour}$$

If the boomerang is starting out at release at 90 mph, then it is finishing at around 60 mph to get the 75 mph average speed. To my observations, though, Adam's throws did not appear to slow down that much during the flight. This implies that the boom was released at a speed less than 90 mph. A more realistic estimation is that the boomerang was released nearer to 80 - 85 mph and returned at around 65 - 70 mph. It may be noted, further, that if the flight path was LESS than 216 feet, because the flight was less than 21 meters, then the average speed is even less.

As a comparison, an 18 second round of fast catch (with 1.5 second transitions) averages out at 61.4 mph for the flight. (One can imagine how old and slow I felt when I went in and threw a 27 second (6 throws) round after Adam!)

This by no means diminishes the accomplishment of Adam and Gregory Biseaux. They are still over 20% FASTER than the 18 second crowd!!

by Fred Malmberg

I have come to the conclusion that someone somewhere is playing a little

**Adam's booms most likely are nowhere near 100 mph... The math does not lie.**

-Dr. Fred Malmberg

loose with their math. Adam's booms most likely are nowhere near 100 mph; if they are, they are slowing down at least 40 mph by their flight end, because the overall average speed is under 80 mph, no matter how you look at it.

The math does not lie. The circle is 20 meters in diameter. Since I noticed that his range was definitely going longer than 20 meters, I also calculated the results using 22 meters, which looked pretty close to what I saw at the Nationals. Using "pi x d" as the circle circumference, I came to the result that the 20 meter circle has a distance of 204.20335 feet; the 22 meter circle has a distance of 224.62368 feet.

Distance also equals rate times the time spent. For one flight, divide the distance by the time (stated as 1.92 seconds) to get the rate. This rate will be in feet per second; multiply by 60 and divide by 88 to get the miles per hour speed, which most of us are more familiar with (60 mph equals 88 feet per second). I get his speed to be 72.515 mph for a 20 meter circle, and 79.767 mph for a 22 meter circle (more likely, as I saw it at the Nationals).

These are average speeds; it started out somewhat faster, and ended the flight somewhat slower. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES was Adam, or probably anyone on earth, yet subjected to a 95 mph catch, as the quote from the Sports Illustrated article would seem to indicate. I suggest that perhaps the truth may be

even more exciting to some of us, and even more useful when those times are ellipsed, in the future.

To get a more clear picture, let's look at the full round of five catches. There are 4 turn-around times in a 5 catch FC round; I was told his turn-around times were about 1.25 seconds. This means that 4 x 1.25 seconds, or 5.0 seconds, were spent catching, turning and throwing. The rest of the time was spent with the boom in the air. Since distance still equals rate times the time spent, I multiplied the distance times 5, divided by the time actually spent by the boom in the air (about 10.0 seconds), and got the rates for all 5 catches. Not surprisingly, they actually match the one time throws pretty closely (69.615 mph average for a 20 meter circle; 76.576 mph average for a 22 meter circle).

For a final check, I calculated the rates for Endurance, checking out various turn-around rates (and assuming he had caught all 78 throws). I also assumed he caught the last throw exactly as time expired, so that he would not have the advantage of the added time of the last flight, which would not have shown up as time spent but would have contributed to the score. (Side note - boy, this guy really has to get a job that takes up more of his time!!)

There would be 77 turn-around times in a 78 throw Endurance session; I multiplied the turn-around time times 77, and subtracted this from the 300 seconds allotted in a 5-minute round. I used this figure as the time in the "distance equals rate times the time spent" equation, dividing it into the distance times 78 (for the 78 flights), and then converted it into mph. I came up with an interesting table:

At turn-around times of 1.25 seconds, at 20 meters, the booms flew at 53.300 mph (average speed) At 22 meters, with the same turn around speed, the average speed was 58.630 mph.

With turn-around times of 1.50 seconds, at 20 meters, the booms flew at 58.861 mph on average and 64.747 mph average speed at 22 meters.

With turn-around times of 2.00 seconds, at 20 meters, the booms flew at 74.383 mph on average and 81.821 mph on average at 22 meters.

See "Fast Catch" on Pg 22

OVER-ALL POSITIONS:

VETERANS: 1st Miles Jorgensen; 2nd Nick Gottschalk; 3rd Kevin Moran

SENIORS: 1st Rob Croll; 2nd Ian Sproul; 3rd Adam Carroll

JUNIORS: 1st Craig Carter; 2nd Trent Carter; 3rd Devin Schummy

LADIES' CHAMPION: Janet Barrass.

ACCURACY CHAMPION: Miles Jorgensen.

DOUBLING TRICK CATCHING CHAMPION: Rob Croll.

AUSSIE ROUND CHAMPION: Rob Croll.

FAST CATCH CHAMPION: Ian Sproul.

TRICK CATCHING CHAMPION: Gunter Wandtke.

MTA CHAMPION: Rob Croll.

ENDURANCE CHAMPION: Ian Sproul.

JUNIOR CHAMPION: Craig Carter.

CLOSEST TO THE PIN: Kevin Moran.

CATCH OF THE DAY: Devin Schummy.

**Weather:** Good for Accuracy; Gusty winds for Doubling; Aussie Round dead calm; Fast Catch very windy; Trick Catch drizzle and dead calm; MTA good calm conditions.

## 1997 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

*22nd and 23rd March 1997 at Knox Garden Reserve, Melbourne.*

COMPETITORS	ACC	DOUB.	A.R.	F.CAT	TRICK	MTA	END.	O-ALL
Gunter Wandtke	21/9th	13/7th	36/10th	42.16/6	42/1st#	22.43/6	28/5th	67/7th
Kevin Moran	32/4th	0/e10th	18/15th	3ct/12th	4/7th	9.06/11	9/10th	40.5/11
Rob Croll	22/e7th	33/1st#	70/1st#	40.76/5	32/3rd	38.84/1	33/2nd	90.5/1
Bruce Carter	22/e7th	20/4th	51/6th	58.8/10	24/6th	24.35/5	31/4th	69.5/5
Ian Sproul	30/5th	14/6th	52/5th	31.76/1	28/5th	29.39/3	41/1st	86/2nd
John Wilson	18/11th	25/2nd	60/3rd	38.27/4	30/4th	25.82/4	27/6th	78/4th
Peter Robinson	15/e12	0/e10th	46/7th	59.9/11	dnc	dnc	dnc	22/13th
Richard Barrass	15/e12	dnc	33/11th	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	7/15th
David Schummy	20/10th	21/3rd	60/2nd	44.25/7	dnc	33.76/2	33/3rd	69/6th
Miles Jorgensen	37/1st#	0/e10th	43/9th	51.88/8	3/9th	14.78/8	23/7th	58.5/8
Nick Gottschalk	36/2nd	2/8th	33/11th	0/14th	0/10th	10.59/9	5/11th	45/9th
Adam Carroll	34/3rd	15/5th	53/4th	32.14/2	35/2nd	20.33/7	19/9th	80/3rd
Janet Barrass	3/15th	dnc	40/10th	3ct/e12	dnc	dnc	dnc	10.5/14
Sadir Kattan	8/14th	0/e10th	24/14th	35.13/3	4/e7th	10.3/10	21/8th	44/10th
Ian Powell	24/6th	2/8th	44/8th	55.03/9	dnc	dnc	dnc	32.5/12
<b>JUNIORS</b>								
Craig Carter	22/2nd		31/1st	4ct/1st		24.85/1	5/1st	1st
Devin Schummy	8/3rd		14/3rd	0/3rd		0/3rd	1/3rd	3rd
Trent Carter	31/1st		23/2nd	4ct/2nd		18.2/2	2/2nd	2nd



1° Trofeo "GAME FAIR" di Boomerang BRACCIANO

risultati

	ACCURACY			ENDURANCE			FAST-CATCH			TRICK-CATCH			TOT
	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	punti
Paolo Crescimbeni	45	1	1	46	2	2	27,69	3	3	17	2	2	8
Gianni Campanile	38	3	3	53	1	1	26,75	2	2	10	3	3	9
Paolo Serbelloni	42	2	2	44	3	3	28,22	4	4	28	1	1	10
Silvano Mella	35	5	5	42	4	4	25,22	1	1	3	4	5	15
Maurizio Saba	32	7	7	32	7	7	31,29	5	5	3	4	5	24
Mario Crescimbeni	26	9	9	37	5	5	35,49	6	6	3	4	5	25
Igino Fraccaroli	27	8	8	33	6	6	52,86	8	8	1	7	7	29
Bruno Petrollini	36	4	4	31	8	8	0	10	10	0	8	9	31
Matteo Sala	33	6	6	17	10	10	57,66	9	9	0	8	9	34
Francesco Rossi	14	10	10	28	9	9	38,50	7	7	0	8	9	35

Some results of our friendly ITALIAN THROWERS in ITALY.

7° Torneo Italiano VERONA

risultati

	ACCURACY			ENDURANCE			M.T.A.			AUSSIE ROUND			FAST CATCH			TRICK CATCH			TOT
	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	rs	class	punti	punti
Michael Frolich	32	1	1	44	1	1	28,80	2	2	33	8	8	25,71	1	1	23	3	3	16
Paolo Crescimbeni	20	7	7	34	3	3	34,72	1	1	66	1	1	44,41	5	5	35	1	1	18
Mario Crescimbeni	30	2	2	13	9	9	27,17	3	3	55	2	2	27,77	2	2	17	5	5	23
Igino Fraccaroli	27	4	4	29	4	4	22,82	4	4	46	4	4	49,20	7	7	28	2	2	25
Maurizio Saba	28	3	3	36	2	2	20,74	6	6	37	7	7	31,33	3	3	13	6	6,5	27,5
Gabriele Mazzi	13	8	8	28	5	5	21,76	5	5	42	5	5,5	45,45	6	6	21	4	4	33,5
Antonio Scarpellino	12	9	9	13	8	8	0	9	10	50	3	3	54,22	9	9	8	8	8	47
Silvano Mella	23	5	5	16	7	7	20,22	7	7	10	11	11	4P	10	10,5	3	10	10	50,5
Renato Banalotti	22	6	6	19	6	6	0	9	10	30	9	9	4P	10	10,5	6	9	9	50,5
Matteo Ruggieri	10	10	10	8	10	10	12,35	8	8	26	10	10	53,60	8	8	13	6	6,5	52,5
Gianluca Cappelletti	0	11	11	0	11	11	0	9	10	42	5	5,5	43,70	4	4	0	11	11	52,5

# 1996 U.S. Nationals Have Familiar Look

By Betsy Miale-Gix

VA BEACH, VA- June 28-30: The Virginia State Games youth team event on Friday was a big success with several teams of enthusiastic kids. Of course the team stacked with Broadbent offspring took the title!

The auction went well with several innovative and beautiful booms from different folks, including briefly a pair of Kelly Leggette motorized models, Dr. Fred's exotic, finely crafted sticks, the Stewart Jones fork boom, the star rangs, and other assorted boom related items! The new T-shirts from Michael "Gel" Girvin and Chet "The Jet" Snouffer were introduced to rave reviews.

The USBA meeting was brief with the candidate slate being voted in. Thanks to those of you who mailed in your ballots. More on the agenda for this Board year later.

The tournament was incredibly well run

by TD John K who did not throw so that he could devote himself to the details and PA announcing. The tourney itself was excellent, featuring fun, challenge, meaningful and meaningless interaction with boom buddies, old and new, throughout 7 USBA events, three team events, GLORP, and a two event H to H. A stadium demo at the halftime of a professional soccer game Saturday night by Adam Ruhf, John Flynn, Gregg Snouffer, and Betsylew Miale-Gix was a big success. The crowd was psyched!

Now for the stunner, it actually calmed long enough on Sunday for ADAM RUHF to TIE THE WORLD ENDURANCE RECORD!!! After ROB PARKINS laid down the gauntlet with a 75, Adam stepped up in the last round with all booms blazing for a 76!! WOW.

Oh, by the way, Chet won his 10th Nationals title... two years after retiring!

The top 25 finishers at the 1996 U.S. Nationals were as follows:

1. Chet Snouffer	64.40
2. Rob Parkins	56.75
3. Gary Broadbent	56.14
4. Mark Weary	55.71
5. John Gorski	54.825
6. Steve Kavanaugh	51.66
7. Adam Ruhf	48.75
8. Bob Liefeld	47.31
9. John Flynn	47.30
10. Kelly Leggette	38.295
11. Betsylew Miale-Gix	35.328
12. Ola Wahlberg	32.425
13. Jim Schramm	29.60
14. Eric Darnell	28.995
15. Dennis Joyce	27.17
16. Will Gix	26.74
17. Eddie Carrig	25.30
18. Gregg Snouffer	24.555
19. Jim Jordan	20.74
20. Larry Ruhf	18.225
21. Fred Malmburg	17.21
22. Steve Cook	15.425
23. Peter Ruhf	15.403
24. Paul Gustafson	14.22
25. Ray Laurent	12.13

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Many Happy Returns

Issue No. 68

## MOORLAND MEET, SHEFFIELD, 19 MAY 1996

The boomerang field adjoins a stony track known as the Houndkirk Road, an Eighteenth Century packhorse trail across Houndkirk Moor, on the old trading route between Sheffield and Buxton. Our arrival this Sunday morning coincided with a lengthy convoy of Land Rovers belonging to Mountain Rescue organisers who were holding a practise exercise half a mile to the North. Not far away, in the opposite direction, is the public house we were to use to overcome our hypothermia after the chilling of the morning throwing session. The Fox House Inn was a rest stop for packhorse-men and waggoners, and later provided changes of horses for the stage coaches which had toiled uphill for seven or eight miles from Sheffield.

Risking highwaymen and high winds, it was a brave party that came together on the high ground for the third Moorland Meet. Weather had not been good in the preceding week and prospects for the weekend were uncertain. It had rained heavily in the night, but fortunately I had done the marking-out on the previous day and was not faced with that activity when I arrived at 9.30am

in dense fog (low cloud!)

Jay Butters, with his sons Robert and Jack, were already there and looking forward to boomerangs and bird-watching when the sky cleared. A round of applause for Jay who had travelled from Wales and spent Saturday night with family in Sheffield; and for Lawrence West coming from Basingstoke by motorbike with an overnight camp on the way. Most others were comparatively local - Nottingham, Derby and Leeds. Harry Baldwin, Edward Cadman, Ban Seng Choo, Clive and Alison Herrod, Mick Maslenka, Robert Reid and Sean Slade turned up in good time, and I was thankful that they had made the effort to attend.

The hill-fog had gone and the wind was a strong Easterly, about Force 4 when we began and going up a few notches as the day progressed. We spent some time finding out which implements we could use and to what effect, eventually opting for a form of Accuracy event in which we threw from the windward boundary of the 20 metre circle, trying to score in the usual way. Some of us never did, and there were many long recoveries, but Clive (24 pts),



The British Boomerang Society Journal

Boomerang throwers around the world experience much the same difficulties as this British article by Alan Chester shows. But the enthusiasm is the same no matter where you live!!



Sean (20) and Robert Reid (17) made respectable scores in taking the first three places. Young Robert Butters joined the competition and did some creditable throwing in the difficult conditions.

The lunch break, at the famous old Fox House Inn, is a valued part of the day when we can sit in comfort, buy a meal and a drink, and put the World to rights. On this occasion it also marked the end of feasible competition. Wind was stronger in the afternoon and we concentrated on experimental practise. There were some mighty throws, and a measure of success by some of the more scientific members, in countering the downwind flights. Others were last seen searching the farmyard for cherished boomerangs; Mick flew his kite, and some of us practised with throwing sticks.

By 3pm we agreed to disband, and though we had been denied orthodox competition, we were all rosy-cheeked and pleased with the company and our efforts. As two of the Moorland Meets have been blasted by high winds, in April and May, I am considering whether I should try for June next year, although the sheep farmer

says that it is almost always windy on this site and last year was okay.

There is no doubt that conditions concentrated the mind, and having made the decision to attend, people were keen to find out what they could do in unfavourable winds. I had put my trust in boomerangs with poor rotation and stability which would not return fully in lesser winds, but might be engineered into dropping in the scoring circles, but my judgement was not rewarded. I wondered afterwards why I had not thought of my "Little Nipper", bought on the day from Gordon Shuttleworth to combat the terrible conditions at Shrewsbury 1990, and which brought me five minutes of fame in the Accuracy event involving Eric Darnell. I have not used it for Accuracy since that day, which seems peculiar, but it has a considerable range and I have developed a reliance on one or two other boomerangs which had shown better consistency.

Those who practised to most purpose in the moorland this year managed to maintain a low trajectory and were getting best results from heavy Omega shapes,

while Sean was also doing well with a weighty plastic triblader. So it seems that the positive approach was more successful in combating the elements; and the application of knowledge, plus trial and success, was rewarded on this day, which is how it ought to be.

We said our goodbyes and left the lambing field to its cowslips and lapwings. As we rejoined our cars, some of the volunteer victims from the Mountain Rescue operation were gratefully crawling into theirs, parked on the same track. They had been lying on the moors for hours, feigning exhaustion and injury, and no doubt hoping that their rescuers would be successful sooner rather than later. It was at this stage that a lone cyclist trudged by, carrying his damaged bike. He had been taking part in cycle orienteering, over the same moors, and was now fifteen miles from base, so we put the bike in the back and I drove him to his start/finish point. He was intrigued to hear what other folk had been doing with their day, rescuing and being rescued, or throwing boomerangs in a sport that was unknown to him, while I was impressed by the fortitude required of serious cyclists and the

terrain and distance covered.

The third Moorland Meet had provided us with a considerable challenge, and opportunity to improve our skills and renew our comradeship, also an interesting insight into the enthusiasms and activities of other groups at large on Houndkirk Moor on a Sunday in May.

ALAN CHESTER

### Postscript

Our outing on the Moorland field provided such a good opportunity to experiment with boomerangs in strong winds that I subsequently contacted those members who had been most successful and who had obviously found some answers to the problems posed. I thought that we could all learn something from their observations.

Clive emphasised the importance of low trajectory and the virtues of the Omega in these conditions. Robert found that using less forward momentum, but plenty of spin, reduced the risk of the implement lifting high and being swept away downwind. Sean revealed some of his

resourcefulness in a letter, part of which is reproduced here, referring to types of boomerang, weighting and modified throwing techniques which proved useful on the day:

"Both my Omegas and Bob Reid's seemed to perform particularly well. These are absolute classic open designs with no weights or flaps.

"I could only get other designs to work at all with a generous amount of weighting - on a small triblader I was using 2p pieces on each of the tips. This necessitated an arm-wrenching throw, and required some layover to get up to height on the outward trip since on the return journey the boomerang dropped like a stone. My standard Aussie Round boomerang (a 13.25" flared V), needed 1p pieces taped under wing tips to get it to perform with some reliability. (I've since regularly thrown this one in 85m+ circles in moderate winds!) I attach coins with double-sided carpet tape, at home if the boomerang is warmed up, the tape sticks superbly well in the field, spares can always be carried in the pocket, already taped-up on one side.

"The throw needed some adjustment and I found myself throwing both higher and further to the right than usual (I'm right-handed). Bob's advice to cut down on power but to put more spin on the boomerang was sound advice.


"With such high winds the effect of holes was impossible to assess."

We are all entitled to the occasional fluke, but we don't really get better at anything without working at it. To do better in strong winds we need to throw in strong winds, and to practise purposefully when we do so. Sean's letter exemplifies a methodical approach to the challenge of a windy day. Clive and Robert also found ways of coping with the problem. More than one method proved effective.

"The answer my friends, is throwing in the wind..."

ALAN CHESTER

# BOOMERANG



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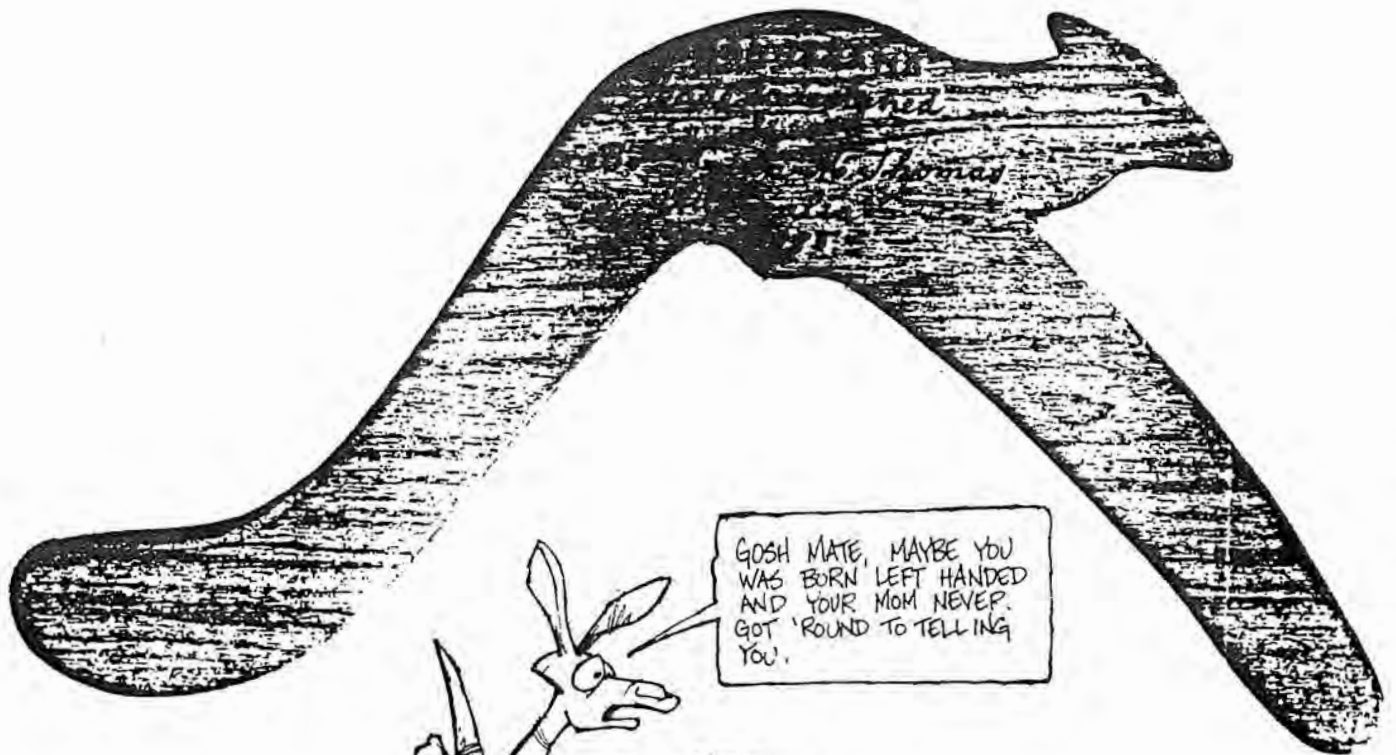
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**"KANGARANG"**

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GOSH MATE, MAYBE YOU WAS BORN LEFT HANDED AND YOUR MOM NEVER GOT 'ROUND TO TELLING YOU.

