

# BOOMERANG BULLETIN

Boomerang Association of Australia

May 1996

No. 90

## Congratulations

Rob Croll, 1996 World Champion

David Schummy, 1996 Australian Champion



KEN Arthur, 74, of Sydney, is an old hand at boomerang throwing, starting his hobby at 11 years of age. He competed in the Australian Boomerang Throwing Champion-

ships at Xavier High School on Saturday. The championships featured 17 throwers from throughout Australia, the youngest was 5.

**Our Ancient Sport**

## RULE CHANGES

1. In Aussie Round in future the maximum points that may be gained are those when contact is first made with the boomerang. So, if you are standing in the 6 circle when you try to catch it and the boomerang bounces off your hands into the 8 or 10, you will only be allowed the 6. If it bounces into the 4, you get the four.
2. In Aussie Round you will only score full accuracy points if you are throwing at least 30 metres. If you throw 20 metres you will score half the accuracy points you land in.

## EDITORIAL

Congratulations to both Robbie Croll and Gunter Wandtke for their great World Titles in New Zealand. And congratulations to the rest of the team for trying. You've got to be in it to win it. Robbie is the World Champion now till 1998. Gunter is the shared Accuracy World Champion.

The World Cup is over again and what lessons did we learn from it? First, that it takes a mammoth amount of preparation, as Earl Tutty has found out. He did a fabulous job. But he and others have seen that putting on the World Cup is a little like running a Cecil B De Mille film. With well over 100 people being involved, accommodation, food and transport are major issues. We need to ask ourselves the question of what do we expect the local organisers to do. Should they have to organise these massive sections or should they just be organising the competitions? Thought needs to be given to this.

With the above thoughts do we need to consider how big we can allow the World Cup to become? How many teams can throw and get through a program? Should there be only one team per country? Do we need any qualifying residence rule to allow a thrower to throw for a country? It is a bit farcical when half or more of a team doesn't come from that country. Throwers who come from a country that can't field a side due to lack of numbers should be designated as simply International Teams, which they are. Now is the time to raise these issues and let people think about them and discuss them.

It is great to see the enthusiasm with the growth of the World Cup. Maybe now is the time to take stock of where we are at and set some suitable guidelines for future organisers. We don't want to scare them off by posing an impossible task to them.

Congratulations to the German Young Guns for their splendid Team Cup win. They are the first team to finish ahead of the USA in World Cup throwing.

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An accuracy boomerang design from the Italian magazine.



3 October 2004: Eric "FreeFlow" Darnell adds the finishing touch to his new "Yummy", the very first edible three-bladed boomerang for kids (made entirely of candy floss).

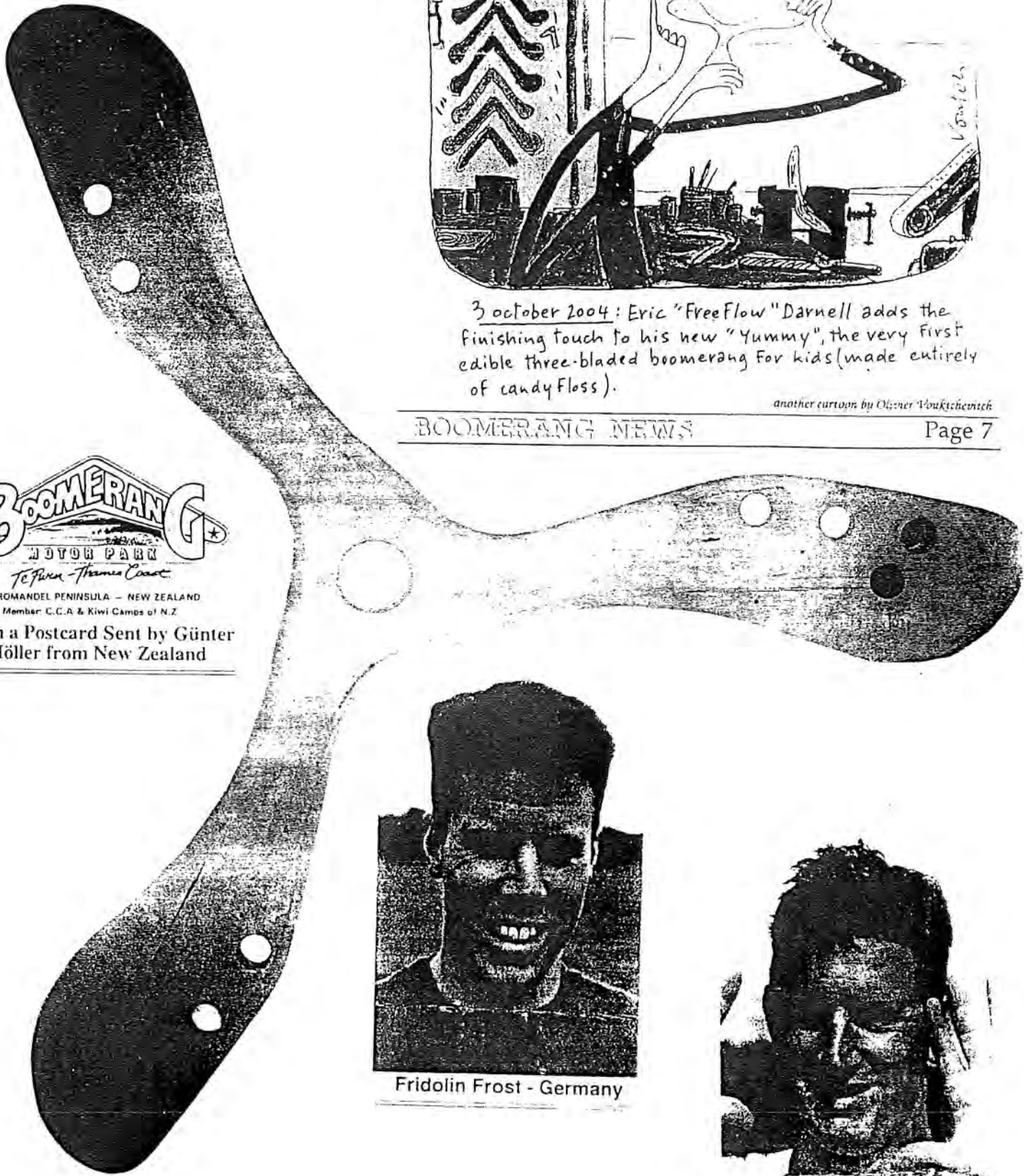
another cartoon by Oliver Vouktschenich

BOOMERANG NEWS

Page 7



From a Postcard Sent by Günter Möller from New Zealand



Fridolin Frost - Germany



Ola Wahlberg - Sweden



## NEXT EDITION.

A special on indoor boomerangs.

Also the Carters travel abroad!

## COMING EVENTS.

Blacktown . . . .

August 31st.

Br. Thomas.

\*\*\*\*\*

BLUE MTS. at

Mulgoa. Nov. 10th

Br. Thomas.



# Dural resident is world champion boomerang thrower

**Gunter Wandtke of Dural earned the title of World Champion at the recently held World Boomerang Championship in, of all places, Christchurch, New Zealand.**

Gunter won the accuracy competition, one of the six individual events.

In this most basic of all boomerang throwing contests, the boomerang must be landed as close as possible to the point of launching. The competition setup looks like a giant dartboard drawn out on the lawn with the competitor throwing from the centre circle. One point is awarded for the boomerang just touching the outermost line of the five concentric circles, 10 points are given for a landing within the boundaries of the innermost circle.

Gunter was the last thrower in his group and knew he needed 40 points out of five throws to win, a task that appeared quite difficult with the prevailing gusty winds. With three 8s and a 6 on the score board he was jubilant when his last throw scored a bull's eye.

Winning a competition in

a field of 98 of the world's top throwers was beyond his wildest expectations.

Another Australian, Rob Croll of Melbourne, won the title of Overall Individual Champion by accumulating the highest overall score from all individual events combined.

However in the team events, Australia only came tenth out of 14 teams with a team from Germany winning the Team Cup. Australia's poor performance reflects the sad fact that there are only about 50 active throwers in Australia to choose a team from, whereas overseas there are hundreds of throwers.

The Boomerang Throwing Association of NSW holds five regular competitions every year in Sydney and a monthly get-together. Gunter trains regularly in the Dural and Galston areas and would be happy to introduce some locals to this unique sport and hobby. Call him on 651 2491.

Gunter emigrated from Germany in 1987 and has worked in Dural ever since. He became interested in boomerangs when he saw the Australian children's



*Gunter Wandtke Champion Boomerang Thrower*

TV programme "The Magic Boomerang". Disappointment came when the boomerangs bought from toy shops didn't work but the magic was back when he learned to make and throw "the real stuff" from a book.

For the newcomer to this hobby the challenges involved are manifold. First comes the proper throwing techniques which some people learn on the first attempt while others need more patience. Then comes the slow process of learning to predict (or read)

the flightpath of the boomerang in order to be in the right position for a catch. After that there are many possibilities to learn about special boomerangs made for maximum flight duration, long distance flights, fast throw and catching, trick catching and many others.

Another challenge is learning to make your own boomerangs. This is as much a craft as it is a science involving trial and error, aerodynamics and high tech materials

## Special Interest !!!!!

Remember Bunny Read's giant boomerang? Bruce Carter has unearthed a man with a second one..for sale.If you are interested contact Bruce regarding price,etc.A great collector's item,this one.

## Latest BTA NSW member.

We have just been joined by Colin Gale, a member of the Darug Aboriginal tribe.They used to own most of the Sydney area.Colin gives talks in schools on Aboriginal history,cooking,etc. He attended our last monthly meeting at Blackman's Park.

THANKS FOR MATERIAL FROM  
Ted Bailey, Didier Bonin,  
Olivier Vouktchevitch,  
John Collins,Bill  
McGovern & Italian  
magazine.

# BOOMERANG NEWS

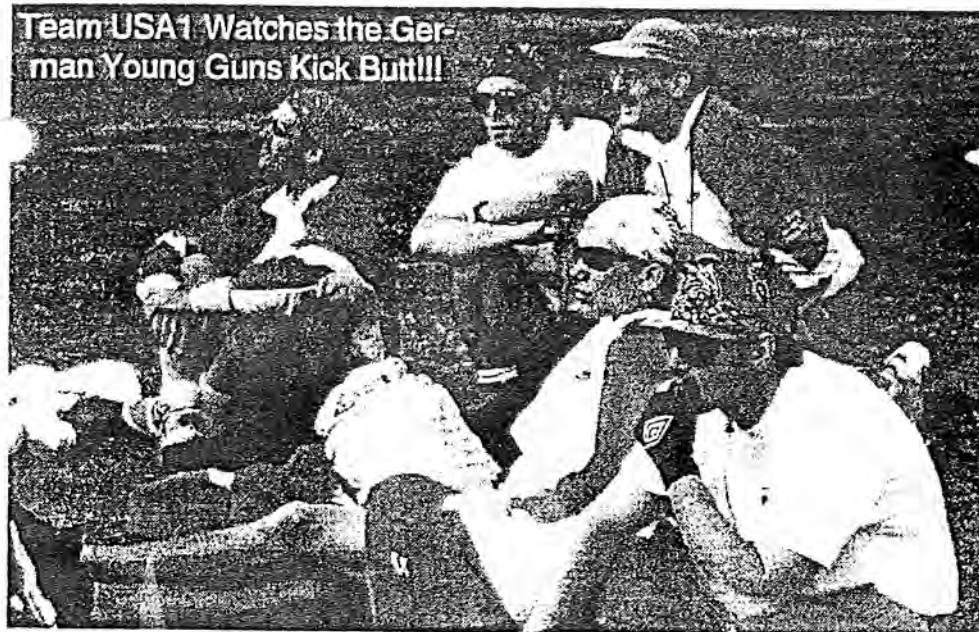
Issue Number 25

An International Boomerang Newsletter

May 1996

## THE SCENE IN NEW ZEALAND

**Team USA1 Watches the German Young Guns Kick Butt!!!**



This issue of Boomerang News is dedicated to Earl Tutty, pictured below. Earl was the organizer for the 1996 World Cup.



**Leon Lyons Shows Damell How His Boomerang Launcher Works.**



**Gary Broadbent's World Famous Throw Kit**



*All New Zealand Photographs are Credited to Bob Sade of the UK*

Issue #25

BOOMERANG NEWS

Page 1

Many thanks to Ted Bailey, the Italian Boomerang Club and Paul Gajski for the World Cup coverage.





Bollettino dell'Associazione C.L.U.B.



Appuntamenti, Modelli. Speciale Christchurch. World Boomerang Association ed altro

ANNO 5 Numero 14

### Christchurch 96 torneo a squadre

1	Young Gun	167,5
2	USA one	158
3	USA two	146
4	France blue	142,5
5	Swiss-scandal	132,5
6	Old Bones	120
7	France red	106
8	Masters	85
9	Canada	82,5
10	Australia	79,5
11	Japan	68
12	Italy	44,5
13	Women	29,5
14	New Zealand	19,5

## Winning German Team



Didier Bonin - France



Rob Croll - Australia



Yannick Charles - France



Axel Heckner - Germany



# SCOTLAND

## THE BOOMERANG THROWERS by Bill McGovern

Two men there were in years advanced,  
Who like two boys would jump and prance,  
The reason for this comic show  
Was the boomerangs they loved to throw.

They made them lovingly, with zest  
Each one to be, of course, the best.  
To the hill they took them with great pride  
Each one to test and try outside.

A bit off here, a bit off there,  
Till back they came from anywhere.  
The people round would stare with awe,  
At the wondrous things that they now saw.

The courageous few would try their hand  
And throw them all around the land.  
Into the ground, or high in the air,  
But none could say just when or where.

Despite crossed fingers and devout request,  
The missile would finally come to rest.  
If by chance the throw was good  
And boomerang returned to where they stood,

The cry went up, "What is the price  
Of such a miraculous device?"  
But sad to say the news was broke,  
And, alas, to them these words were spoke.

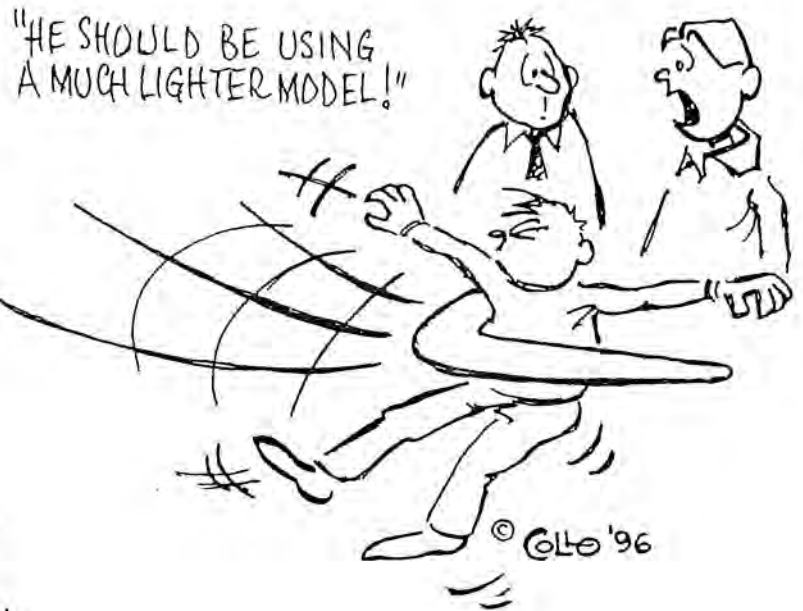
Much care and thought made us decide,  
That unless the need is "suicide",  
A boomerang you cannot buy.  
It's such an 'orrible way to die.

Much better just to watch and wonder.  
Than play a harp away up yonder.  
The tourists in their buses watch  
To see if boomerang we can catch.

And when we do up goes the cheer  
Or shouts of "You can't do that there 'ere!"  
But as the "Parkies" are on our side,  
Now known as "Constables" and full of pride,

Derisive remarks we just ignore,  
While those of culture shout for more.  
Our skill and fame and great success,  
Made known to all by "Daily Express",

Have made us friends from every place,  
I'd swear we're known in outer space!  
So great we are with paraphernalia,





We even teach them from Australia.

Those from the land of the kangaroos,  
Sadly say, "Why can't we throw them just like youse?"  
And so to end we'll only pray,  
That sometime there will come the day,

When after one last great experiment  
(The loss of fingers being no detriment)  
We make a boomerang so supreme,  
We'll proudly present it to the Queen,

Who'll say, "Me boys, you've done me proud,  
Your praises we must sing aloud.  
You've saved the country from disgrace.  
But most of all, the human race.

To Wilson and Heath one must be sent.  
To show their skill, will be their bent,  
But little do they know that when,  
Like light, the boomerang returns again.

Where stood two men, will stand instead,  
Two bodies without a single head,  
Which, as you know, just goes to show,  
We've only arrived at the "Status Quo".

WILLIAM D. MCGOVERN 1972



Bill McGovern was Scotland's version of the Janetzkis. He and his next door neighbour threw regularly. Bill's workshop was an attic with a pull-down stairwell and not much room to fit through, as I found out in 1985, when Br. Rod Shoebridge and I threw with Bill outside the Queen's castle. Mary, ...s wife, sends a card each Christmas.



● Right: Brother DePorres McRae, of Albury, takes a moment to map out his course for his throw in the Australian Boomerang Championships on the weekend. The championships were held in the Xavier High School grounds.



1996

## JANETZKI AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Albury, the fabled city of boomerang throwers, and home of the famous Janetzki brothers, had not lived up to its name for calm weather in recent years. It is supposed to be the 2nd most windless city in the world. In recent years those days seemed to come the days before and after our comps!

However, 1996 was different. The Nationals had been planned here last year in the hope that we would be celebrating Arthur's 92nd birthday with him, but man proposes, and God disposes. All we had this year was Arthur's spirit and inspiration. But maybe as a parting gift he used his influence "up top" to grant us the customary calm Albury weather. It was, at times, dead calm, which presented a few problems to some, but it was far preferable to howling gales.

The star of the show was Australian Team member, David Schummy, from Queensland, who finished with 3 firsts, 2 seconds and a third in six events. He cut it fine in the Aussie Round when he had to withstand a throw-off for 1st place with Geelong thrower, Richard Barras. His sub-20 second Fast Catches in practice didn't materialise in the comp throws, and he missed plenty in Endurance, which just goes to show that we are all human!

Although only 3rd in Over-All, our new WORLD CHAMPION, ROB CROLL, did show what he could do by setting two new Australian records in Endurance with 59 catches, and Trick Catching with 27 catches. He finally missed a one hand behind the back. In this event he had to withstand a throw-off with 1995 Australian Champ, Bruce Carter, after both threw perfect rounds of 50 points (10 catches).

Br. Porres McRae, our Father Christmas of throwing, had the field very worried in the early Accuracy rounds when he threw 10s in his first and third throws, using a Bob Burwell V rang. The local papers were keen to feature our old throwers in the press next week. Both he and Ken Arthur were the "stars".

Night throwing was done on both the Friday and Saturday nights with the Carter Gang showing us how it was done. Two of our new throwers took part in this, Sadir Kattan of Melbourne, and Steve Dick of Ballarat. Steve is one of Australia's leading kite men, both in making and flying. Sadir would have to take the award for the thrower who received the most advice (wanted or unwanted!!) during his rounds. Rob Croll was his "coach". Steve's comments about Endurance are unprintable!

Queenslander Dean Hopton threw very consistently mainly using Rod Jones boomerangs. All agreed that Dean is an enthusiast.

As usual the Carter boys made many throwers envious with their skills.  
Conditions: Saturday-calm & dry. Sunday-calm and light drizzle. Accuracy & Fast Catch were held on Sunday.

# 1996 JANETZKI AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Venue: XAVIER COLLEGE, ALBURY.

DATE 4th/5th May 1996

Name	Aussie Round		Endurance		MTA		Fast Catch		Accuracy		Trick		Overall	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
David Schummy	58	46	40.26	30.17	1st	2nd	42	42	1st	42/50	3rd	10.5	1st	
Bruce Carter	49	40	26.84	24.27	3rd	1st	41	41	2nd	50/50	2nd	15.5	2nd	
Rob Croll	35	59 R	29.50	32.70	2nd	3rd	33	33	8th	50/50	1st R	24.5	3rd	
Dean Hopton	48	41	19.00	32.83	9th	4th	35	35	e4th	20/50	4th	30.5	4th	
Br.Brian Thomas	55	36	19.57	33.52	8th	5th	35	35	e4th	19/50	5th	32	5th	
Kevin Moran	45	30	17.22	35.91	12th	6th	35	35	e4th	10/50	e7th	44.5	6th	
Ray Freebody	28	38	25.53	36.90	6th	7th	31	31	9th	9/50	9th	47.5	7th	
Br.Rod Shoebridge	12	29	17.73	55.68	e10th	9th	40	40	3rd	7/50	10th	55.5	8th	
Sadir Kattan	48	9	17.73	63.55	e10th	10th	20	20	13th	13/50	6th	57	9th	
Richard Barras	58	9	26.35	2ct	4th	12th	9	9	15th	6/50	e11th	58	10th	
Holger Ragowski	33	28	25.19	39.89	7th	8th	28	28	12th	4/50	14th	60	11th	
Steve Dick	30	3	25.74	4ct	5th	11th	30	30	10th	6/50	e11th	63.5	12th	
Nick Gottschalk	36	19	14.03	DNC	14th		29	29	11th	6/50	e11th	68	13th	
Ken Arthur 74	32	15	16.15	DNC	13th		16	16	14th	10/50	e7th	69.5	14th	
Br.Porres McRae	18	DNC	DNC	DNC			34	34	7th	DNC			15th	
JUNIORS														
Craig Carter 8	30		14.87	46.82	1st	1st	27	27	1st	6/50	1st		1st	
Trent Carter 6	22		14.70	65.14	2nd	2nd	7	7	2nd	3/50	2nd		2nd	

Janetzki Over-All Perpetual Trophy: DAVID SCHUMMY

Janetzki Accuracy Perpetual Trophy: DAVID SCHUMMY

Nearest the Pin Janetzki Booklet Award: DAVID SCHUMMY 560 mm.

Arthur Janetzki Perfect 10 Throw Medals: BR.PORRES MC RAE. DAVID SCHUMMY, ROB CROLL,

BR.ROD SHOEBRIDGE, CRAIG CARTER.

Junior Champion: CRAIG CARTER

A big thanks to Mike & Mary Egan of LESTER & SON for their sponsorship, and also to XAVIER COLLEGE for the use of their grounds, facilities and marking equipment.

Prizes were presented by Arthur Janetzki's niece and nephew, Annie & Spike Smith. Spike's mother, Maude, was Arthur's sister. The rest were Ruby, Herbert, Harold and Les.





Tony Butz with his Phantom boomerangs

# Phantom makes a comeback

Classic comic book hero, The Phantom, is making a comeback this year in more ways than one.

A feature movie of the 'Ghost Who Walks' is currently being made at Movie World on the Gold Coast and is reportedly due for Australian release in September.

On the local scene, Springwood schoolteacher and boomerang enthusiast, Tony Butz, has designed and made three boomerangs in the shape of the classic hero created 60 years ago by Lee Falk.

And yes, they do return.

"The Phantom has been a real challenge for some time," said Tony. "He was one of my childhood heroes because he had more realism and integrity than Batman or Superman — he never killed the bad guys, he just taught them a lesson and left a skull mark on their jaws."

It took Tony four months of planning, trialling and designing to get The Phantom boomerangs just right, as the further boomerangs move away from conventional shapes the harder it is to get them to return.

"It is great to have them working in this the 60th year of The Phantom comic strip," said Tony.

Tony has other cartoon and television boomerangs that are favourites with his students, including the Road Runner and Wylee Coyote,

and another new design this year — 'The X-Files' boomerang.

Tony has Australia's largest collection of novelty boomerangs, most of which he designed himself.

## BOOMERANG

The piece of hardwood cunningly shaped,  
Was carved so evenly while picanninies gaped,  
At a warrior who chipped at it with pieces of flint,  
And formed it by meticulous dint upon dint,  
Outside his wurly he sat beside a tree,  
And chipped at it patiently for hour - not for me,  
But to kill the wallaby in the rocky pass,  
To kill fat wild turkey hiding in the grass

Rex Ingamells

HIGH FLYING BOOMERANG !!  
\*\*\*\*\*

We hope you read that Aussie astronaut Andrew Thomas took a boomerang with him into space. No report on its flight yet!



5TH CENTRAL COAST BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS  
held at ST.EDWARD'S,EAST GOSFORD,3/3/96.

\*\*\*\*\*  
COMPETITOR ACCURACY FAST CT. AUSSIE RD. SAME BOOM. MTA100 OVER-ALL

Eddie Siladi	. . 6/7th	1ct/e7th	6/10th	22/5th	DNC	121/10th
Holger Ragowski	5/8th	1ct/e7th	36/5th	28/4th	16.38/2	162.5/4th
Ken Arthur	18/e3rd	0/11th	8/9th	0/e8th	0/e6th	150.5/7th
Ray Freebody	DNC	55.2/1st*	38/3rd	2/7th	0/e6th	136/9th
Margaret Patterson	14/5th	1ct/e7th	34/6th	8/6th	0/e6th	155.5/5th
Br.Rod Shoebridge	12/6th	109.2/5th	37/4th	31/3rd	9.9/5th	166/3rd
Terrance Patterson	24/1st*	58.42/2nd	18/8th	35/2nd	0/e6th	173/2nd
Br.Brian Thomas	18/e3rd	75.4/4th	47/1st*	36/1st*	18.64/1st*	188.5/1st*
Geoff Gray	0/e9th	111.7/6th	31/7th	0/e8th	15.48/3rd	154.5/6th
Patricia Gray	0.e9th	1ct/e7th	5/11th	0.e8th	11.63/4th	147/8th
Gunter Wandtke	20/2nd	71.84/3rd	44/2nd	DNC	DNC	109/11th



NEAREST THE PIN ARTHUR JANETZKI AWARD: Gunter Wandtke,who scored an ABSOLUTE BULLS-EYE.

CATCH OF THE DAY: Patricia Gray LADIES CHAMPION: Margaret Patterson  
ARTHUR JANETZKI PERPETUAL TROPHY (Aussie Round): Br.Brian Thomas.  
ARTHUR JANETZKI PERFECT 10 MEDALS: Gunter Wandtke,Wayne Patterson.

JUNIORS

AUSSIE ROUND: 1.Wayne Patterson 33. 2.Megan Patterson 6.3.Mark Patterson 0.  
ACCURACY: 1.Megan Patterson 14. 2.Wayne Patterson 10. 3.Mark Patterson 6.  
Our special thanks to St.Edward's College for the use of their grounds.  
WIND CONDITIONS: Gusty with occasional lulls. Difficult.



# EASTERN SUBURBS CHAMPIONSHIPS



ANNUAL EASTERN SUBURBS CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUEENS PARK 14th April 1996  
Waverley, NSW.

Competitors	Aussie Round	Accuracy	Fast Catch	Same Catch	Over-all
GUY MARTIN	20/6th	21/9th	2ct/6th	0/e6th	122.5/7th
KEN ARTHUR	26/5th	10/11th	0/e10th	0/e6th	117/10th
G.WANDTKE	58/2nd	25/e7th	50.72/3rd	1/e4th	136/3rd
T.PATTERSON	17/e7th	26/6th	1ct/e7th	2/3rd	127.5/5th
PAUL GAJSKI (G)	67/1st	45/1st	31.03/1st	3/1st	160/1st
MARG.PATTERSON	14/9th	32/e3rd	3ct/5th	0/e6th	126/6th
BR.B.THOMAS	37/3rd	40/2nd	60.02/4th	3/2nd	143/2nd
KEVIN MORAN	6/11th	18/10th	1ct/e7th	1/e4th	118.5/8th
H.RAGOWSKI	36/4th	28/5th	44.78/2nd	0/e6th	133.5/4th
EDDIE SILADI	DNC	5/13th	DNC	DNC	25/13th
KEITH ANDERSEN	17/e7th	25/e7th	0/e10th	0/e6th	118/9th
BR.RAY ARTHUR	10/10th	8/12th	1ct/e7th	0/e6th	113.5/11th
RAY BOTTRELL	DNC	32/e3rd	DNC	DNC	34.5/12th

Fresh from the World Cup Paul Gajski swept all before him with some great windy weather throwing. Accuracy was the only event to experience calm. Paul also won NEAREST THE PIN JANETZKI BOOKLET and was the first winner of the BUNNY READ PERPETUAL TROPHY for AUSSIE ROUND.

Because of the wild wind MTA was run in pairs. The results were:

1st: Gunter Wandtke & Ray Arthur 39.66. 2nd: Ken Arthur & Holger Ragowski 17.18 secs. 3rd: Kevin Moran & Br. Brian Thomas 12.19. 4th: Paul Gajski & Terry Patterson 8.40.

PERFECT 10 THROW MEDALS were won by Paul Gajski & Br. Brian Thomas.

LADIES' CHAMPION: Margaret Patterson.

JUNIORS. ACCURACY: 1st Mark Patterson 12. 2nd Arna Nun. 8. 3rd Megan Patterson 6. 4th Wayne Patterson.

AUSSIE ROUND: 1st Arna Nun. 17. 2nd Mark Patterson 12. 3rd Wayne Patterson 4. 4th Megan Patterson 1.

GIRLS' CHAMPION: Arna Nunnink Well done, Arna. 1st comp.

In the SAME CATCH comp we used an un-used Bunny Read 14 inch rang for five attempts to catch it. A near gale was blowing at the time, thus the low scores.

Our thanks to WAVERLEY COLLEGE for the use of the grounds, and also to Rick, the groundsman, for his assistance.

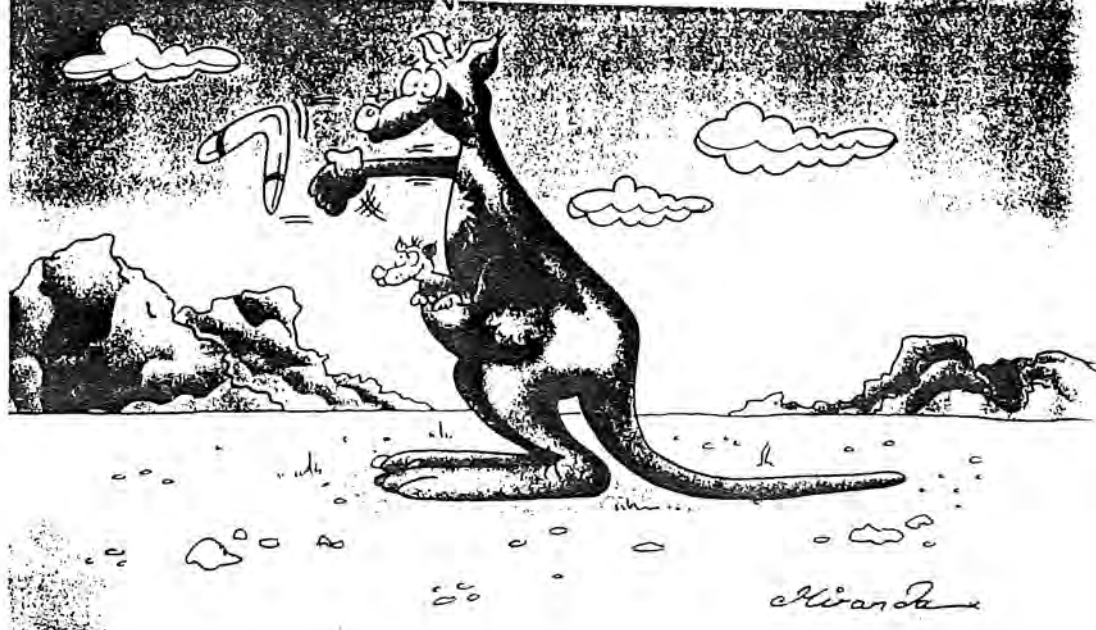
Unfortunately a number of throwers could not attend due to late illnesses in the families. Such is life.

Four days later Fridolin Frost had a 6 hours stop-over, and I had the privilege of seeing him throw..a powerful thrower. He was putting a three blader well out over the 50 mts and back accurately. German technology certainly helped them win the Cup in New Zealand, plus their great skill.





IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY . . .



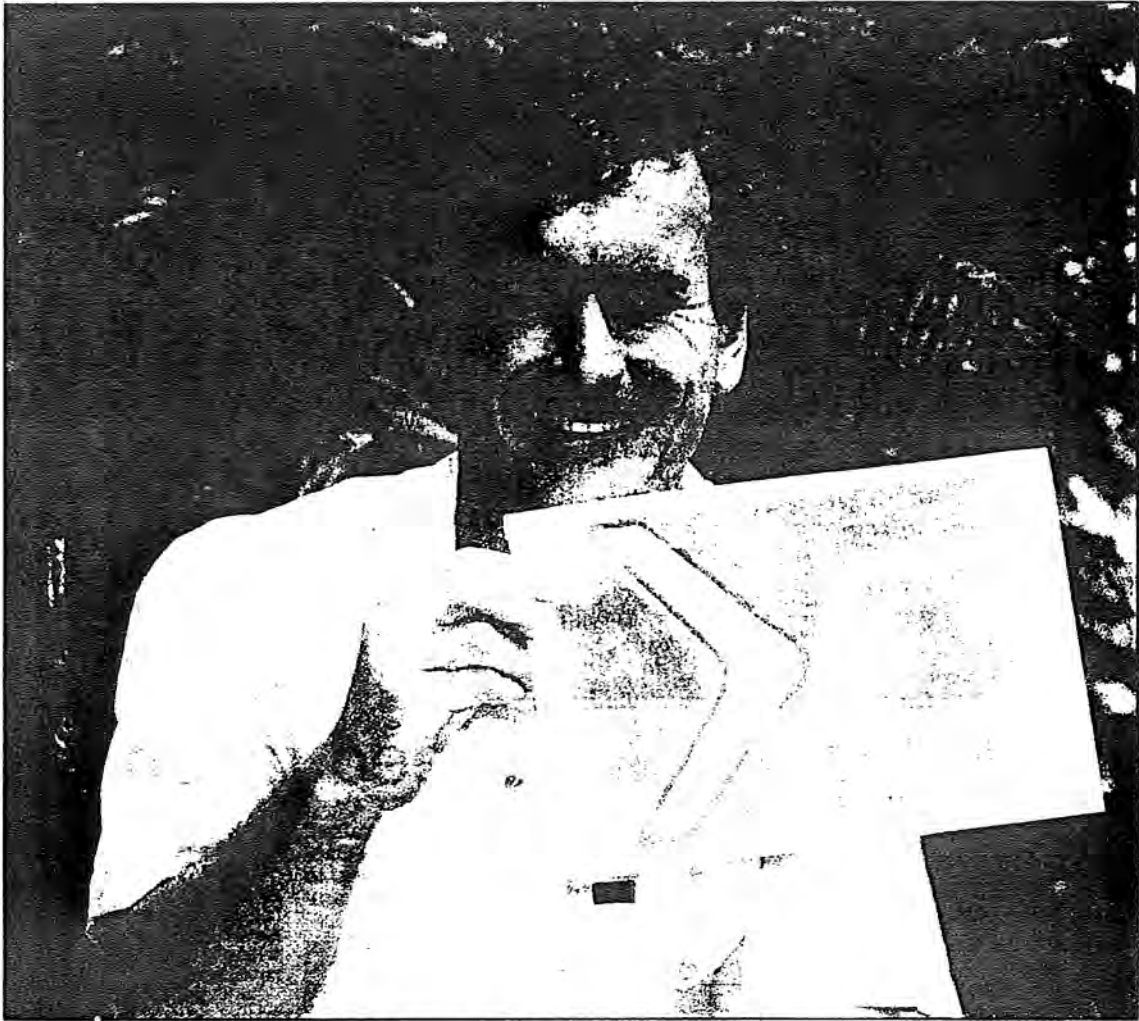
- MAY: 6th: Arthur Janetzki 1904-1995
- 7th: Heather Read 57. (Bunny's wife).
- 17th: Megan Patterson 11.
- 19th: Craig Carter 8.
- JUNE: 18th: Bunny Read 1937-1994.
- 19th: Adam Carroll 34.
- 22nd: Robert Arthur 28.
- JULY: 4th: Ken Arthur 75.
- 28th: Asami Nabeya 16 (Japan).
- AUGUST: 4th: Matthias Kutschera (Germany)
- 18th: Tony & Graeme Butz 47.
- 21st: Morris Maxwell 48.
- 27th: Br. Brian Thomas 58.
- 29th: Claudia Maxwell ?



MANY HAPPY RETURNS !!!



Australia Australia



Flying the flag: Peter Allen with his winning design Picture: David Mariuz

# Flying the colours

By ROBERT SULLIVAN

IF Peter Allen had his way this would be the Australian flag flying in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympics.

Combining both the traditional red, white and blue of our existing flag and the more modern green and gold national colors, Mr Allen said his design best represents Australia as it moves into the 21st century.

Mr Allen's flag defeated hundreds of entries in last week's *Sunday Telegraph* flag design competition as the best design for our national colours.

For his efforts, Mr Allen and his wife Gloria, from Castle Cove on Sydney's north shore, have won a holiday to Britain where the flag we still fly today originated.

Judges were impressed with its colorful and imaginative appearance, but mainly because it manages to squeeze an enormous amount of symbolism into a relatively simple design.

Mr Allen, who is a structural engineer, said the

## Peter's flag crammed with Australian symbols

flag operates on a number of levels.

"On one level the flag contrasts the old and the new in Australian society," he said.

"For example, the flag features the old colors of red, white and blue as well as the modern sport colors of green and gold.

"I have retained the Southern Cross for its traditional appeal but have added a boomerang to recognise Australia's Aboriginal past.

"The boomerang itself symbolises the link between change and tradition. You throw a boomerang forward, but it always comes back."

Mr Allen said he tried hard to prevent the boomerang looking corny.

"You see a lot of proposed Australian flags with kangaroos and koalas on them, but many of them look silly," Mr Allen said.

"Flags have to be simple but powerful.

"By incorporating the boomerang into the very structure of the design, it is recognisable but not too distracting.

"And because the boomerang is facing forward it shows that Australia is moving forward, into new opportunities." On another level, Mr Al-

len's flag is a map of Australia.

"The green wedge on the right hand corner represents land, the yellow is the beach and the blue is the sea.

"Basically, you can interpret this flag in countless ways - I'll leave it up to the public to find their own meanings."

Mr Allen said the time had come for Australia to adopt a new flag.

"The hardest part is selecting what flag we should have, because many will be proposed.

"I don't know if politicians should be the ones to decide it."