

Boomerang Bulletin

BAA – Issue 129 Sep 2014
www.boomerang.org.au
VIN: A0004912M
Editor: Matthew Barker



From Left – Simon Bollen, Josh Smith, Roger Perry, Dove Richardson, Gary Mitchell, Paul Craft, Nick Pritchard, Robert Croll, Matt Barker, Yudhiana Ardisoma. (Grant Perry absent)

The Kangaroos and Drop Bears in a distinctive pose

The World Cup 2014, played at Guildford Grammar School Perth WA through April, is now part of boomerang history, with a first ever world cup victory going to a Japanese team named "Samurai". Throughout the tournament, the Samurai fought an aggressive campaign to secure top placing's in each event over the 3 competition days. Takeshi Honda spent several months in Perth preparing his boomerangs for the event. **Pictured are the World Cup team winners - Masaya Hamaguchi , Junji Maiya, Yuko Kondo, Yasuhiro Togai, Haruki Taketomi and Takeshi Honda.**



Where's the wind?

Throughout the cup, the infinite variable wind proved particularly elusive for even our world champions. The morning started with a trickle but then gathered strength as play progressed. By mid-afternoon, as the "Fremantle Doctor" moved in, throwers were tackling some 15-20 km/h winds, which made play especially challenging. It would suddenly change direction, drop for a moment, swirl, then return with formidable strength, resulting in low scores for even some of our most experienced throwers, some of whom shook their heads in frustration. **Pictured right is Eduardo Mistico** of team "Motions" during the Fast Catch event, fighting the wind by spilling to the ground to save a catch.



Features

- Perth World Cup 2014
- IFBA's New President
- Newcomers Paul Craft and Yudhiana Ardisoma
- Australian Nationals
- Perry Outback Adventure
- The Bedforddale Factory

"The wind is back, there's some strong push here right now, power up!" – Richard Bower of the Rad Evolution to a team member



Australian World Champion Grant Perry finished 10th Place in the Individuals World Championships

Contents	Page
From the BAA President	1
BAA Committee and From the Editor	
New BAA Logo	
Acknowledgement to Photographers	
Australian Nationals Championships 2014	2
Results	3
Local News	4
Australian Nationals 2015 Venue	
Deadly Returns	
Bruce Carter's letter to the BAA	
Grant Perry's \$250 Sports Award	5
Roger Perry's Knee	
West Australian Championship 2014	
World Team Cup 2014	6
In the thick of it – Matt Barker	
Final Team Results	14
Complete Team Photograph Set	15
Individuals World Championship 2014	16
Highlights	
Rising Australians	17
Surprising Results	18
Injuries	
Top 10 Results	19
Long Distance World Championship 2014	20
Results	21
World Cup Gel Day and In the City	22
IFBA's New President and World Cup 2016	24
Paul Craft and Yudhiana Ardisoma	
Perry's Outback Adventure	25
The Bedforddale Factory	27
Around the World	28

From the BAA President

I would like to sincerely thank the past BAA President Leonie Metzakis for organising and running the BAA for many years. The amount of hours and hard work which she put in will be hard to match, but I'm sure, during my term in office, I will be able to exceed every ones expectations and raise the bar to new heights.

A special mention should also go out to the members of the past BAA Committee who worked hard to get the sport of Boomerang's recognized. They made a great job of organizing and running the last WBC, which was held here in Perth earlier this year.

I would like to wish the new members of the BAA Committee all the very best for the year ahead, and I look forward to working closely with you to maintain and expand our member numbers.

Yours sincerely

Nick Pritchard
BAA PRESIDENT

BAA Principal Committee Members 2014-2015

Role	Name
President	Nick Pritchard
Vice-President	Roger Perry
Treasurer	Christene Metzakis
Secretary	Rob Croll
Editor	Matt Barker
National Coach	Bruce Carter

Acknowledgement to Photographers

This issue would not have been the same without the wonderful contributions from a small group of people who photographed the competition events with their cameras and mobile phones, some of whom went so far as to create a visual library of competition highlights. I know that a great many people were taking photographs, some of whose photos may appear in this issue, but special thanks must go to the following people who spent a lot of time taking carefully composed photos with big cameras, many of whose photographs have been used to bring life to this bulletin:

- **Janelle Smith**, wife of Drop Bears team member Josh Smith
- **Nils Buerger**, Germany. Nils took hundreds of photos and have been used to document the Australian Nationals event.
- **Gary Mitchell**, Drop Bears team member, who found the time between events to take some brilliant portraits.
- **Gunter Moeller**, Germany, for his carefully composed shots through his iPhone view finder.
- **Bill Killorn** - photographed the Perth World Cup in 1992 and came to photograph the events again in 2014. Many thanks Bill!



BAA's likely new logo

From the BAA Editor

Welcome to the new look BAA Bulletin, which aims to extend our readership and allow newcomers to discover the world of boomerangs. It has involved many hours of work, drawing upon a range of semi-advanced compositing skills, which I had to learn ad-hoc while planning the overall layout. I would like to thank Roger Perry, who scanned the first draft and suggested important structural changes. And a great thanks to Angie Perry who proof read the final draft. Sit down somewhere and enjoy a good read.

Matt Barker

Australian Nationals Championship 2014

This year's Nationals had a great deal more competitors than is usually expected, as the venue, held at the John Blackburn Oval, Armadale, on Sunday 6th April, preceded the World Cup by a week, by which time our international elite had already started to descend on Perth in droves. Billy Brazelton, Andrea Sgattoni, Steve Kavanaugh, Manuel Schutz, Nils Buerger, H.G. Hoffman, Sascha Winkler, Matthius Giesenschlag and his partner Inken Kirsten all participated and brought an extra dimension and colour to the competition as the day proceeded through the events, as well as extra challenges for the Australians!

Takeshi Honda, who had been staying at the home of Roger Perry over the past 3 months, took first place, but even though the competition was set ablaze by the overwhelming power of the Japanese champion, the aim of the competition was to find the best Australian!

Grant Perry has claimed his third straight overall Australian Championship, finishing ahead of Victorian **Rob Croll** and fellow West Australian **Gary Mitchell**. This followed team trials the day before, both being used to choose the two Australian teams to participate in the World Cup.

Gary Mitchell designed an excellent Microsoft Excel sheet to record results and calculate scores, Roger and Angie Perry did a terrific job in the organizing and arranging of food, drink and creation of the wood craft trophies, and Josh Smith brought a chef's flair to the barbecue for the evening meal. Big thanks to these people once again for making the wonderful day happen!

Pictures capture the essence of the occasion, so presented here are a few of the photos by Nils Buerger of Germany.

For the full results of the competition, turn to the next page.



Top 3 International Competitors (from left) - Manuel Schutz (2nd), Takeshi Honda (1st) and Andrea Sgattoni (3rd)



Australia's finest (from left) – Gary Mitchell (3rd), Grant Perry (1st), Rob Croll (2nd)



Steve Kavanaugh (USA)

Australian Nationals 2014 Results (Australian competitors highlighted in yellow)

Competitor Name	TRICK CATCHING			FAST CATCH			AUSSIE ROUND			MTA			ENDURANCE			ACCURACY			Total Points	Place
	Catches	Place	Points	Best Time	Place	Points	Total Points	Place	Points	Best Time	Place	Points	Catches	Place	Points	Total Points	Place	Points		
Takeish Honda	87	1	1	18.52	1	1	81	12	12	44.33	3	3	47	2	2	80	2	2	21	1
Manuel Shultz	58	4	4	21.96	2	2	118	1	1	40.75	5	5	46	3	3	68	9	9	24	2
Andrea Sgattoni	78	2	2	23.88	4	4	91	10	10	59.56	1	1	45	4	4	73	5	5	26	3
Grant Perry	40	10	10	26.45	6	6	101	5	5	59.44	2	2	49	1	1	72	6	6	30	4
Nils Buerger	44	7	7	22.15	3	3	102	4	4	33.36	9	9	42	5	5	74	4	4	32	5
Sascha Winkler	42	9	9	28.36	9	9	116	2	2	42.19	4	4	22	15	15	79	3	3	42	6
Steven Kavanaugh	43	8	8	31.65	10	10	95	7	7	34.59	6	6	39	6	6	70	7	7	44	7
Rob Croll	25	13	13	27.41	7	7	95	7	7	27.12	10	10	32	11	11	68	9	9	57	8
Gary Mitchell	64	3	3	41.00	15	15	107	3	3	33.43	8	8	22	15	15	41	19	19	63	9
Billy Brazelton	24	14	14	28.36	8	8	84	11	11	24.97	13	13	35	8	8	65	12	12	66	10
Josh Smith	22	16	16	31.87	12	12	33	19	19	26.63	11	11	30	12	12	81	1	1	71	11
H.G. Hoffman	24	14	14	41.71	17	17	39	17	17	33.53	7	7	35	8	8	69	8	8	71	11
Roger Perry	17	17	17	33.33	13	13	99	6	6	25.03	12	12	30	12	12	57	14	14	74	13
David Richardson	48	5	5	52.08	19	19	94	9	9	24.93	14	14	17	17	17	66	11	11	75	14
Matt Barker	48	5	5	41.38	16	16	51	16	16	21.06	17	17	34	10	10	64	13	13	77	15
Nick Pritchard	33	12	12	25.46	5	5	56	14	14	21.22	16	16	15	18	18	54	15	15	80	16
Mike Bryant	38	11	11	42.50	18	18	52	15	15	24.56	15	15	36	7	7	51	16	16	82	17
Ian Sproul	17	17	17	31.66	11	11	36	18	18	19.3	18	18	26	14	14	49	17	17	95	18
Matthias Giesenschlag	16	19	19	34.13	14	14	67	13	13	0	19	19	6	19	19	46	18	18	102	19
Leonie Metzakis	0	20	20	-	21	21	18	20	20	-	21	21	-	21	21	36	20	20	123	20
Inken K	0	20	20	2C	20	20	0	21	21	-	21	21	1	20	20	15	21	21	123	20



Nick Pritchard



Matt Barker



Roger Perry



Gary Mitchell



Andrea Sgattoni



Dave Richardson



Billy Brazelton, Dave Richardson, Andrea Sgattoni, Manuel Schutz, Rob Croll, H.G. Hoffman (sightseeing near the Perry Home in Bedfordale, Perth)

Local News

Australian National Boomerang Competition 2015 to be held in Queensland

State Representative of Queensland, Paul Craft, has informed the BAA recently that the next Australian Nationals will be held at **Pizzey Park, Miami** on the weekend of **21-22 March 2015**. We hope everyone can attend the Nationals. Mark it in your calendar!

Paul said that a few Queensland throwers, such as Bob Burwell, David Schummy and Dean Hopton, might be making an appearance.

The Deadly Returns

Paul Craft is Captain of the only indigenous boomerang team in Australia. At one stage, it was anticipated that the team would be competing in the Perth World Cup. However, a number of circumstances intervened, namely finances, and unfortunately the team could not make the event. However, with the next Nationals set for Queensland, it is hoped that members of the team will be making an appearance and giving the seasoned players a run for their trophies!



The Deadly Returns Boomerang Team (Photo: Damien Larkins – ABC Gold Coast)

Bruce Carter “honoured” to receive BAA Life Membership

What follows is an abridged version of Bruce’s letter to the BAA...

To those who did not hear, the greatest honor has been awarded me, my 5th life membership at a club /association.

I would like to say that this reward is also to those who have helped me along the way, people I am proud to call my friends, allies, team mates and members, of a sport I love dearly.

From the early days, Mark Schaffer, who introduced me to my first tournament – 2nd in event in the Novice section (there was 2 of us). My amazing MTA, where I scored a

brilliant 8 seconds! Peter and Jack Byham, who taught me how to throw a boomerang all those years ago. Robert Croll (who instigated this great award). Rob has been a friend, albeit not the closest friend one has, but that is expected when someone is one of your **toughest opponents** and as a competitor, you can only sit back and admire his skill, determination, longevity and knowledge of this sport.

The great ones **Bob Burwell** (such a pity I could not spend more time with this great man) and Brother Brian Thomas whom I still miss, my other great team mates in the past, such as Geoff Kennedy, Ian Sproull, Paul Bryden, Roger Perry (who shares my philosophy)... Jarrod Byham, the late Volker Behrens, David Schummy, Gunter Wandtke, Brett Doyle, Dennis Maxwell, Kevin Moran, Bluey Roberts and the others whom I have forgotten to mention.

The Boomerang makers, Adam Carroll, Sam Blight, Rod Jones, Miles Jorgensen, Brian Kemp, the Janetzski Brothers, Kays sister Cheryl ... Jeff Lewry, Bunny Read, Mike Smith, the guys behind the scenes who kept our association alive – Morris Maxwell, Nick Gottschalk, Peter Lewry, Barrie Forsyth, Rod Shoebridge, Dave Martin, Leonie Metzakis, Dean Hopton, Tony Butz, A J Croft, Richard Barras, Tim Lendrum, Greg Norman and his family, and of course David Richardson, who has visited me more than anyone during the past 15 years. The girl I call my sister who has been to hell and back – Leanne Read Loveland, my friendly “boom chucker” mates, who have competed but preferred just to throw on a casual basis- Martin Smith, Alan Dunn, Gerrard Ferlazzo, Steve Dick, Sadir Kattan, Graham Dean, the Johnstone family from Wallington near Geelong, Ray Freebody, Mark Barras, Anthony and Peter Slidders, Tony McCarter, Craig Fox ...

You have all contributed to my love of the sport, my passion and dedication. Thanks to each and every one of you...

BAA President - 7 years and in that time I went to nearly every tournament held, including a couple of Perth and Queensland tournaments... Co editor for several years of the Boomerang Bulletin and for a number of years co wrote, published and distributed **New Frontiers** magazine around the world...

Boomerang Association of Australia – **National Coach**. A title I could not be more proud of, the follow up to the great brother Brian Thomas. Yes, I admit, I have not been seen on the international scene for a number of years. I do not have the profile and titles of Robert Croll or Roger Perry, but they still both compete, so that would be the main reason they have not been selected as Australian Coach!

My house is still open to all throwers to come and stay with me and throw and practice and let me try and help you improve your skill level as we walk out the back gate and onto the circles. (cont...)

Local News continued...

Two notables who have taken up this option to stay and train with me have been Adam Carroll and Tim Lendrum...

I am still active in promotion of the sport. Two television shows in the past year for the Netherlands and with Leanne, we were on a show from Norway. There have also been a couple of local radio shows and other appearances promoting our great sport.

... Last year, Rob [Croll] joined Craig [Carter] on DVD- the best indoor throwing I have seen on film with Craig and a Fast Catch (Air Dancer tuned down), then some film of him throwing in the dark using a cylume large capsule in a dancer!

... My thanks to those who have supported me and as always, I will continue to promote and support this sport as best I can.

I am very honored to be the National Coach and receive a BAA life membership.

Thanks to all, and happy throwing,

Bruce Carter

Grant Perry receives \$250 award to compete in the 2015 European Championships

The City of Gosnells, Perth, awarded top 10 World Champion Grant Perry \$250 as a Sports Representative Scholarship, as he will be representing Australia at the European Boomerang Championship in May 2015, to be held in Spain. The BAA sends congratulations to Grant for receiving this excellent award. Grant is looking forward to joining up with the boomerang fraternity at the competition. On Facebook, he said, "Can't wait to see you all again. I miss being around all the throwers."

Roger Perry's Knee

Boomerang legend Roger Perry recently underwent knee surgery initially on one leg, but because the other knee had to work harder to compensate for the other knee being out of action, it also had to have surgery, though less complicated thankfully.

The BAA is pleased to advise that Roger is recovering well from the surgery and hopes to be back on the field again later this year, with a certain future as a boomerang coach.

West Australian Boomerang Championship 2014



From left – Brian Anderson, Mike Bryant, Caden Kavanaugh, Takeshi Honda, Matt Barker, Steve Kavanaugh, Grant Perry, Nick Pritchard, Manuel Schutz, Roger Perry, Gary Mitchell, Josh Smith, Kelly Sumich

This year, the 2014 World Boomerang Cup attracted the first of our international visitors to join the competition – Takeshi Honda (Japan), Manuel Schutz (Switzerland) and Steve Kavanaugh (USA), all of whom are world champions and are some of the hardest competitors to defeat.

Grant Perry once again was best West Australian competitor, taking 1st place from his father, Roger Perry, who won the championship in 2013. For Grant, it was his 3rd West Australian win. He was followed by Gary Mitchell in 2nd place, and Roger in 3rd.

West Australian Competitor Results

- 1st Grant Perry
- 2nd Gary Mitchell
- 3rd Roger Perry
- 4th Nick Pritchard
- 5th Matt Barker
- 6th Josh Smith
- 7th Mike Bryant
- 8th Brian Anderson
- 9th Kelly Sumich
- 10th Angie Perry
- 11th Leonie Metzakis

For the overall winners, Manuel Schutz won the event, even though he suffered jet lag, and chasing close behind was Takeshi Honda in 2nd and Steve Kavanaugh, with always a seasoned professionals consistency, came 3rd. We had the privilege of throwing with Takeshi, "Manu" and "Stevey K", who amplified the events with their power, talent and boomerang mastery.

For most of the competitors, the event was primarily used as a warm-up before the Australian Nationals and World Cup events.

Perth World Cup 2014



The World Boomerang Cup (detail)

After 22 years, The World Boomerang Cup returned to Perth. Principal organiser's Christene and Leonie Metzakis arranged for the event to be held at the long field of Guildford Grammar School, which was able to contain 8 circles and provided sufficient area for the Long Distance event.

Accommodation was situated 5km away from the field at Aspen villas and international throwers remarked that it was the best ever accommodation they can remember for a World Cup. The villas were only 4 months old and provided air-conditioning throughout, modern furnishing, dishwasher, and LCD television.

The catering at the school mess hall provided a variety of dishes for our hungry competitors after a long day of play. The caterers were thanked

by the World Cup organization for their unflinching delivery of the hearty evening meals.

Organising a world cup is a real event, even for those who have had many years organizing world competitions. The only way it can become possible is through collaboration and a special labour of love. A very special thank you to all those people who made the Perth World Cup 2014 a reality. There are way too many people to mention, but special thanks must go to the Metzakis family – Leonie, daughter Christene and her partner Chris, including additional support from the Perry family, and Leonie's brother Lee, who in their own way made sure all logistics, lunches, transport and issue resolving at the villa, signposted as a kind of WBC office, was available throughout the World Cup.

In the thick of it – a story about the Drop Bears and the Kangaroos by Matt Barker

Team play, according to World Cup team judge, Diane Defresne, is where you see international competitors at their most tense, the Individuals by comparison is like a dramatic cooling down. On the first day of team competition, teams created their base under the trees or inside the big tent. Throwers were preparing for some tough work. The weather was very warm, somewhere in the early 30's Celsius, almost like summer, and the wind was elusive and blowing firm. Sun cream was being quickly applied to faces, arms and legs, hats were forced more conveniently into shape. A strange quiet descended over the camps before the competition began and faces grew either excited or grim. You could hear some murmur about team strategy being discussed – who is up first up? Talk to each other. Support each other, work together, choose the right boom etc.

The Australian teams, Drop Bears and Kangaroos, were formed only a few days before competition began, after it was agreed between Rob Croll and Roger Perry that putting throwers together who knew each other's play intimately well would create teams that were equally strong and would have their own dynamic. This arrangement formed two teams who represented both sides of the continent. The Drop Bears - Grant Perry (Capt), Roger Perry (Vice),



Pictured above – Christene Metzakis as Easter bunny and “Mama” Leonie Metzakis, the egg carrier. Despite the arduous day and night work schedule for the organisers, there was time for some fun. The World Cup Individuals event continued through the Easter break and Christene and her mum made sure no competitor missed the spirit of Easter chocolate egg.

Gary Mitchell, Josh Smith, and Matt Barker were from WA, while the Kangaroo's included Eastern Staters Rob Croll (Capt), Dave Richardson (Vice), Simon Bollen (SA), Paul Craft (Qld), Nick Pritchard (WA) and Yudhiana Ardisoma (Indonesia). A good half of the Kangaroos consisted of newcomers who had very little or no competition experience, so for the Drop Bears, they seemed an easy team to beat, but team play would prove otherwise!



The World Cup collective – a friendly exchange of hand tapping before the battle begins

Day 1 Team

Accuracy - The Kangaroos started team brilliantly, coming 2nd place after Samurai! The USA no 1 team had an otherwise difficult start, coming 10th place after Boomergang 7th, Drop Bears 8th (even after Roger Perry came 2nd overall in the event!) and German team Oz Bones in 9th. The Kangaroos showed early promise. I remember Dave Richardson glowing with pride and Rob Croll walked back to base after the event smiling radiantly. Rob was quietly elated with the excellent start!

Super Catch - Rad Evolution rose from near the bottom in Accuracy to reign in First Place. Samurai is already showing signs of great strength, maintaining a top 5 consistency by coming 3rd. The Kangaroos found themselves in 9th position after the Drop Bears in 8th. It was a tough Super Catch. The wind was up, and Grant Perry of the Drop Bears was dissatisfied with the MTA he was throwing after losing his best MTA in a thermal at the Australian Nationals. He was using his second best, which was not achieving the expected times. USA 2 team, Legion of Boom, were also pitching team strength, coming 3rd in Accuracy and 5th in this event.

Team Endurance – Boomergang, captained by World Champion Manuel Schutz, had a 1st place victory in this event, with a blasting 47 catches. 2nd was Rad Evolution, 3rd Motions International, 4th Legion of Boom and 5th team Samurai. These 5 teams would remain as the top 5 place holders for the rest of the tournament. Unfortunately, the event sent Kangaroos down to a catastrophic 13th place,

to find themselves among the bottom performing teams - Veterans, Northern Star and France Femme, due to the fact that first time World Cup participants Paul Craft and Yudhiana Ardisoma found this event particularly challenging in the next to impossible winds that the "Fremantle Doctor" would send across the field. The Drop Bears finished in 6th place with 34 catches, not a bad effort, despite my boomerang being lost to the winds on two of the throws. Grant worked heroically with 9 catches in a minute on 1 round and father Roger was more than competent, using a boomerang that was superbly weighted for the wind and thrown with masterly grace.

Team Relay – The Kangaroos, however, proved a hard team for Drop Bears to defeat in the Team Relay event. In this event, their spirits rose, coming 7th place after the German first team Dreckhecken. The mighty Samurai claimed victory, and was followed by Rad Evolution, Boomergang, Motions and surprisingly quick were France Homme, who had a very good 5th place finish. The Drop Bears came 8th place, only a little more than a 2 second difference from the Kangaroos, but due to one unfortunate drop, which costed them some time. For Boomergang's world champion Manuel Schutz, Team Relay Day 1 was a nightmare. During the event, Rancoule Benoit of France Homme caught Manu's boomerang in error. Manu shouted in horror, "What should I do!??". We all replied "Keep going, run!", but it was too late. He was inconsolable and Judge Diane Defresne, after conferring with team members, gave Manu a rerun with Rancoule and the event was settled.

Day 1 was not a disaster for the Australian teams, but as team play progressed into Day 2, it proved to be a usual return to form.



Above picture is the back of one of the most seasoned players in the world, the legendary 46 year old, Steve Kavanaugh, Captain of the Legion of Boom, who finished in 5th place in the World Individuals Championship. The Hobbit is for Steve an appropriately named shirt. Steve is small in stature and unassuming until you see him play on the field. He has for many years been one of the world's finest throwers.



The Kangaroos (yellow) and Drop Bears (green) after Day 3. From left – Simon Bollen, Roger Perry, Nick Pritchard, Josh Smith, Dave Richardson, Gary Mitchell, Paul Craft, Grant Perry, Rob Croll, Matt Barker and Yhudiana Ardisoma

Day 2 Team

The Lines

Day 1 allowed the teams to discover the reality of play on the field and inside the array of concentric circles, there was joy and also the darker emotions, one of which was a concern about the lines being rubbed out. Andrea Sgattoni of Boomerang exclaimed in frustration after team relay "I cannot see the circles! I can't play like this!" He was right. The field was covered with loose grass, underneath which the soil was the only surface on which the lines could be made visible, and as the soil got kicked up, visibility disappeared. However, on Day 2, thanks to the Aussie boys Dave, Simon and Roger, the lines were restored and maintained.

Aussie Round – Betsylew Miale-Gix and Steve Kavanaugh sent their USA team Legion of Boom soaring into 1st place in this event and since I was judging their circle, I had the privilege of observing their play. They were excellent together, having fought many past battles. It was great watching these two seasoned throwers fighting the difficult wind condition, both of whom helped to finish their team on 294 points, catching most of their throws inside the circle. The Drop Bears did admirably well, with Roger Perry's excellent Aussie result landing his team in the 6th spot after Motions in 5th, Boomerang 4th, Rad Evolution 3rd and Samurai 2nd. Collectively, the Drop Bears Gary, Josh, Grant and Roger scored 234 points. The Kangaroos finished in 11th place. Rob Croll was disappointed but continued in his own way to remain good spirited.

Team Relay – By the time Aussie Round had finished, the wind was strong and menacing. Warming up found all throwers adding weight and rubber bands to their booms. Team Relay was going to be especially tough, as it proceeded to be! The Kangaroos had another catastrophic drop to 12th place, equal with France Femme, and the Drop Bear team members Grant, Josh and Matt lost at least one of their throws to wind, while Roger finished clean, allowing his team to finish 9th with 255.63 seconds. France Homme drove it home to 1st place with 151.47 seconds, followed by Motions International, Legion of Boom, and a good race by Northern Star, who defeated Samurai in 5th. For the Northern Star, this was their best team result. Boomerang had another difficult Team Relay event, with Manu losing one of his throws after getting sun in his eyes. For Manu, a serious

competitor and consummate sportsman, his loss was difficult to accept. He tried without success to request a rethrow, which judge Diane refused, as sun was a too predictable factor every thrower must contend with. Manu's luck in Team Relay was down.



Josh Smith of the Drop Bears during warm up for Team Supercatch.

Super Catch – The wind that blasted through Team Relay also brought its menace to this event, with Drop Bears dropping to 10th place, equal with Northern Star. I personally remember it being my second worst event besides Aussie Round. None of my material was heavy or weighted enough to endure the force of the wind and MTA throwing had been reduced to "any time was good, provided you catch the MTA." The Kangaroos, however, did considerably well and showed inherent brilliance, with Simon, Rob, and Dave working superbly with Nick Pritchard to finish in 3rd after the excellent Boomerang and Rad Evolution. I did nothing in the event, 2 MTA throws in my team were drops. I was thankful at least that I caught my MTA. Grant was cursing his MTA time. All went wrong for the "dropped" Bears. Takeshi Honda of the Samurai lost his MTA throw after judging confusion, tried to protest and lost. Enough said!

(Continued...)

Gary Mitchell of the Drop Bears injured and finishes up

I cannot recall exactly if it was the Supercatch event during which Gary's fragile ankle finally gave up? He suffered a painful ankle injury and had to be carried off the field. "Big Boy" Gary was courageous enough to participate in the World Cup, knowing full well that his ankle may fail at any time, due to a past basketball injury. In all the events, he did admirably well, keeping the Drop Bears up in the Top 6 for the best performed events. It is hoped that after surgery, Gary will make a full recovery and return to boomerang throwing with all his former talent, power and formidable trick catching fully intact.

MTA 100 - as the afternoon approached 3pm, MTA throwers were warming up. There was the likelihood that as the day approached 4pm, the wind would begin to ease. Teams threw with experienced caution, using the best of their wind models to ensure their boomerangs would come down inside the 100m circle. I remember being on the circle with Rob Croll (Kangaroos), Kenny Barr (Legion of Boom), Eduardo Mistico (Boomergang), and Christian Meyer (Dreckhecken), all of whom scored safe times after their first throws, including myself with a modest early 20 seconds. Rob Croll growled at me for talking just before he threw off, being only feet away from his throwing stance. "You put me off, stop talking!" I like it when Rob growls, because that is when his mojo is furiously working. The wind has dropped! Rob gets something like 30+ seconds best for this event, excellent work in tricky wind, and it was not for Rob an effort in vain! His efforts, including those of his team landed Kangaroos in 3rd place! The Roos were back! Manuel Schutz jumped and shouted in ecstasy with his enormous MTA throw over the trees on Circle 1, which he caught safely, sending his team up to 1st place with the help of Andrea Sgattoni and the excellent Stephan Spirgi, with 2nd going to great work from Legion of Boom, 4th Samurai, 5th Rad Evolution, and for the Drop Bears, a competent 6th place finish.



Dave Richardson of Kangaroos during Supercatch



The Drop Bears under the tree at "base camp", devised by Josh Smith



"Big Boy" Gary Mitchell of the Drop Bears



The Old Master Roger Perry coming off field after play.

Team Endurance played and cancelled! – After the MTA 100, throwers returned to their base camps in a mood that suggested the day had finished. Bags were starting to get zipped up. However, it was around 5pm that news suddenly circulated, “Don’t go, we are having Team Endurance”, announced James Stickney of Rad Evolution. For the Drop Bears, however, this seemed extraordinary, since being natives to Western Australia made them instinctively aware how much remaining daylight was actually left, and for Team Endurance, there was simply not enough time. I approached Diane Defresne and Leonie Metzakis and said that throwers would end up competing in the dark, but the idea was to get Endurance done anyhow, and if it does get too dark, the event would be cancelled. Despite a few early grumbles and protests, we all headed to the field with our boomerangs. For Josh Smith, Roger Perry and I, it was pretty clear that Team Endurance on Day 2 was not to be.

On our circle, the Legion of Boom had a blazing round. They were clean and fast and had sufficient light at least to see the circles. There were other shouts of elation from teams playing on the other circles, notably Rad Evolution. The remaining light at least made play possible. However, as the next teams began their rounds, the day quickly turned to dusk and the sun was gone. The circles were almost impossible to see, the wind was raging, and it was hell. I remember going out and throwing, missing several catches in the dusk. I ran back after my minute in the circle, and then the whistle blew hard several times. The event was cancelled by Team Judge Diane Defresne.

It was an event to remember, mainly due to the

enormous relief I felt when I learned the event was not going to be counted, because we could do better. For Betsy and her team Legion of Boom, they unfortunately lost points in a well performed event.

Day 3 Team

Team Relay – This was the last chance at one of the most popular events and the teams were all fired up. Drop Bears and Kangaroos were on Circle 1. There was enough time to warm up, prepare our ranga and decide on the throwing order. We were ready. Grant started by running as fast as a bullet to the circle. The Kangaroos were on his tail. It was a good fast start for both teams. During warm-up, Roger unfortunately snapped his boom and asked to borrow mine. He had to look after his knee injury and for the team, this was the only handicap. Roger was tagged and then ran out as quickly as he could, but also with a bit of self-effacing humour about his awkward run. He caught superbly and ran back, but in the fun, forgot to pass the boomerang. “Boomerang!” I shouted. I remember running out with maximum anxiety – don’t drop as Grant would go crazy! Grant more than ever wanted this event to be clean and fast. I caught and ran back to tag Josh. Josh ran out, threw tightly, caught and raced back clean. Go Grant! We finished Team Relay clean without a drop, but Grant wasn’t happy. The Kangaroos finished clean too, finding themselves in 4th place. Rad Evolution had a tremendous round, coming 2nd behind the super-fast France Homme. Drop Bears came 6th after Samurai in 3rd, and Boomergang 5th. There was less than a 2 second difference between Drop Bears (160.79), Boomergang (160.58) and Kangaroos (159.05). If the Drop Bears didn’t have the boomerang passing confusion, they would have taken 4th place from the Kangaroos!



Nick Pritchard of the Kangaroos going for a catch.



Former World Champion and boomerang master Rob Croll of the Kangaroos during a stunning MTA launch

Supercatch – This was a final chance for the Drop Bears to fire up and do better. The wind at least was not impossible, but it still had enough menace to send MTA's into spiralling descents or be blown beyond the playing field. We all felt ready, though we had to compete without Gary Mitchell's power for the MTA throwing. The Kangaroo's enjoyed some excellent results in Supercatch and it was very likely that Rob's team could pull it off again for the top 5. No matter what happens, I thought don't drop anything, particularly the MTA, which if dropped in this event has devastating team consequences. Unfortunately, the event was not without some judging confusion. MTA's were launched without the whistle blowing. Fridolin Frost started shaking his head, Andreas was angry but kept his cool, and Matthias of Dreckhecken, who was controlling the order for the MTA throwing, began to lose patience "Who is next up, what is happening? God I hate this stuff!" The field was long, Supercatch play was spread out, the circles were busy, and MTA throwers appeared like specks, being a long way off from the Fast Catch throwing circles. It was a challenge for the judges to see what was happening without foot stands and binoculars. We continued on. I was able to squeeze in 4 clean nicely controlled catches on Grant's fast descending MTA throw and Roger and Josh also caught well. The Kangaroo's were consistent, enjoyed good MTA times and were doing well in the Fast Catch circles. The Samurai, Motions and Rad Evolution were producing some

excellent results and it started to appear that the Supercatch event was going to be theirs. For the Samurai in particular, the early signs of cup victory began to loom. You have to wait some time for your MTA throw in Supercatch, but I was at last up. The wind was starting to grow stronger. I remember running far up field to avoid the Fast Catch circles, otherwise I could see myself running right through them. I was ready. I threw with only modest power deliberately to avoid the possibility of the MTA getting lost to the winds that were swirling above. I ran furiously back. The MTA gained some reasonable height and it was looking good for a moment before it started to make a quick descent, but it could be caught. I found position, got ready, and snatched it out of the air and brought it into my body. Under no circumstances was I going to drop! My MTA was safe. The Drop Bears did some good work in the conditions, but it wasn't good enough. Samurai, who were starting to appear as the World Cup first time Japanese winners, came 1st with 62 catches!, Motions 2nd, Rad Evolution 3rd, Boomergang 4th, Legion 5th, and Kangaroos strong again in 6th place after the best 5 World Cup teams. Rob's team did very well again, and it must be said that if they did not have less than competent results in Team Endurance, they would have beaten The Drop Bears decisively in the Cup! Drop Bears was in 8th place after Dreckhecken in 7th. Supercatch for the Cup was done.



Matt Barker of the Drop Bears during Supercatch warm-up

Aussie Round – This was the last fight for this most noble of all boomerang events. People were itching to start after a good lunch. The wind again, which always gathered force from the middle of the day and blasted across the field until 4pm, was prepared to do its evil bidding. I remember going out to do the warm-up in the circle. My Black Hook wasn't getting over the 50 line and even with lucky bands across both edges, was erratic and unpredictable. Aussie was going to be tough. I needed more control. At least play was on Circle 1, the soft, grassy end of the field, which was more hospitable for low catching when you have to spill to the ground. We had the Rad Evolution on our circle, including Dreckhecken team members and Boomergang. Placed far on the 50 lines for distance judging with Josh Smith, I watched Dave Richardson and Nick Pritchard of the Kangaroo's brave the event in the impossible wind. It was tough for them, with drops, and unfortunately, they got in each other's way on 1 throw and lost their catch. Boomergang's Stephan Spirgi had an excellent round. Rad Evolution's Richard Bower and Logan Broadbent fought brilliantly, and on one throw, both jumped into the bullseye with clean catches. Richard was ecstatic and Logan in his characteristic manner walked off the circle quietly with a triumphant smile, but with an almost vague, reflective disappointment that his team was not going to beat the mighty Samurai in the World Cup. I was up and what a disaster! First of all, I was tense and my muscles stiffened in response. There was nobody out on the distance circles for my left hand throwing direction and after repeating myself several times for people to move left, I shouted "There is nobody out over there! Move!!" I was the Lord of Darkness! I threw and what a disaster. The Black Hook denied me. I dropped 2 and caught 3 outside the circle. Gary Mitchell, who spectated the event, was good enough to console me, "Don't worry about it. Just get through it", he said. It made me feel better, but I was gone. Josh at least did better and caught most of his throws. Most of us had a tough time on that circle. However, for Grant and Roger, they scored triumphantly, sending Drop Bears up into 6th place. Boomergang were the champions, coming 1st, Motions 2nd, Rad Evolution 3rd, Samurai 4th, Legion 5th and down on 9th place were the Kangaroos. The



Yudhiana Ardisoma of the Kangaroo's enjoying a quiet time-out from his first experience in World Cup team competition



World Champion Grant Perry of the Drop Bears going for an "Eagle Catch" during Trick Catch warm-up

grand event in the World Cup was done.

Trick Catch/Doubling – My mind has always been attracted to difficulties, and even though I am by no means a wizard at Trick Catching, it is one of my most favourite events, because it is very difficult to master, even at times impossible, particularly in winds. At World Cups, Australian teams have never done brilliantly in Trick Catch and it is where we need to focus in particular on doing better. The World Cup team event was coming to an end, which brought a prevailing mood of euphoria. However, in Trick Catch, there was still serious team work to do. I walked to the circle and was looking forward to doing the work with my team mate, Josh Smith, who at best has the right frame, height, speed and coordination for excellent Trick Catching. Josh, however, lacked practice, as his time for boomeranging before the Cup was limited due to family commitments, new home on the farm and BMX off-road biking. Though Josh in every other respect was ready and still had his mojo for Trick Catch. We had the French girl's and men's teams and the Dreckhecken's on our circle, so we were all pretty much equals in terms of playing strength. We watched the French Femme's Axelle Barbaud really struggling in the difficult wind with the first throws but after seizing control of the

boomerang after some adjustment, she succeeded in scoring points on several of the more challenging catches. Rancoule Benoit, who takes his Trick Catch seriously, performed with practiced control, flexibility and elegance and scored strong points for French Homme. Oliver Thienhaus of Dreckhecken was disappointed in himself, losing some bigger points on the difficult catches. He kicked his boomerangs up in the air in frustration, which in fact is a favoured stress relieving response of my own when I can do better in Trick Catch. I caught most of the catches, but lost points on losing the 1 Hand Behind the Back to the wind, the Hacky and the Foot Catch. Josh did quite well despite lack of training. I saw the old Josh returning when in a flash of past mastery, he saved his 1 Hand behind the Back and some other more challenging catches. Then there was an announcement that due to the strong winds, Doubling was cancelled and another round of single Trick Catch would be replacing it. My mind was wandering to the other circle where Roger and Grant were working it out. Grant should score highly and compensate for his Dad having trouble with his knee. We had another round and the second was better for everybody than the first, though "Oli" Thienhaus, perhaps through lack of training, was finding it difficult. I tried to find the Kangaroo's in the midst of throwing, but didn't know what was happening for them? For Rad Evolution, particularly with invincible Trick Catchers Logan Broadbent, Richard and Dan Bower, it was a clean 1st place victory, followed by Boomergang 2nd, Motions 3rd, Samurai 4th and for Oz Bones, the German second team consisting of Michael Siems, Nils Buerger, Klaus Habe, and H.G. Hoffman, it was their first 5th place victory in the Cup! The Australian teams Drop Bears came near the bottom in 9th place, but following them 1 step down were the Kangaroos on 10th with a 3 points difference. Trick was done.



Fridolin Frost, German World Champion



Former Australian World Champion Roger Perry looking as colourful as a rainbow with his trademark face paint.



Roger and Angie Perry cooking "snags" on the "barby" for the masses

Team Endurance – The event that was cancelled on Day 2 due to the encroaching darkness was now the final event of the World Team Cup. There was enough time before the sun would go down, but knowing this time how quickly the day would turn to dusk, team judge Diane Defresne wasted no time ushering everybody into the final team event. Throwers were out doing warm-up minutes after Trick Catch had finished. This was a second chance at least for me to do much better. The wind was strong enough to make throwing a real challenge. I tried my material but the wise onlooker Roger Perry said, "Look, try this." It was this ugly purple rang that he had rigged up for the wind and it was magical. "Just be sure to throw it high enough and it should sail back to the circle". I had to remember that, otherwise it would drop like cement with the added weight. You needed to give it height for the quick descent. The other boys Grant and Josh were ready. Again, we were with the Legion of Boom, who were sure to do equally well as yesterday's effort. We watched them. Betsy unfortunately had a drop, and I think George Essig may have lost one, but apart from that, they were excellent, particularly Steve Kavanaugh, who kept bringing each throw home with a seasoned experts control in the jarring winds. We were up. Grant ran out and had a clean minute of throwing and catching, clocking up 8 or 9 catches. I was next. I ran out, my rhythm was slower with fatigue, I was struggling, and dropped 1 in the minute, but it was a much tidier effort than on Day 2. Roger had a successful minute and Josh was good, despite a drop. Even at this stage of the competition, the Kangaroo's had a chance of beating by a margin. How were they going? If they soared through it, we could possibly drop behind them in the final results? However, we had finished while their game was still in progress. The Roo's were struggling, with drops and boomerangs "grass-burning" across the field, which is expensive on time. Paul Craft, Nick, Rob Croll and Dave were really trying to push through that wind and get their boomerang's back to safety, but Team Endurance would prove to be a great disappointment for the Roo's in the final event. Motions International were the victors, followed by Boomergang 2nd, Samurai 3rd, Legion of Boom 4th, Rad Evolution 5th, and in equal 6th place with Dreckhecken were the Drop Bears. The Kangaroos fell to the bottom on 11th place, which blew any hope of defeating the Drop Bears in the Cup. The event finished, the day turned quickly to dusk, and World Cup Team Competition was completed. For the first time in World Team Cup history, a Japanese team named Samurai, consisting of Masaya Hamaguchi, Junji Maiya, Yuko Kondo, Yasuhiro Togai, Haruki Taketomi and Takeshi Honda, fought an excellent campaign, claimed the World Cup in Perth, and would be taking it back home. Congratulations to the throwers of Team Samurai for a well-deserved win!



World Cup 2014 Final Results

Team	Country	Place	Points
Samurai	Japan	1st	40
Boomergang	International	1st	40
The Rad Evolution	United States 1	3 rd	47
Motions International	International	4 th	54
Legion of Boom	United States 2	5 th	65
France Homme	France 1	6 th	92
Dreckhecken	Germany 1	7 th	96
Drop Bears	Australia 1	8 th	98.5
Kangaroos	Australia 2	9 th	100.5
Oz Bones	Germany 2	10 th	106
Northern Star	International	11 th	132.5
Veterans Snappers	International	12 th	155
France Femme	France 2	13 th	156.5

World Team Cup 2014 – The Teams and their Awards



France Femme – 13th Place



Veterans Snappers – 12th Place



Northern Star – 11th Place



Oz Bones – 10th Place



Kangaroos – 9th Place



Drop Bears – 8th Place



Dreckhecken – 7th Place



Motions International – 6th Place



Legion of Boom – 5th Place



Motions International – 4th Place



Rad Evolution – 3rd Place



Boomerang International – 1st Place

1st Place Team Winners –
Samurai !



2014 Individuals World Championship



Andre Caxeita Ribeiro from Brazil is the 2014 World Individuals Champion.

Highlights

Andre Caxeita Ribeiro claimed his first World Cup victory in the Individuals World Championships, maintaining a top 10 consistency in nearly all of the events besides Trick Catch. Andre returned home to Brazil, a country known for idolizing its sporting heroes, to find his photo on the sides of buses and in newspaper articles. Andre fought considerably well against challenging winds, and found an opportunity to exploit a wind lull in Fast Catch to come 1st place. Aussie Round, where all of the most difficult elements – distance, accuracy and catching - come into play, found Andre finish in 2nd place behind Allesandro Benedetti.

USA's **Bower brothers**, Richard and Daniel, came 3rd and 8th respectively, showing they are still the Trick Catch/Doubling masters alongside their amazing countryman **Steve Kavanaugh**, and in Aussie Round, all 3 of these USA competitors found places in the top 10. **Logan Broadbent** became World Cup champion in what must be considered boomerang sports most difficult event - Trick Catch/Doubling, finishing on an amazing 93 points in less than ideal wind conditions. Young **Adam Stankiewicz**, also of USA, proved his strength, talent and playing power in MTA, Fast Catch, and Endurance, coming 4th, 6th, and 11th respectively. Adam is destined to become USA's new world champion in future World Cups.

Andrea Sgattoni showed familiar shrewdness and determination in all of the events, and at best, achieved World Champion in Accuracy with a stunning 86 points, 4th in Endurance, and 5th in Fast Catch, finishing in 4th place overall.

The genius of boomerangs, **Manuel Schutz**, who for years has won many championships, finished in 2nd place. Manuel would have not made the top 20 in the MTA event without the benefit of the final 5th throw, which he threw with breathtaking power, gaining a 2nd place victory with 46.08

seconds, behind Japan's Junji Maiya. Even though Manuel was unhappy during the Trick Catch event in which he believed he could have done better, he finished 9th place in that event, and 3rd in a very difficult Endurance, which suffered hellish wind, with 39 catches.

Takeshi Honda of Japan, who in razor blade Samurai spirit, poured all of his throwing power into the team events, finished in 15th place, with his best performance in Fast Catch, coming 4th. One would say that Takeshi was showing signs of wear after his enduring and well sustained battle in the Team Cup, which allowed his team mate **Junji Maiya** to finish as best Japanese participant, coming 7th overall, which was achieved by a 1st place win in MTA with an astonishing 46.9 seconds, less than a second in front of Manuel Schutz, and 7th in Aussie Round with 60 points.

Fridolin Frost, 2nd only to Manuel Schutz with World Cup wins, finished just under Australia's excellent **Grant Perry** in 11th place. Frido was disappointed with his overall performance and even 11th was not good enough. However, Frido still showed brilliant performance, coming 8th in MTA, 2nd in Trick Catch just behind Logan Broadbent with 90 points, and 4th in Endurance with 38 catches.

A lot of competitors remarked that if Germany's **Sascha Winkler** did not collapse with serious knee injury in the Trick Catch/Doubling event, he would have most likely found himself in the top 10. Before his ill-fated fall, Sascha came 5th in MTA, 10th in Accuracy, 10th in Fast Catch, 15th in Aussie Round, and even though he could not finish Trick Catch, he still scored a respectable 55 points. Without Endurance and a good part of Trick Catch, Sascha still managed a very honorable 18th place finish.

Last but not least, 16 year old **Marie Appriou**, the youngest World Cup competitor, started brilliantly in MTA with 36.97 seconds, coming 12th in that event. We may have a future world women's champion in our midst!

World Individuals 2014 Championship Top 10

Name	Country	World Rank	Points
Andre Caxeita Robeiro	Brazil	1 st	46.5
Manuel Schutz	Switzerland	2 nd	52.5
Richard Bower	USA	3 rd	57.5
Andrea Sgattoni	Italy	4 th	75.5
Steve Kavanaugh	USA	5 th	78.5
Logan Broadbent	USA	6 th	79.5
Junji Maiya	Japan	7 th	81.5
Adam Stankiewicz	USA	8 th	89.5
Daniel Bower	USA	9 th	89.5
Grant Perry	Australia	10 th	100

2014 Individuals World Championship

Rising Australians

In Australia, recent World Cup events have seen the rise of Australian champion **Grant Perry**. Grant, who had a rather disappointing start in the competition, coming 44th in MTA and 26th in Fast Catch, began to rise to the pantheon of the greats in subsequent events, coming 11th in Aussie Round, 13th in Accuracy, 3rd in Trick Catch and achieved a miraculous 1st place World Champion victory in the final Endurance event! These kinds of results could only come from maintaining a regime of fitness training and continual boomerang practice, which over the past 8 years, Grant has unceasingly followed. Those in the West who practice with Grant have watched him grow over the past 10 years, and like his father **Roger Perry**, has developed the required confidence to go head on into the blazing battlefield of the World Individuals to fight the very best competitors in this very challenging, extremely difficult, complex and multi-form sport. Some of the world's greatest champions now approach the Individuals with Grant as somebody whom they must try as best they can to defeat. Australia has succeeded in producing a world champion and has inspired other Australian throwers to elevate to a new level. For Grant, however, 10th place is not good enough. "I was really disappointed in my MTA, which costed me a lot of points", he said. Grant's ambition is to eventually move into the top 5 and from there, a possible 1st place in future World Championships.

Matt Barker, who for years has constantly maintained that Australian competitors can only achieve success in World Cup events by following a continuous and unbroken practice ritual, found himself finish among the top 30 in 26th place, which was achieved by performing consistently well in all events. His best event was MTA, where he claimed 20th place. "Luck is when preparation meets opportunity", he said. "This time, the competition was on the native soil of home, only 8km from where I live. I learned a lot of important lessons during the team events and thus I was able to find out what I had to work out for the Individuals. I basically had the time to prepare my material for the winds, made sure I got a good night's sleep, and since I had 5 weeks away from work, I had the time to at last focus, lose some weight and design a "Promethean" strategy."

Nick Pritchard, a relative newcomer to the world of boomerangs, finished in 34th place by maintaining good consistency in all of the events, with his best performance in Aussie Round, claiming 17th place. Nick is a champion golfer, and golf, like boomerangs, is a very challenging sport where wind is a constantly challenging variable. Nick has learned to acquire great competence in all of the events during practice sessions very quickly over the past several years and is now competing seriously among the world's best throwers. Nick threw himself into the gym and practiced some days for 4hrs in a single practice

session in the weeks before the World Cup. It sounds like the same determination he uses to win trophies in golf may well see Nick in the top ranking positions in World Cups and the Australian National Championships in future.

Paul Craft from Queensland, the only Australian indigenous thrower who participated in a World Individuals Cup for the first time in his life made a good effort, but what was most astonishing was coming 13th place in Accuracy, with 71 points, ahead of world champions such as Daniel Bower, Logan Broadbent, Fridolin Frost and Takeshi Honda! Paul threw consistently well, mostly scoring 8 points and above for each of the 10 throws. The Australian Nationals may see Paul Craft taking out the Accuracy event in future!



Paul Craft, a first time World Cup participant, came 13th in The Accuracy 100 event. Photo by Damien Larkins - ABC



Grant Perry accepts 1st place award for Endurance

2014 Individuals World Championship

Surprising Results for Australians

For Australians Nick Pritchard and Matt Barker, who have had comparatively little experience in World Cups, consistent play found them finish in respectable places, with Matt coming 26th, rubbing shoulders with some of the best throwers in the world in the top 30, and Nick in 34th position. The only Australian to finish well above them was Australian champion Grant Perry, who realised his ambition by just making the top 10, taking 10th position from German World Champion Fridolin Frost by a narrow margin.

However, it was not after all a perfectly decisive victory. Some of the best Australians were disadvantaged due to lack of preparation or injury. Roger Perry decided to quit after the first day was done due to knee injury, Simon Bollen withdrew because of hand injury, Gary Mitchell did not participate altogether due to ankle injury, Brian Anderson or "Brother Brian" came in cold after a long period of absence from West Australian boomerang competition events, Josh Smith lacked preparation because of other life commitments, and Paul Craft was a newcomer. So the only Australians who did not have anything like competition disadvantage was Dave Richardson, Rob Croll, Matt Barker, Nick Pritchard and Grant Perry, all of whom did respectably well.

Australian Competitors and their Individual Results

Name	World Rank	Australian Rank	Points
Grant Perry	10 th	1 st	100
Matt Barker	26 th	2 nd	180
Nick Pritchard	34 th	3 rd	213
Robert Croll	35 th	4 th	216.5
Josh Smith	40 th	5 th	238.5
David Richardson	42 nd	6 th	243.5
Simon Bollen	63 rd	7 th	332.5
Paul Craft	64 th	8 th	342.5
Roger Perry	72 nd	9 th	395
Brian Anderson	74 th	10 th	403.5

Injuries

It would not be over-dramatic to say that participating in the world cup is a bit like going into battle. In the back of your mind, the same thoughts of a soldier "war" about – will I make it out of this particular battle unhurt, or even darker, alive? There is always the remote possibility of injury, either by being struck by your own boomerang, another competitors boomerang, by a bad fall or twist of an appendage. The boomerang fraternity always wishes that the nearly 100 competitors will fight from beginning to end without a single injury, but with that many people,

injuries are likely. On balance, however, this is the risk people generally take in competing in any kind of sport that requires action on an open field.

Sascha Winkler of Germany, who would have finished easily in the top 10 after blazing through all of the events with very high scores, unfortunately suffered a serious fall during Trick Catch and could not finish that event as well as the final event of the competition – Endurance. An ambulance was sent to the oval, and the intensity of play was interrupted for a few minutes until Sascha was carefully placed into a stretcher and carted off to hospital. After Sascha arranged a special flight back to Germany, he had immediate knee surgery and is recovering well and hopefully by this time is back on his feet.

Simon Bollen got his hand struck by a Samurai team members Fast Catch boomerang at high speed during warm-up. You wouldn't think such an injury would be enough to force you out of competition, but hands are the most important instruments for boomerang throwing and the boomerang hit a spot in Simon's hand that made it painful to throw and catch competently, forcing Simon to withdraw from Day 2 of the Individuals World Championships.

Roger Perry and Gary Mitchell both had injury pre-conditions that exacerbated during competition play. Roger's knee at least held through the team events but after Day 1, he made the wise choice by saving his knee from any further injury. Gary had to be taken off the field during the Team Cup and decided not to participate in the Individuals Championship. Both have had recent surgery and it is hoped that recovery will see them back on the field soon.

Gunter Moeller, the renowned excellent German thrower and now IFBA President, well-seasoned in the art of sustaining himself in world competitions, gave up after Aussie Round on Day 1 Individuals, because of a pain in the sole of the foot.

Eduardo Mistico in the World Individuals Fast Catch event injured himself and had to be taken to hospital.

Regular exercise, maintaining your weight and following good health habits can reduce the likelihood of injury, but for every competitor, the possibility of injury is always there, so it is advised that you get full **insurance cover** for an injury event, particularly when travelling overseas to compete, as hospital treatments in some countries, particularly the USA, can be very expensive.

2014 Individuals World Championship Results (Top 10)



Bumerangue Santista

WBC_2014_Individuals - Finals

Rank	Participants	Start-Nbr.	NA	CA	Total	MTA-100			Fast-Catch			Aussie-Round			ACC-100			Trick-Doubling			Endurance		
						Score	Rank	Points	Score	Rank	Points	Score	Rank	Points	Score	Rank	Points	Score	Rank	Points	Score	Rank	Points
1	André Caxeita Ribeiro	66	Bra	M	46.5	37.25	10	10	25.5	1	1	72	2	2	81	3	3	68	21	21.5	36	8	9
2	Manuel Schutz	3	CH	M	52.5	46.08	2	2	35.02	21	21	58	13	13.5	80	4	4	82	9	9	39	3	3
3	Richard Bower	62	USA	M	57.5	36.43	15	15	32.09	13	13	60	7	8.5	75	10	10.5	88	3	4	37	6	6.5
4	Andrea Sgattoni	16	I	M	75.5	36.58	14	14	29.99	5	5	50	26	27.5	86	1	1	67	23	23.5	38	4	4.5
5	Steven J. Kavanaugh	1	USA	M	78.5	28.62	33	33	27.62	3	3	62	4	4.5	76	8	8.5	81	10	10.5	29	18	19
6	Logan Broadbent	30	USA	M	79.5	31.41	23	23	30.43	7	7	54	17	17.5	67	24	24.5	93	1	1	37	6	6.5
7	Junji Mariya	8	Jap	M	81.5	46.9	1	1	33.86	19	19	60	7	8.5	71	13	15.5	70	17	18.5	29	18	19
8	Adam Stankiewicz	64	USA	M	89.5	44.37	4	4	30.34	6	6	48	31	31	71	13	15.5	68	21	21.5	34	11	11.5
8	Daniel Bower	67	USA	M	89.5	32.15	22	22	30.77	8	8.5	60	7	8.5	65	27	29	83	8	8	33	13	13.5
10	Grant Perry	2	Aus	M	100	26.54	42	42	36.16	26	26	59	11	11.5	71	13	15.5	88	3	4	44	1	1

Pictured above is Andre Caxeita Robeiro, Manuel Schutz and Richard Bower, top 3 World Individuals Champions, after receiving their awards from Leonie Metzakis and Roger Perry



2014 World Champion Andre Caxeito Ribeiro (right) with Brazilian countryman Fábio Silva dos Santos

2014 Long Distance World Championship

Highlights

Manuel Schutz, the reigning World Record holder of Long Distance, has a special passion for this event. Armed with an array of Long Distance boomerang's, "Manu" as he is famously known, became **World Champion** once again with a colossal throw that sent his boomerang far beyond where the eyes could see downfield, and like a phoenix, it suddenly made a re-appearance, like a spacecraft making re-entry, and on its fast return, onlookers ducked behind chairs and fell to the ground as it filed through the "Gate".

At first, Manu struggled. The wind direction was forcing him to throw across the field, not lengthways, which meant that it could become trapped in the trees. However, by the afternoon, after Long Distance was briefly adjourned for lunch, the wind had changed direction, which allowed Manu to stretch his throwing line right down to the farthest end of the aircraft carrier shaped field, and despite one initial throw being lost in a tree, he eventually found the right wind speed and direction to launch a spectacular Long Distance throw, culminating in an incredible 185 metres.



USA's Kenny Barr, colourfully attired, launches from the "Gate"

David Hirsch and **Haruki Taketomi** came equal 8th on 110m, France's **Rancoule Benoit** finished in 9th place with 107m and **Kenny Barr** achieved a top 10 placing, finishing 10th place with 104m.

Australia's **Dave Richardson** achieved the best distance for his Australian countrymen, coming 11th with 95m, followed in 12th by **Nick Pritchard** and **Paul Craft** with 90m, **Simon Bollen** in 15th place with 81m, a good effort by Simon despite his hand injury.

For the full Long Distance Results, turn to the following page.



Brian Wissner of USA throwing off



Manuel Schutz loses one of his Long Distance Boomerangs high up in a tree.

Other competitors were 40m behind Manu, with 2nd place going to **Alejandro Palacio** on 141m. Alejandro threw consistently well during all attempts to get his boomerang to travel as far as possible and make a gate return.

Steve Kavanaugh, who found it difficult to get his boomerang to return in the morning when the wind was down, found greater success in the afternoon, though getting it to return through the gate was the next challenge and on his final throw, Steve luckily returned the boomerang over the line after it soared 128m, which landed Steve in 3rd place.

Nils Buerger, **Brian Wissner** and **Michel Appriou** came equal 4th place on 118m after throwing competently.

Long Distance Results

Rank	Participants	Start-Nbr.	NA	C A	Total	Long-Distance		
						Score	Rank	Points
1	Manuel Schütz	16	CH	M	1	185	1	1
2	Alejandro Palacio	19	E	M	2	141	2	2
3	Steve Kavanaugh	9	USA	M	3	128	3	3
4	Brian Wissner	20	USA	M	5	118	4	5
4	Michel Appriou	11	F	M	5	118	4	5
4	Nils Bürger	8	Ger	M	5	118	4	5
7	David Hirsch	17	USA	S	7.5	110	7	7.5
7	Haruki Taketomi	5	Jap	M	7.5	110	7	7.5
9	Rancoule Benoit	2	F	M	9	107	9	9
10	Kenny Barr	18	USA	M	10	104	10	10
11	David J Richardson	7	Aus	M	11	95	11	11
12	Nick Pritchard	1	Aus	M	12.5	90	12	12.5
12	Paul Craft	6	Aus	M	12.5	90	12	12.5
14	Sonia Appriou	13	F	F	14	83	14	14
15	Simon Bollen	14	Aus	M	15	81	15	15
16	Axelle Barbaud	15	F	F	16	63	16	16
17	Hans-Georg Hoffmann	4	Ger	M	17	59	17	17
18	Marie Appriou	12	F	J	19	0	18	19
18	Pau-Thion Han	10	F	M	19	0	18	19
18	Yudhiana Ardisoma	3	Ind	M	19	0	18	19

World Boomerang Cup 2014 – Day off in the City and Gel Day

Competitors were able to enjoy a break from the intensity of the first two days of team play for a well-earned day off discovering the best parts of the city. The coaches collected everybody who put their name down for the tour at the Aspen Villas accommodation in Guildford and at a leisurely pace, drove the party through the city and up the hill to King's Park, which offers a breathtaking view of the city from the War Memorial. From the memorial, people took a relaxing stroll towards the Lotterywest skywalk, stopping briefly to closely discover the native Australian flora which lined the garden path. It wasn't long, however, until what was initially a discovery of the park turned into some boomerang antics. Sonia Appriou from France, including her daughter Marie, showed acrobatic fitness by demonstrating their gymnastic skills before the water fountain, and Andrea Sgattoni threw his "Aussie Round" boomerang around a tree over the heads of visitors and back on the spot with consummate control, but not before it became jammed about 8 feet up into the trees unusually soft trunk. According to Roger Perry, getting your boomerang caught in a tree in the same way a knife penetrates a target is "a rare event". Andrea, after some assistance, finally gained the right height to dislodge

the boomerang from the tree trunk.

After King's Park, the coaches ambled along Stirling Highway through Nedlands, Claremont and Cottesloe and dropped everybody off near the Fishing Boat Harbour, which is the site of some of Perth's best Fish and Chip restaurants. People decided to split up and go their own way, finding first of all a place to eat, some of whom enjoyed a nice lunch at the popular Little Creatures Brewery. Afterwards, it was a walk through Fremantle, visiting shops and art galleries. Boomerangers from around the world show a keen interest in aboriginal arts and crafts, so it was not surprising to find a shop selling didgeridoos inundated with WBC members trying them out.

On the way back to the villas, the slow rhythm of the coach sent most of the competitors to sleep and a strange silence fell in the cabin interior. This was a chance perhaps for the teams to enjoy at least a good hour's doze before the final day of team play.

GEL Day

Gel Day was a welcome relief after the intense 3 day team competition. WBC members enjoyed the fun Gel events, which included "Whoa Nelly", hosted superbly by **Steve Kavanaugh** and **Richard Bower**, where throwers would join teams and perform amusing "hacky" catches, jumps, rollovers and dives to score additional points in and outside the circles. Steve and Richard, with the games whacky scoring method and eccentric language, added loads of humour as the teams attempted to perform the required stunts to score maximum points.

Logan Broadbent, the only competitor in the world today who can do an unaided somersault in the air and catch a returning boomerang at the same time, a technique originally mastered by USA's **Snouffer brothers**, put on a stunning display of jumps and somersaults for visitors.



Andrea Sgattoni attempts to dislodge his boomerang from the soft, spongy trunk of a tree in full view of amused onlookers – Pioneer Women's Memorial site - Kings Park



Sonia Appriou hand walking before the Pioneer Women's Memorial and fountains – King's Park (16th April 2014)



Gel Day – Logan performing a mid-flip catch for visitors

World Boomerang Cup 2014 – Gel Day continued...

Gel Day provided people from around the world with an opportunity to come face to face with Australia's native animals, presented by West Oz Wildlife. The WBC organisation arranged for the animals to be delivered to the field tent, which included snakes, a koala, and a dingo.



Gel Day – Principal WBC organizer Christene Metzakis cuddles a snake



Gel Day - Jan Müller-Alstrup of Denmark with the snake.

Hunting Stick

One of the oldest boomerang competitions was set up on field and there was a range of traditional boomerangs that were thrown during the event, including a stunning "Goose Neck" type. An enthusiastic competitor of Hunting Stick is Australian champion **Rob Croll**, who has a museum of Hunting Sticks in Victoria and after years of experience, can strike a target 30m away after a few trial throws.

Hunting Stick was interrupted by the inimitable humour of Switzerland's **Stephan Spirghi**, who appeared on field wielding a hunting stick while on the back of a baby dinosaur.



Gel Day – Stephan Spirghi of Switzerland attempts a throw from the back of his pet dinosaur.



Rob Croll looks menacing with a Hunting Stick, one of Rob's favourite events.

Gel Day also saw the welcome visit of **Sam Blight** and his wife Mary to the field. Sam received an **Australian Design Award** for his collection of originally designed boomerangs under the brand name "Rangs", which Roger Perry now owns. Sam enjoyed some good moments catching up with Gunter Moeller, Rob Croll, Roger Perry, Matt Barker and Steve Kavanaugh, all of whom he remembered at the 1992 World Boomerang Cup at the WACA ground in Perth.

World Boomerang Cup 2014 – IFBA President and World Cup Newcomers



Gel Day - Old friends reunited – Rob Croll, Sam Blight and Gunter Moeller

IFBA's New President

Maurizio Saba who for many years has been an excellent President of the IFBA (International Federation of Boomerang Associations) resigned from this important responsibility and Vice President **Gunter Moeller** of Germany was elected as new President at the World Cups IFBA meeting, held at 91 Benara Road Caversham on 17th April.

Gunter has been involved in the committee for many years, has participated in nearly all of the World Cups, and is admired and respected as a great ambassador to the sport of boomerang throwing, as well as an excellent boomerang thrower!

World Cup 2016 Venue announced

President Moeller recently announced that Germany has won the bid to hold the next World Cup 2016 in **Cologne**. German throwers gathered together at the field one afternoon to meet up and discuss their World Cup plans. Likely months for the cup are July or August.



Gunter Moeller and Maurizio Saba holding important IFBA documents.

First Virginal Experience of a World Cup

For two members of the **Kangaroo's team**, the 2014 Perth World Cup was their first. Here is how they remembered their unique experience:

Paul Craft

I never dreamed that I would be able to go to a World Boomerang Cup and represent my country.

I had previously only been to one boomerang competition at Beenleigh in 2006, where I met lovely people like Leonie Metzakis, David Richardson, and Rob Croll, amongst others.

I came to Perth to learn about the event types, meet other throwers and get some modern competition type boomerangs for the Aboriginal kids I have been mentoring and training back home.

I met heaps of great people from all over the world and was amazed by the generosity and good will of the other team members.

I soon realized I was ill-equipped, not a match fit or properly trained for the competition, which was a concern, because I did not want to be a [team] liability.

I was very fortunate to be on a team with a few seasoned campaigners and nice guys - David [Richardson], Simon [Bollen] and Robby [Croll]. The assistance and support from these fella's helped me out and gave me the reassurance I needed.

Paul Craft works as Aboriginal Cultural Facilitator Educator in Queensland and is founding member and team Captain of Queensland's indigenous boomerang team "The Deadly Returns".

Yudhiana Ardisoma

Every boomerang thrower must have a dream to meet and greet his idol and also dare to one day dream of attending a World Boomerang Championship. For me, I finally realised this dream to attend the WBC Perth 2014.

I had planned to come to Perth, together with best Indonesian thrower **Sigit Pamungkas**, but his visa was **refused** two days before departing, which really made me very disappointed. I decided to go, but was not feeling as confident, because I came alone with not good English.

I arrived to Perth in the early morning 11 April 2014. **Papa Roger** picked me up at Perth International Airport and drove me to his residence. He showed me the workshop and everything near his house. After that, I met with throwers from Germany. Oh my God! I met Gunter Moeller, shook his hand and took a photo. He is one of the famous players I know. It made me very happy.

World Boomerang Cup 2014 – World Cup Newcomers and the Perry Outback Adventure

Yudhiana Ardisoma - continued...

The happiness did not stop. It continued when I met Eric Darnell, Patrice Castel, Stephane, Jerome Royo, Fridolin Frost etc. and absolutely with my **big Idol** Manuel Schütz—they're the **living legends** for me.

I stayed in the same cabin with Papa Roger, Angie and Grant Perry. I was surprised with this family's hospitality. Mama Angie showed me everything with detail, she spoke slowly and carefully, which helped me understand.

On tournament day, we started with Accuracy. Simon Bollen and I gave a big contribution for Australian Team 2, because we placed in 2nd position for Accuracy! It was also a big surprise and I was so happy. I also had much happiness on Gel Day. It was full of fun and crazy things. I liked that. It should be played in Indonesia one day.

During the tournament, I watched and learned everything about real competition, and I saw everybody keep throwing, even in wind with good technique and the right boomerang. I also saw the brotherhood between all participants. It is like a **big family**, and they accepted me as part of this family. That was the most important thing for me.

When the **IFBA General Meeting** was held, Roger asked me to follow for the meeting. It was great when Mr. President asked me to speak about Boomerangs in Indonesia. It was a chance to talk about our boomerang activity. Finally, I asked Mr President to accept Indonesia as a member of the IFBA, and accept Indonesia as part of the boomerang family.

Between tournament days, I followed the **Auction Night** that I had never seen before. I saw so many beautiful boomerangs. I really enjoyed the session.

At the end of the tournament, it was a very sad moment to say goodbye to everyone. I hope we can meet again at the next WBC.

On my way back to Indonesia, I thought of the experience, the happy memories, and how much there was to learn. It should mean good things for our boomerang family in Indonesia. I hope it will start a great beginning for the Indonesian boomerang community.

I really want to say thanks to Papa Roger for his kindnesses. When he visits Indonesia with other throwers, he always supports, teaches, helps and makes lots of fun for our Indonesian boomerang family.

Yudhiana was introduced to boomerangs by Roger Perry and is now a representative of the Indonesian boomerang community. He presented his countries request to become an IFBA member at the 2014 IFBA General Meeting.



Pictured from left – Grant Perry, Yudhiana Ardisoma and "Papa" Roger Perry

The Perry Outback Adventure by Roger Perry

Well... the adventure started with **Takeshi Honda** arriving in January to stay with the Perry's and help make a stack of boomerangs before the World Cup in April.



Takeshi in Indonesia with Sigit Randhi and Juwita, just before the Tunas Bumi 4 competition.

Takeshi was great to have stay with us and Angie was happy to fatten him up for the World Cup. I **marvelled** at his patience in making the competition boomerangs, spending 3 hours or more on one boomerang. Generally every day, he made at least one competition boomerang. In March, we both went over for a week in Indonesia and had a really great time. Takeshi won the event and enhanced the boomerang spirit with Indonesian throwers. (Continued next page...)

World Boomerang Cup 2014 – Perry Outback Adventure

The first of the International throwers arrived late March. First there was Stevie Kavanaugh and his son Caden, and then a few days later, Manuel Schutz, who arrived just in time for the WA State Competition. Even with **jet lag**, Manu couldn't be beaten and won the competition.

Following the State Competition, many throwers arrived and stayed with us, which led to Gunter Moeller calling it "The Perry Outback Adventure". We had lots of Aussie BBQs and even the Kangaroos turned up to say "hello". The throwers were put to work though, and Gunter took control and had all the throwers and myself packing up last minute orders. They all did a great job, which was a big help to Angie and myself. Thanks guys!

The weekend was the Australian Championships and it was so good to have throwers from around the world attend. The winner was Takeshi Honda, but I noticed that Sascha Winkler had lost none of his easy relaxed style and concentration, a sign of things to come. It was a fantastic day, which finished up with an Aussie BBQ and a few cold beers. Angie did a great job with the food. All the WA throwers got in and gave a hand to make the day run smoothly. Grant was the top placed Aussie, winning his 3rd straight Australian Championship.

World Cup

Arrival day- I picked up **Yudhiana** from Indonesia and we spent part of the day catching up with all the throwers, which included the traditional beer run for the Germans. Everyone, including myself, was very impressed with the flash accommodation.

Registration day- I took a bus load of throwers and spent the day visiting a few wineries in the Swan Valley. We had lunch at the Feral Brewery, finishing off with the famous honey shop and their "to die for" honey ice cream, all of which was only a stone's throw from the accommodation.

Day 1 Team day- unfortunately, we were reduced to 5 throwers, as Sigit from Indonesia could not get his visa, which was really sad. Our team camped under the trees, as it was a hot day and it wouldn't be great jammed in under the tent. We were soon joined by others looking for a cool spot. Our team "Drop Bears" didn't have a great day in competition, but we all loved being amongst teams from around the world.

Day 2- was luckily a bit cooler and a slightly better day for our team, although Gary injured his ankle, which put us down to four able throwers.

Thanks to Gary Mitchell for supplying the kangaroo for the overseas throwers to taste the roo meat during the evening meal, a very Australian experience.

Day 3- my team's best day, and Gary did help by making it through, even though he had ankle injury. It was great to see new thrower's Paul Craft from Queensland and Yudhiana Ardisoma in the "Kangaroo's" team really enjoy the experience, and I was very impressed with Nick Pritchard's big improvement in this team. It was also nice to have Josh Smith back in world team play.

Gel Day- always my favourite day of a World Cup, relaxing and having time to chat to everyone, play games and get the throw sticks out to try at hitting inflatable Kangaroos. There were lots of visitors and friends, including Ian Sproull and Sam Blight. The highlight for me was **Stephan Spirgi** in his Dinosaur suit having a run around the field and even having a go at the throw stick competition- hilarious.

Individual Day 1- I was confident that I could go well in this event after a 13th in Brazil but the horrible Perth winds destroyed me in Aussie Round. In fact, I had only two scoring throws. I know I wasn't alone, but it was ugly. So I prepared to do better in the next event, but unfortunately **Eduardo Mistico** of Brazil injured his ankle and I had to take him to the hospital.

Individual Day 2- Gunter Moeller and I decided not to compete after missing events on the first day, but went down to support Grant and **Sascha Winkler** who was at that time in 2nd place overall. I was watching Grant when I heard screams to get over to Sascha's circle, as he was in agony on the ground. Unfortunately he had a **torn patella** and it was back to the hospital. This was really sad, not only because it ended his chance of winning the Individuals, but also because we had made big plans to holiday together after the World Cup. At the hospital with Christian Meyer, I was advised to get him on the next plane home, so we sat up all night rebooking flights. I took Sascha to the airport early the following morning after Fridolin Frost's wife, Andrea, did a great job taping him up.

Last Day- awards ceremony was a lovely relaxing day at the accommodation with another BBQ. It was nice to see the Japanese so happy with their win in the Team Cup and **Andre Caixa** from Brazil as the Individual champion. It certainly is a win for boomerangs to see new champions emerge and I was very proud to see **Grant Perry** make it to the top 10. He worked very hard for that.

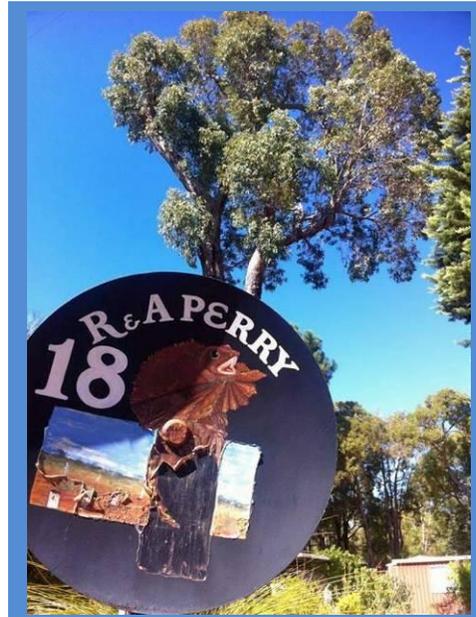
Departure days are always sad, but this time it was not so bad, as we were heading off to stay in a big house on 15 acres of bush, only 1km from the beach, with lots of International throwers and members of my family. We all had a wonderful time at beaches, wineries, and restaurants in Yallingup and **Margaret River**. In all, we had six incredible days there with way too many stories to tell now. When we returned to Perth, Christian Meyer, Matthias Giesenschlag and Inken Kirsten stayed a few more days with us and James Stickney spent one more week visiting more wineries. A big thanks to my long suffering wife, who looked after as much as sixteen people at the house before the Cup and was again **mother hen** on the trip down south, making sure everyone was looked after. – Roger Perry

The Bedforddale Factory

The home of Roger and Angie Perry should certainly have a place in boomerang history. Anybody who has achieved greatness in the world of boomerangs has come for a brief stay at the home affectionately named the "Bedforddale Factory", because it is the central hub of boomerang business in Western Australia and where a great many boomerangs are designed, shaped, crafted and finally painted. If we look back only over the past 10 years, the home has been visited by world champions Takeshi Honda, Gunter Moeller, Alex Opri, Rob Croll, Manuel Schutz, Steve Kavanaugh, Andrea Sgattoni, Mark Legg, Fridolin Frost and many others, and just recently, Roger and Angie had some of these throwers stay briefly at the home preparing and shaping their boomerangs at the factory for the 2014 World Cup.

The home is nestled in the quiet suburb of Bedforddale, which is surrounded by native Australian bush and at dusk, kangaroos can be seen quietly grazing, just beyond the rear fence. For anybody from the other side of the world, it is the best introduction to Australia that you can imagine. The clear stars at night, the smell of black boy burning on the barbecue, the familiar smells of native flora and the infinite surrounding quiet is a perfect example of the Australian experience. However, during the day, sounds of roaring fans, drills and circular sanders split the tranquil home setting with their raucous notes! Roger Perry has had many years' experience designing and shaping boomerangs, and for anybody who has watched him work, they would be amazed at how many boomerang's he can shape and paint in a single making session. The frenzied pace almost follows an automatic rhythm, which the end product, the completed boomerang, does not reflect, as they are beautifully finished in an infinite variety of boomerang colours and design patterns across many different shapes. How does somebody achieve such boundless creativity by working so fast? If you do stay at Roger's place, you may likely find yourself working in the factory trying to keep pace with Roger's rhythm, as Takeshi Honda found out when he stayed a few months before the World Cup. When Takeshi was not busy at work designing and shaping his boomerangs with the big holes, he was busy assisting Roger with the boomerang orders.

At all other times, the Bedforddale Factory and home is a quiet place. Angie occupies a good part of her time looking after the fruit trees and among other interests, Roger has a love of red wine and classic cars.



The "Bedforddale Factory" signpost



Roger at work with the spray gun



The factory – Roger with Nick Pritchard and Mike Bryant



Takeshi Honda, Allejandro Benedetti, Manuel Schutz, Rob Croll, Sascha Winkler, Andrea Sgattoni – shaping before the World Cup

Around the World

An Incredible Boomerang Story by David Hirsch of USA

"I've never lost a boomerang!"...

Wow, have I got a boomerang story for you!

Summer, 2008, a month before the Seattle WBC. I'm in my field practicing with one of my long distance Voyagers. I throw, I lose it in some trees/brush and can't find it. The year before, I had written a story of how I'd never lost a boomerang. Then today, May 31, 2014, as I go out for a run on the path near the field where I throw boomerangs, one of the folks I've known for years who walks his dogs in the area, and whom I'd alerted to this fact, says to me "Hey, I found one of your boomerangs." OMG! Karma, miracle, boomerangs do come back, however you want to say it! Six years later, he finds the only boomerang I've ever lost! And it's like I threw it yesterday! The paint, the G10, it has set in six years of Texas extreme weather, from single digit Fahrenheit to one of the hottest summers we've ever had, with 70 days of over 100F and you can't tell the difference! The paint, the G10, no delamination, no difference at all, except for where the mowers scraped only the barest of layers of paint from one side. I can't fricking believe it! It was exactly where I thought it had been in the bushes or trees on the edge of the area where I'd thrown it. I was sure it had stuck in the trees, but three years ago this bush had died and they'd cut it down and then the boom fell to the ground. The guy wouldn't have found it but his dog was digging about. It had been in the tree and then fell to the ground under some cut grass when they cut the bush down.

Six years and my boomerang came back! It flies as good today as it ever did. Sharp and hard like only a day lost. And now I can say again, I've never lost a boomerang! I'll have it with me to show at the tournaments this summer but I still am in shock... I can't believe it and I'm grinning ear to ear!

David Hirsch



The boomerang - lost for six years, then found

In the Media

Some throwers returned home from the World Cup to find media interest waiting.

The most sensational home return was for Andre Caxeita Robeiro, whose 1st place win in the Perth Individuals World Championships excited the Brazilian press and several articles appeared in newspapers. His face also appeared across the sides of double decker buses and Brazilian boomerang websites hailed Andre as their new hero.

Logan Broadbent, Betsy Lew, Daniel Bower, Steve Kavanaugh and Kenny Barr of USA were interviewed for sports articles and talked on radio and television. Logan, the Trick Catch World Champion, showed all the people in Ohio his brilliant trick catching skills in a televised interview, and Kenny Barr talked about his World Cup experience from the perspective of a newcomer to the sport.

Tournaments

Not long after the World Cup had finished, throwers around the world were competing again.

European throwers participated in the first Dutch **Lekker, Lekker Boomerang Cup**, which was held in Vinkeveen over the 21st June weekend. For Holland, it was their first ever boomerang cup held in many years. Throwers and visitors from six different countries came to participate – Netherlands, UK, Germany, Denmark, Italy and Switzerland. The Cup organisers welcomed Fridolin Frost and Manuel Schutz to the event and not surprisingly, Fridolin won the cup and Manu came second. In 3rd place was Christian Meyer, 4th Klaus Habe and in 5th Tobi Giesenschlag.

There have also been competitions in USA. The **25th Annual Gateway Classic** was held in Waterloo, Illinois on the 27th May and organised by Chicago Bob, and the **2014 US Boomerang Association National Championships**, which was held in Delaware, Ohio (hometown of organiser and boomerang legend **Chet Snouffer**), on the 1st weekend of August saw **Daniel Bower** take his 4th championship win, with second place going to brother **Richard Bower** and in 3rd was **Logan Broadbent**. Australia's very own **Simon Bollen** from Adelaide attended the event and received awards in the Aesthetics competition and was respectably placed in Long Distance.

Roger Perry and his son Grant will be going to Spain next year for the **2015 European Championships**. Good luck Grant and Roger!

And that's a wrap.