



BAA BOOMERANG BULLETIN

JUNE 1993

Number 78

BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
(Est 1969)



Champion Thrower Bunny Read

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1993 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**Held at the Perry Residence 12/03/93**

Meeting commenced at 8.50pm.

PRESENT: R. Perry, R. Croll, A. Carroll, B. Carter, I Sproul, K. Moran, G. Mitchell, Ryan Perry, M. Rowden, A. Leicester.

APOLOGIES: Johnston Family, Byham Family, Barras Family, P. Bryden, Sam Blight, D. Maxwell, B. Kemp, M. Howarth, B. Thomas, B. Forsyth...Brett Doyle & N. Gottschalk.

The minutes of the 1992 Annual General Meeting - held in Leopold, Victoria, were read by B. Carter...Moved by R. Croll they be received 2nd. K. Moran.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Secretary had passed on a copy of a list which contained his articles for Correspondence In and the letters written as Correspondence Out.

STATEREPORTS:

NEW SOUTH WALES: Adam Carroll reported in Brian Thomas's absence..

NSW has announced its list of competitions to be conducted in 1993.

The State Titles will be conducted at Oxford Falls the weekend the weekend following the Nationals - March the 21st. Central Coast Championships - Gosford - April 18th.

Eastern Suburbs Championships - Waverly - May 23rd

Albury Championships - October 2nd and 3rd.

Blue Mountain Championships - November 21st.

There is a possibility that the NSW Association will offer to host the 1994 Australian Titles - A decision on next years Nationals will be announced within the next 2 months...

There is concern from all throwers regarding these events in NSW. It is of great benefit to boomerang throwing with NSW having organised events, but it seems that credit is still mainly given to the winner of the Aussie Round - not the Overall Champion...Also it was felt that NSW should use the set of 10 Trick Catches now fully accepted throughout Australia - plus the Doubling rules as used in all the BAA recognised competition...

Some Victorians will be represented at some of these NSW events.....

VICTORIA: Rob reported in Dennis Maxwell's absence.

Victoria has a few events lined up for 93 with the Victorian Titles to be held on December the 5th at Braeside Park...

A series of Fun Days and Demos are being conducted throughout Victoria in an attempt to boost BAA membership..

B. Carter and Adam Carroll hoping to organise a Victoria Vs N.S.W. challenge in a series of team events....

WESTERNAUSTRALIA:

Roger Perry reported that the oval to be used for the Nationals - in Booragoon is in perfect condition and that the Titles have attracted plenty of attention from the Media and the general public.... A Fun Day has been organised for the Sunday in an attempt to boost participation of the public throwing boomerangs.

Roger announced that due to the high costs of hiring the oval and number of entries being down from expected entrants - throwers from the Eastern States would be required to pay entry fees... for these Titles.. (\$10 for the 2 days)

Night boomerangs have caught the public's eye in the West and maybe this weekend a small night time comp could be organised...

Roger Perry is trying to attract more funds for the BAA from the West, by either attracting more members or having a discussion with the Karragullen members.

TASMANIA: B. Carter reported that Michael Miller from Tasmania is interested in conducting a future comp in Tasmania. He hopes to be at next year's Nationals as well as visit Melbourne to maybe meet some of the Melbourne throwers....A set of rules will be sent to Michael ASAP from Ian Sproul..

No other State Reports were received...

The following members were re confirmed as their respective State Reps:

NSW: Br. Brian Thomas, VIC: Dennis Maxwell, SA: Barry Forsythe, TAS: Michael Miller, WA: Ian Sproul QLD: Bob Burwell.

PRESIDENTSREPORT:

B.C. congratulated WA throwers in hosting their first Nationals. We hope that this is the first of many more Nationals in Western Australia.

* The BAA must find more income to cover the cost of the Bulletin and Insurance...

* Richard Barras will be ordering drinking glasses for the BAA with our logo on them, we hope that members will help to sell as many as possible...

* Problems have been plentiful regarding the posting of the Bulletins to the Members. This problem must be rectified immediately as we can not afford unhappy members.

* Brian Kemp has been working very hard on re-writing the BAA rules and recording the official records.

1993 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONT....

More discussion on these rules in General Business.

* The BAA has had an official request to host the year 2000 World Cup..again this will be discussed in General Business. The organising panel at this stage is Dennis Maxwell, Rob Croll, and Brain Thomas..Venues will be Alice Springs and Ayres Rock.

* There seems to be a belief from members that by doing demos they will be covered by the BAA insurance...This is so IF - MEMBERS OF THE BAA ARE NOT A) SELLING BOOMERANGS FOR THEIR OWN REQUIREMENTS or B) BEING PAID TO DO THIS DEMO....In other words it is quite clear that the only demos that will be covered by the BAA insurance are demos that any money raised goes to the BAA or demos where our sport is promoted - without any member receiving any form of financial assistance - by way of payment or boomerang sales...

If members are doing demonstrations it is suggested that they take out their own personal accident insurance policy!!!!

* The 1993 World Cup to be held in Canada has been cancelled. The President has sent letters to John Cryderman (organiser) and to the Canadian newspapers...It is hoped that at a later date Canada will host a World Cup and that Australia is well represented..

It was not the organisers fault that the Cup was cancelled - just a few ignorant councillors in Chatham, Canada and a few noisy residents. Members of the BAA who want more of the reasons can contact the President..

* The next World Cup could be held in Japan...as soon as anything official is announced it will be published in the Bulletin...

* In closing the President thanked R. Perry and Angie for their hospitality towards the Eastern State throwers, and he thanked the other 3 throwers from the Eastern States help to make these Nationals successful.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Although the Bank Balance End of the Working Account looks promising this year when compared to last year, a few considerations must be taken into account first.

1. This balance was again enhanced by the sum of five-hundred dollars being swapped from the BAA World Cup Account into the Working Account.

2. Some of 1993's Membership has already been added to this total.

3. 1993 Insurance, our biggest expense, has yet to be paid.

Therefore all indications show another lean year for the Boomerang Association of Australia Inc., unless an effective method of earning revenue is found. Should membership fees be increased and risk some members dropping out of the Association? This must be considered at this A.G.M. Please put this possible form of revenue collection to the members and discuss the possible outcomes.

The BAA is in desperate need of increased revenue and the best way to increase income is to increase membership. This must take the greatest priority in the forthcoming year. Without increased revenue the BAA will soon be non existent.

Yours sincerely

Rohan Johnston
Treasurer BAA Inc.



BAA INC. WORKING ACCOUNT
Treasurers Report for the Period 1/1/92-28/2/93.

Bank Balance Start	\$ 745.83
CREDITS	
Membership	\$ 1305.00
Grants/Interest	\$ 16.96
Donations	\$ 724.00
Advertising	\$ 91.00
CREDIT TOTAL	\$ 2136.96
DEBITS	
Stationery	\$ Nil
Prizes	\$ 211.45
Publicity	\$ 124.50
Insurance	\$ 673.54
Sundry	\$ 919.39
DEBIT TOTAL	\$ 1928.88
Bank Balance End	\$ 953.91

BAA INC. WORLD CUP ACCOUNT
Treasurers Report 1992

Bank Balance Start	\$6417.01
CREDITS	
Money Raised	\$ Nil
Interest	\$ 233.92
CREDIT TOTAL	\$ 233.92
DEBITS	
Competitors	\$ 540.00
Tax	\$ 0.49
BAA	\$ 560.00
DEBIT TOTAL	\$ 1100.49
Bank Balance End	\$5550.44

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT	B. Carter	Nominated	K. Moran	Seconded	I. Sproul
VICEPRESIDENT	R. Perry	Nominated	R. Croll	Seconded	I. Sproul
SECRETARY	R. Barras	Nominated	R. Perry	Seconded	I. Sproul
TREASURER	R. Johnston	Nominated	R. Perry	Seconded	R. Croll
EDITOR	M. Howarth	Nominated	R. Croll	Seconded	K. Moran

PUBLICITY OFFICER After much discussion, mainly due to Nick Gottschalk's heavy commitment with the Red Cross, it was decided that the BAA really needs 2 Publicity Officers - especially one from the West due to their distance from the Eastern States...It was moved by KEVIN MORAN and seconded by ADAM CARROLL that the 2 PUBLICITY OFFICERS be Nick and Roger Perry.....It was carried unanimously.

PROPERTY OFFICER R. Croll Nominated K. Moran Seconded R. Perry.

GENERAL BUSINESS

* Rule Books::::: B. Carter was asked to pass on the BAA thanks to Brian Kemp for all of his work involved with the 1993 Edition of the Competition Rules.. B. C. and other members have gone through these rules and are quite happy with the end results....Instead of having the meeting extend for hours, it was decided that the rules will go as printed, and if any member has noticed any discrepancy it will be discussed at the next AGM. But first the member must discuss the problem with the President and he will bring it up at the next Executive Meeting. Due to an acute lack of funds it was decided that if any member wants a new Competition Rule Book they must contact **IAN SPROULE - 38 COOGEE RD > ARDROSS PERTH _ W.A. 6153....** together with a cheque or money order for \$3.00, Ian will send the money on to the Treasurer - minus his printing and postage costs... **MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Ian** and not the Treasurer or Editor is handling the postage of the Rule Books..**HIS PHONE NUMBER IS (09) 364 4349 AH.**

* **MORE ON RULES:** As there has been no complaints - it is now official that the BAA events should have the following catches (10) for the Trick Catching Event - 1 - Any catch, 2 - Left hand, 3 - Right hand, 4 - Under leg, 5 - Behind back, 6 - One hand clean under leg, 7 - One hand behind back clean, 8 - Hackey sack - kick the boom and then catch it., 9 - In the feet catch - both feet clear of the ground, 10 - One hand under leg - both feet on the ground ----NOTE feet must be flat on the ground - the heels cannot be lifted...

DOUBLING - 1st throw any 2 catches, 2nd throw - Left hand clean / right hand clean in any order....If 1st CATCH IS DROPPED CAN GO FOR THE SAME CATCH AGAIN, 3rd throw - UNDER LEG / BEHIND BACK, 4th throw - ONE HAND UNDER LEG / BEHIND BACK, 5th throw - Any catch and in the feet catch...

***** Whoever wins these events at this year's Nationals will be declared the current Australian Record Holder in these events... As these records are broken - please contact the President... Once the 10 catches are taken, we ask organisers to put the competitor through the same series of catches again until a drop... That score will become the Australian Record....(any queries please contact the President).

It was decided that if organisers want to they can make Doubling / Trick Catching just one event....NOTE: All booms must travel at least 20 metres.

OTHER EVENTS FOR COMPETITION: Any competition can include – Endurance, Juggling, Long Distance, Doubling, Trick Catching, Accuracy, MTA, Aussie Round, Fast Catch...**BUT THE EVENTS MUST BE PLACED IN THE BOOMERANG JOURNAL (Bulletin) PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION IF POSSIBLE....**

*******PLEASE NOTE***** FOR THE NATIONALS ***** ANY OF THESE EVENTS CAN BE CONDUCTED AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE "OVERALL" ---- BUT THROWERS MUST HAVE AT LEAST 12 MONTHS NOTICE OF THE EVENTS & "AUSSIE ROUND" MUST BE HELD AT EVERY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP...and AT LEAST 5 EVENTS MUST BE CONDUCTED --- Organisers also remember that the Nationals will be held over 2 days (AGM 1992) – One of these days could be used for team events...AND THE TOURNAMENT REFEREE FOR ALL FUTURE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS MUST BE A PERSON WHO IS NOT COMPETING IN THESE CHAMPIONSHIPS...**

* As of now it is official that multi bladers are allowed and holes are permitted – up to 25 mm in diameter. FLAPS – or tapes loose on boomerangs are permitted as long as when flattened on the edge of the boomerang they don't go past the opposite edge – they cannot be wider than the arm of the boomerang...

* **SHORTAGE OF FUNDS IN THE BAA ACCOUNT...**In an attempt to raise some much needed funds, Roger Perry, has offered to donate a boomerang which will be auctioned through the Boomerang Bulletin.. The highest bidder, by the next Nationals will be declared the owner of the boom and all money will go to the BAA. If successful, we hope that other makers will donate booms to be auctioned the same way... Roger will also donate a new FUNRANG to every NEW member that joins the BAA...**THANK YOU ROGER...**

* **WORLD CUP YEAR 2000 –** Dennis Maxwell's proposal included that teams would be of 4 throwers... One team per country, the tournament to be conducted at Alice Springs and Ayers Rock ..over one week's duration. There would also be an Individual Tournament... A discussion over this event and the number of teams, and venue was rather lengthy... **A motion was put forward by Kevin Moran that Australia should host the World Cup in the Year 2000 – but in Sydney or Sydney and Melbourne – Especially seeing that the Sydney bid for the Olympic Games in 2000 is gathering momentum....This motion was seconded by Adam Carroll – and the members were unanimous in their decision...**

The members at the AGM asked Bruce and Rob to have a discussion with the Tournament Organiser – Dennis Maxwell and have the results printed in the Bulletin...

The Ladies Perpetual Trophy was not taken to Perth. The Property Officer and the President to chase up its whereabouts and have it sent to Perth ASAP.

* BAA Caps are still available at \$8.00 each and it is hoped that all members help to sell them...

* **WORLD CUP FUNDS –** \$300.00 is still outstanding for each member who attended the World Championships in Germany last year. B. C. to discuss with the Treasurer.....

* **CONFUSION STILL REIGNS REGARDING M. T. A. EVENTS...**Events can now be 3 or 5 throws – **BUT ORGANISERS MUST INFORM THROWERS PRIOR TO THE COMPETITION – NOT ON THE ACTUAL DAY!!!** MOVED Roger Perry Seconded Ian Sproul that the MTA Event be either 3 or 5 throws – at the Tournament Organisers discretion...**CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

* A motion was moved by Rob, Seconded by Ian Sproul that the 1994 BAA fees be increased by \$5.00 ---- Again this motion was voted in as unanimous...

1994 FEES WILL BE:

JUNIOR.....	Under 16 Years of Age.....	\$ 10.00 Annual
SENIOR.....	16 Years and Over.....	\$ 30.00 "
FAMILY.....	Immediate Family at same Address.....	\$ 35.00 "
PENSIONER.....	Sen \$15.00 Overseas.....	\$ 20.00 "
OVERSEAS.....		\$ 40.00 "
SUSTAINING.....	Annual Donation.....	\$ 50.00 "
BULLETIN ONLY.....	Within Australia.....	\$ 15.00 "

JOINING FEE REMAINS THE SAME AT \$ 5.00.

The meeting was closed with members being encouraged to buy the latest update of the rules, which could not have been possible without the work of Brian Kemp...

The meeting was closed at 10:45 pm..

Bruce Carter
President.

GLENROY INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

We had planned to hold a FUN DAY prior to the Nationals, but after considerable mix ups with the council and local papers, it was decided to hold this event a bit later in the year. So instead we held a Invitational Comp - 1 week prior to the Nationals at the back of the Carters place. At the last moment this day was organised and the four throwers were Dennis Maxwell and Rob Croll, Kempy and Carter.

SCORES WERE:

AUSSIEROUND: BC-53 DM-48 RC-47 BK-28

DOUBLING: RC - 1st DM 2nd BC 3rd BK 4th

ACCURACY: DM-20 BK-16 BC-8 RC-2

CCID: BC-7 BK-6 RC-5 DM-4

FAST CATCH: BC-36.91 RC-47.8 DM-53.1 BK-4c

MTA: RC-42.8 BK-22.79 BC-20.5 DM-

OVERALL: BC-18 RC-16 DM-14 BK-12

Bruce Carter.

NICK GOTTSCHALK REPORTS FROM AFGHANISTAN

During four months of work in a surgical hospital for war wounded in Afghanistan, I had the opportunity to visit some of the many mine fields around the city of Jalalabad, where the Red Cross team was based. Many of our patients had received their injuries in these fields while others came from great distances, often too late. Current UN figures show that 80% of mine victims in Afganistan never reach a hospital or First Aid Post. Like in many other countries, mines are part of the grim legacy of a long war, a war that is now perpetuated by prolonged internal fighting. Estimates as to the number of remaining mines vary from 2 - 10 million. Other estimates indicate that it could take 20 - 70 years to clear all the mined areas. The fact is that nobody knows, nobody could possibly put an approximate figure to this sad chapter of Afghanistan's history. Some of the heaviest fighting during the war had taken place here in and around Jalalabad, the city halfway between the Khyber Pass and Kabul. Now, as the millions of refugees are returning into Afghanistan, the number of mine injuries is increasing, particularly as the farming community wants to move back onto the land to take up their traditional agriculture. Often they begin

by clearing the long neglected narrow irrigation channels that are frequently barely 50 cm wide, yet wide enough to contain mines. We met two Australian de-mining experts who are here for a period of six months to train and supervise a small team of Afghan de-miners. The morning begin with a lecture on the many different types of mines, some positioned underground and some above ground. The above ground mines we later saw in the field reminded me of surveyor pegs sticking out 20 - 30 cm, placed at 2 - 5 metre intervals and covering a large area. They were iner-connected by thin trip wire. Humans are not the only ones that fall victim to these mines, but also animals, ranging from dogs and sheep, goats, cattle, horses, donkeys and camels. Many of the mines are picked up by children, especially a small type of mine called "butterfly". Some will not explode until they have been rotated at least twenty times and the explosion does not occur until children have taken the "butterfly" into their home. Underground mines usually require a weight or pressure of about 5 Kg. Anti tank mines, of course, are not set off by the weight of a man. Small fragmentation mines, containing 130 gms of explosives, were the cause of most of our patient's severe injuries. The purpose is not to kill, but to inflict injury, to turn the victim into an expensive liability. A great amount of manpower is required to evacuate the patient from the mine field, in itself a highly dangerous procedure, followed by occupying staff of various departments in the hospital right through to the manufacture of and eventual training in the use of a prothesis in the frequent event of amputation of limbs. Added to all this is the everlasting personal effect on the patient and his or her family. In some societies a female amputee has virtually no hope of ever finding a husband. A surgeon who treats war wounded must recognise that some cultures take a different view of limb amputation. One patient may prefer a useless limb to a functioning prothesis, whilst others may prefer to die from their wounds rather than suffer amputation. Such views must be accepted and accommodated in decision making. One mine field we visited was surrounded by neat market garden plots that carried various vegetable crops ready for harvesting whilst one area remained to be de-mined. A "spotter", equipped with something like a metal detector on an extra long handle, gently moved along the edge of the field, often stopping when metallic abjects registered. This, of course, happened all the time because of the incredible number of cartridges embedded in the ground. The "spotter" was followed by the "prodder" who lies on his stomach and painstakingly seperates every blade of grass and vegatation with a long thick piece of wire, inching his way forward and carefully exposing what the "spotter" has discovered. We moved along a previously cleared narrow path in Indian file. Being polite I always said to my friends "after you". Needless to say, plastic mines escape the metal detector. In some areas squads of sniffer dogs operate and we were told that the dogs, just like humans, have their good and bad days for a more or less successful performance of duty. As we were walking through the mine field our Danish anaesthetist said that he was going tell his family

in his next letter about our outing with the de-miners and he added that his mother would not like it at all. Spontaneously I answered: "mine is watching over me", and I knew that she was. The two Australians and their team of Afghans have my greatest admiration for the dangerous and responsible work they do. I know they are held in the highest regard by the local population who immediately move into a cleared area as soon as possible even though a 100% guarantee for complete clearance can never be given. - Twenty mine fields around Jalalabad have been cleared and a further 25 are being surveyed. Who knows how many victims the mines will claim, but to the Afghan population this has sadly become a way of life. Much of all this misery is being blamed upon the "Westerners", and understandably so. When I returned to the hospital in the afternoon another perspective had been added to my work.

Well, you may ask: "What does de-mining have to do with boomerang throwers?" Good question, deserves a good answer, or have you guessed already? Of course, I had my boomerangs with me, in fact at one stage I had the old Omega shaped Bunny Read in my hand, ready to launch over a mine field. However, in the last moment common sense prevailed and at the same time a brief and stern "Don't!" from one of the Aussie de-miners reminded me that it would have been totally irresponsible to have thrown a boomerang that could have landed on a trip wire and endangered the lives of all of us. Let's face it, it can happen to even the best throwers that occasionally a rang does not return to the exact spot where intended and when one stands within less than 5 metres from dangerous mines one should not tempt fate. No hope to get into the famous book of records. Now I would like to ask you, the reader, whether you would have taken the risk? Come on, be honest, yes or no? Now it looks as though Red Cross will send me for a third time to Africa, which means that my next letter to the Editor may well originate from a hot climate, quite a difference from Afghanistan's beautiful snow capped mountains.

With best wishes to all my boomerang friends.

Nick Gottschalk
Jalalabad, Afghanistan
February 1993.

" Maybe Nick could go into the record books as the first thrower not to throw over a mine field! "

Bruce Carter.

NEW AUSSIE RECORDS SET AT THE NATIONALS IN PERTH

Trick Catching - Roger Perry 9 out of 10

Doubling - Brett Dessent - 5 catches

CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER

The winner of the Caption Competition was Barry Forsyth, with the following caption:-

"It's time I learnt to throw left-handed".

For his troubles Barry has won the following:-

- * Free Membership for One Year to the B.A.A.
- * One Natural Wood Boomerang
- * One Bill Onus Boomerang
- * One Free Quarter Page Advertisement in the Bulletin for One Year.

Congratulations Barry.

Mark W. Howarth
Editor.

BOOMING BOOMERANGS

A boomerang is a curved piece of wood that when thrown comes back to the thrower. Bommerangs were originally used by Australia's Aborigines as weapons. Today, throwing a boomerang is a sport enjoyed by thousands of Australians.

Roger Perry threw his first boomerang as a boy growing up in the New South Wales town of Broken Hill. Now he takes part in boomerang tournaments all over the world. Roger not only throws boomerangs but he also designs and makes them. His greatest enjoyment, however comes from teaching others about his sport. Roger spends six months of every year holding boomerang workshops at schools around Australia. At these workshops, young Australians learn about the boomer-

ang's place in their country's cultural history. They also get a chance to try throwing a boomerang. According to Roger, anyone can learn to throw a boomerang. How would you like to try this Australian sport?

*Extract from
MOSAICS - Sports
from Around the
World by Melissa
Billings.*





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28th August, 1993.**

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AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1993 Australian and West Australian Championships were staged at Len Shearer Reserve in Booragoon Perth. Competitors from Sydney, Melbourne and West Australia braved the "Fremantle Doctor" wind to fight out one of the closest competitions ever.

The Overall in the seniors was up for grabs until the last event being accuracy. The competition started with Trick Catching in still conditions, with the new format catches this was one by Roger Perry with 9 out of a possible 10 catches. The next event was Fast Catch and .84 of a second separated 1st to 4th place, the eventual winner was Adam Carrol of Sydney. The start of Aussie Round saw the wind arrive and test out all throwers; Ian Sproull ended up with a fine 56 followed by Rob Croll who picked up his 3rd 2nd place in a row. Next was MTA and Rob was determined to win his first event unfortunately Ian put an end to that idea on his last throw with a 23.80 and Rob his 4th 2nd placing.

After the long break Doubling was held in extremely strong winds boom throwers were running like crazy just to catch the one boom, eventual winner was Brett Dessent with his great wind Doublers and scored 5 followed by you guessed it Rob Croll. Going into the last event Rob Croll was leading Roger Perry followed by the late charge of Ian Sproull and the consistent Steve Pankhurst's accuracy saw everyone brought to earth with the eventual winner being Bruce Carter followed by novice John Edwards.

Rob Croll although disappointed at not winning an event ended up taking the Australian Championship followed by Ian Sproull, Steve Pankhurst, Roger Perry and Bruce Carter in 5th.

The juniors was won by Gary Mitchell who dominated the day with three 1sts and a 2nd, Gary is aged 13 and certainly has a bright future ahead of him. In 2nd place was wonder girl Marie Rowden who many might remember winning the World Fun Day Trick Catching in Perth a few years ago, Marie had one 1st and three 2nds, in 3rd place for juniors was John Metzakis who has greatly improved over the last year.

In the ladies Angie Leicester held on to win from Leonie Metzakis (Rad Mamma).

Catch of the day was won by Marie Rowden with a diving one hand catch.

Day 2 of the Australian Championships was a fun day and kids ended up easy winners their team consisted of Gary Mitchell, Ryan Perry, Marie Rowden and John Metzakis. The competition was a success and Perth looks forward to one day again staging the Australian Championships and we thank the Eastern Staters for making the big trip.

NEWS FROM THE WEST.....

Boomerangs have been on the move in the West with the recent staging of the Australian Championships. Thanks to Angie and the crew who helped to put the event together with a minium of fuss. The West Australian Titles were combined with the Australian and it is by far the closest competition ever held. The points for the competition are as follows:-

1st. Steve Pankhurst	56 pts.
2nd Roger Perry	55.5pts.
3rd Ian Sproull	55 pts.
4th Greg Obrien	45 pts.
5th Brett Dessent	41 pts.

The general boomerang scene in Perth is on the move with many throwers out and about the parks both at day and night. The big lift has been via the night displays which have been held every Friday and Saturday night since early October. March 27th was the night Fever Team's last show for summer and more than 1,200 spectators turned out to see the dazzling lights. The team features the top senior and junior throwers in Perth who have all adjusted to the night catching in variable conditions.

Over the next 2 months we are putting together a night video with the help of a documentary producer whom we roped into the boomerang scene. There are plans under way for myself to head up to Darwin to hold making workshops at the schools and night shows around July / August.

The Karragullen Boomerang Club is still alive and well and meets every 2nd Wednesday at Karragullen Oval, numbers have been very high this year on the Wednesdays. With winter just around the corner the club will meet at the Workers Club in Pickering Brook starting June till September.

Over the next few months making workshops for the club, night competitions, and fun days will be held contact myself or Jeff Kennedy for more info.

Thats all from the West, regards to all boomers around Australia

Roger Perry.

APOLOGY TO KEN ARTHUR

On behalf of the Sub Editor and myself, I would like to apologise to Ken Arthur for leaving him off the Membership List. Ken has indeed paid all his subscriptions and will as a result be receiving a copy of Bulletin No 77 for March 1993 along with this issue.

Mark W. Howarth
Editor.

NEWS IN BRIEF**ILLNESS STRIKES CHAMPION**

Current World Record Holder for throwing the largest boomerang, Bunny Read is now seriously ill with a brain tumor. He is currently under going treatment in the Freemasons Hospital in Melbourne. Bunny has been the backbone of competitive throwing in this country, since the early seventies. He was a member of the victorious 1984 International Team to beat America winning the Lands End Cup. From his home in Wycheproof, in the heart of Victoria, Bunny manufactured high quality boomerangs which have been sold around the world. On the behalf of the members of the B.A.A. Inc. we wish him and his family all the best and hope for a complete recovery.

Mark W. Howarth
Editor.

B. B. S. SEEKS AUSSIE BOOM MAKERS!

The British Boomerang Society is trying to track down a number of good boomerang manufacturers and suppliers, from Australia, that their members can access. If you wish to be included on a list to be published in the B. B. S. Journal then write to:-

Sean Slade (Hon. Secretary),
The British Boomerang Society,
1 Berkeley Avenue,
Mapperley Park,
NOTTINGHAMNG3 5BU
OR Phone: 0011 44 602 604 992

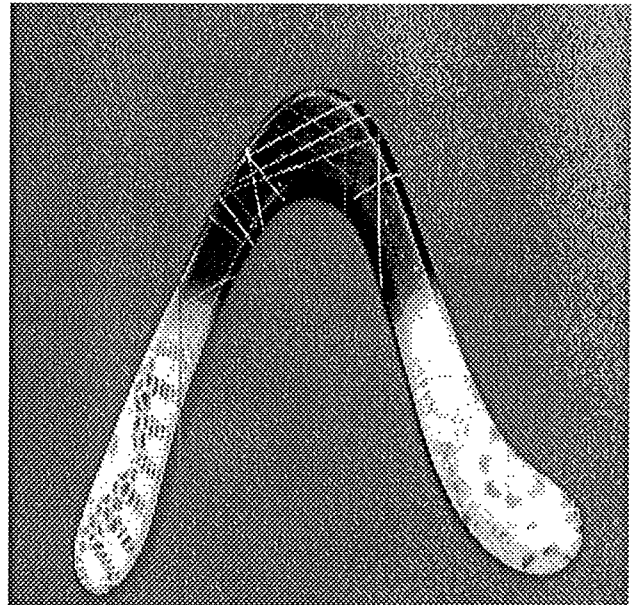
Please remember to include Name, Address, and Phone Number as well as information on what you make or supply.

Mark W. Howarth
Editor.

MARK BARRAS – T.V. STAR!

Mark Barras will be seen on Channel 9's GOODSPORTS program seen in Victoria on Saturday mornings. It will be screened five times in three years and will also be shown in Europe. Check your local guides. It may be seen for the first time in July.

Richard Barras.

NEWS IN BRIEF**BOOMERANG AUCTION**

As mentioned earlier in the President's Report, Roger Perry is generously donating the above boomerang for auction to raise money for the club. The Boomerang is either a competition Hook or MTA. The highest bidder has his or her choice of the following:-

A 50 metre Maple Flying Fox for wind or a 40 metre Aussie Hook for light wind.
Paxolin MTA for wind OR Wood MTA no wind.

Both the Hook and MTA will be flight tuned and ready for competition in either left or right hand. The winning bidder chooses 1 Hook and 1 MTA. Roger will send the booms to them.

Bruce Carter has opened the bidding at \$ 35-00. All bids can be made by contacting the President or the Editor.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS AND CLUBS

We are at present endeavouring to update our mailing list. It is unfortunate that some members and clubs have not been receiving their regular Bulletins. Apologies to Jacques Thomas and Denis Lemaitre who will receive back issues along with this Bulletin. If any other club knows of people who do not receive the Bulletin who should, please write C/- The Editor BAA Inc., 5 Ithaca Rd, Frankston, Victoria, Australia 3199 OR you can FAX me on 613 787 5436.

Mark W. Howarth, Editor.



Boomerang Association of Australia (Inc.)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP
TO THE BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
JUNBURRA - WALLINGTON / OCEAN GROVE ROAD
WALLINGTON VIC 3221.

TO THE TREASURER:

FULL NAME: MR:
MRS:
MISS: (Surname) (Given Names)

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE: TELEPHONE NO: - Private: : ()
Business: ()

OCCUPATION:

If Student, please state name of School or College:
.....

If under 16 years of age: Date of Birth:

I HEREBY APPLY FOR: JUNIOR () (Tick Box) BULLETIN ONLY ()
SENIOR ()
FAMILY ()
PENSIONER ()
OVERSEAS () MEMBERSHIP TO THE B.A.A.

I ENCLOSE ANNUAL FEE OF \$
+ JOINING FEE OF \$...5.00..... TOTAL \$

SIGNATURE
DATE

MEMBERSHIP FEESsubject to review annually at A.G.M. (as at Jan 1993)

JUNIOR	Under 16 Years of Age	\$ 5.00 Annual
SENIOR	16 Years and Over	\$ 25.00 "
FAMILY	Immediate Family at same Address	\$ 30.00 "
PENSIONER	Sen \$10.00 Overseas.....	\$ 15.00 "
OVERSEAS	\$ 35.00 "
SUSTAINING	Annual Donation	\$ 45.00 "
BULLETIN ONLY	Within Australia.....	\$ 10.00 "

As from January 1987 New Memberships and outstanding Memberships will include an additional " JOINING FEE " of \$ 5.00.

NOTE: Membership fee also covers - "BOOMERANG BULLETIN " Subscription
- Insurance coverage at B.A.A. Competitions
- Competition Rule Book

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE ON, OR PRIOR TO, 1st JANUARY EACH YEAR.

ADDRESSES:

PRESIDENT: Bruce Carter
21 Fran Street
Glenroy Vic 3046
Phone: (AH) (03) 3002374

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT: Roger Perry
155 Fremantle Road
Gosnells W.A. 6110
Phone: (09) 398 1681

SECRETARY: Richard Barras
39 Kresta Street
Leopold Vic 3224
Phone: (052) 50 2048

TREASURER: Rohan Johnston
Junburra - Wallington / Ocean Grove Road
Wallington Vic 3221
Phone (052) 50 1970

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EDITOR: Mark Howarth
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PUBLICITY OFFICER: Nick Gottschalk
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Wy Yung Vic 3875 Via Bairnsdale
Phone: (051) 52 3697

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

VICTORIA: Dennis Maxwell
42 Kingswood Drive
Dingley VIC 3172
Phone: (03) 551 1017

NEW SOUTH WALES: Br. Brian Thomas
131 Birrell Street
Waverley NSW 2024
Phone: (02) 369 0675 (02) 369 0600 (School Hours)

QUEENSLAND: Rod Jones
P O Box 85
Southport QLD 4215

SOUTH AUSTRALIA : Barry Forsyth
75 Norrie Avenue
Whyalla Norrie SA 5608
Phone: (086) 45 7674

EDITORIAL COMMENTS!

The Bulletin Shop now has a few available 1992 National's Caps for \$8, please contact Bruce Carter. The Nationals T-Shirts have now sold out.

Members and their friends are encouraged to advertise in this Bulletin, please send all material and artwork to me prior to next issue deadline.

All material published in this Bulletin is at the Editor's discretion. No further correspondence will be entered into.

Please send all material for publication and advertisements (SEE ENCLOSED FORM) to me care of the above address.

Members of the Executive are reminded that a meeting will be held during the Werribee Fun Day at approximately 12.30pm.

Articles and Advertisements can also be faxed to me on (03) 787 5436.

DEADLINEFORNEXTISSUE
28th August, 1993

Regards
Mark W. Howarth
Editor.

**PICK YOUR OWN SCORE
COMPETITION**

Rob Croll, who is running the Waverley Competition on the 6th June, will be testing a Pick Your Own Score Competition. Prizes will be given to the throwers that nominate a score and then get the closest to that score. Competitors have to nominate a score of more than zero.

ADDRESSES CONTINUED.....

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Matt Barker
155 Fremantle Road
Gosnells WA 6110

TASMANIA: Michael Miller
29 Ormley Street
KING MEADOWS TAS 7249

B.A.A. MEMBERSHIP LIST 1993

- Brian Anderson, 246 George Street, Midland WA 6056.
- Eric Anderson, 62 Oliver St, Harbord NSW 2096.
- Ken Arthur, 105 Centennial Ave, Lane Cove NSW 2066.
- Karen Bailey, Flat 20/104 The Ave, Parkdale VIC 3052.
- Richard Barras, 39 Cresta Street, Leopold VIC 3224.
- Paul Bryden, Bennelong Boomerangs
29 / 31 Playfair St, The Rocks Sydney NSW 2000.
- Bob Burwell, 12 Pintu Drive, Tanah Merah QLD 4127.
- Jack Byram, P O Box 287, Cobram VIC 3644.
- Peter Byram, P O Box 155, Cobram VIC 3644.
- Adam Carroll, 25 Congham Rd, West Pymble NSW 2073
- Bruce Carter, 21 Fran Street, Glenroy VIC 3046.
- Shawn Coleman, 11 Boolarra Ave, Clifton Springs VIC 3222
- Alan Corregan, 40 Kingswood Dve, Dingley VIC 3172.
- Rob Croll, 26 Latona Avenue, Knoxfield VIC 3180.
- Tracey Croll, 26 Latona Avenue, Knoxfield VIC 3180.
- Rod Cummings, 11 Sabrina St, Woodlands WA 6018.
- John Dallas, 8 Kariboo Gve, Greensborough Vic 3088
- Brett Dessert, 40 Miranda Way, Gosnells WA 6110.
- Brett Doyle, P O Box 162, Barooga NSW 3644.
- James Elkins, 32 Bayford St, Birkdale QLD 4159
- Barrie Forsyth, 75 Norrie Ave, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608
- Ray Freebody, 1/67 Western St, Harris Park NSW 2150
- Geoff Furness, 62 East Tce, Loxton SA 5333.
- Nick Gottschalk, 190 Bullumwaal Rd, Wy Yung VIC 3875
- Chris Henzgen, P O Box 2, Fairfield VIC 3078
- Nick Highfield, Stubbs Ave, Mt Evelyn VIC 3796.
- Arthur Ho, P O Box 397, Randwick NSW 2031.
- Mark Howarth, 5 Ithaca Road, Frankston VIC 3199.
- Arthur Janetzki, 407 Tarakan Ave, North Albury, NSW 2640
- Rohan Johnston, Wallington Rd, Wallington VIC 3221.
- Rod Jones, P O Box 85, Southport QLD 4215.
- Brian Kemp, Koyama Pottery,
Queenscliff Rd, Wallington VIC 3221.
- Bill Krelle, 33 Pascoe St, Pascoe Vale VIC 3044.
- Kurragullen Club, 155 Fremantle Rd, Gosnells WA 6110
- Geoff Lewry, Hume Hwy, Bowna Post NSW 2644.
- Ross Linton, P O Box 274 Neutral Bay NSW 2089.
- Dave Martin, 35 Wolger St, Como West NSW 2226
- Dennis Maxwell, 42 Kingswood Dve, Dingley VIC 3172
- Morris Maxwell, P O Box 245, Lilydale VIC 3140.
- Dave Merideth, 19 Juniper Way, Duncraig WA 6023.
- Leonie Metzakis, 30 Boxworth Cres, Huntingdale WA 6110.
- M. R. Miller, 29 Oimley St, Kings Meadows TAS 7249.
- Kevin Moran, 9 Normac Rd, Girraween NSW 2145.
- Hugh Neeson, 58 McKinnon Rd, McKinnon VIC 3204.
- Greg Obrien, 155 Fremantle Rd, Gosnells WA 6110.
- Steve Payor, 17 Merton St, Kogarah Bay NSW 2217.
- Roger Perry, 155 Fleemantle Rd, Gosnells WA 6110.
- Bunny Read, 380 Broadway, Wycheproof VIC 3527.
- Bluey Roberts, 94 Ridley Rd, Elizabeth SA 5112.
- Peter Robinson, Sevenoaks,
Toomuc Valley Rd, Pakenham VIC 3810.
- David Scott, 48 McBeth St, Brayside VIC 3195.
- R. A. Scott, 8 Hastings St, McKinnon VIC 3204.
- Ralph Sinclair, 3 Biscayne Dve, syndal Vic 3149.
- Rod Shoebridge, Christian Br., 11 Cross St,
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
- Ian Sproul, 23 Codger Rd, Ardross WA 6153.
- John Stead, Hargate Park, Box 106, Esperance WA 6450.

B.A.A. MEMBERSHIP LIST 1993

Br. Brian Thomas, 131 Birrell St, Waverley NSW 2024.

Gunter Wanotke, 20 Harris Rd, Dural NSW 2158.

Greg White, 31 Alphinton St, Alphington VIC 3078.

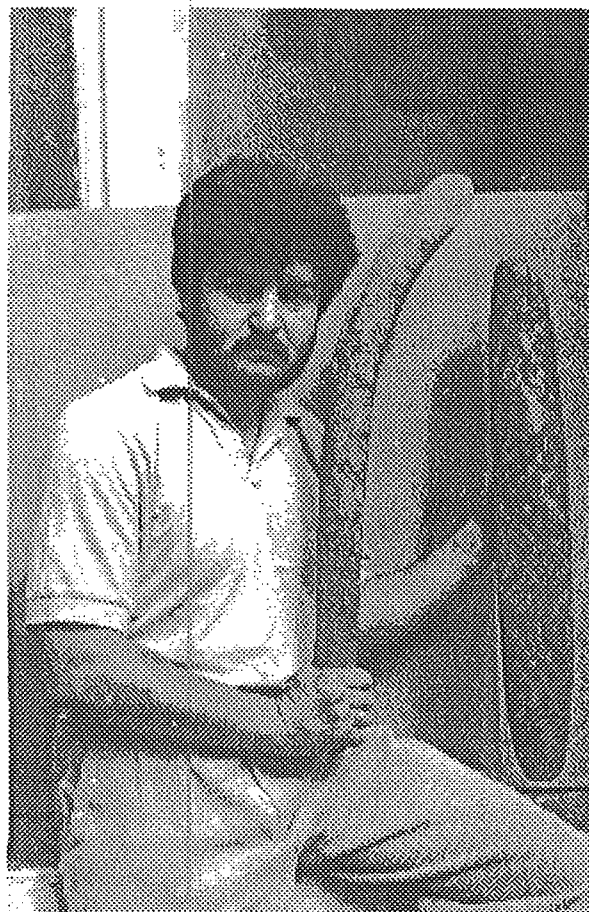
Bettina Woodburn, 51 Baker St, Ocean Grove VIC 3226

Johnathan Zammit, 5 Melissa Crt, Bayswater VIC 3153.

Would all members please check the list to make sure that their details are correct. If any details are incorrect or your name has been omitted, please send the correct details to the Editor:-

Mr Mark Howarth
Mark's Laser Printing
5 Ithaca Road
FRANKSTON VIC 3199

or Fax details on (03) 787 5436.



Eng. Georgi D. Dimantchav, President of Bulgarian Boomerang Club with one old Australian Kylie-boomerang and a shield for protecting of returning boomerangs from the collection of Bulgarian Ethnographic Museum in Sofia. Photograph taken September 1992.

COMING EVENTS

WERRIBEE FUN DAY

Sunday 30th May 1993

10am - 4pm

Loyola Reserve, Loyola Road, Werribee

Melway Ref: Map 206 C11

*MILES JORGENSEN WILL MAKE A
SPECIAL APPEARANCE*

WAVERLEY COMPETITION

Sunday 6th June 1993

9am start

Narmara Oval, at the former

Namara Primary School

Melway Ref: Map 61 H8

ALBURY COMPETITION

Saturday October 2nd and

Sunday October 3rd

**BOOMERANG - EFFECT
VERONA - SUMMER 1994**

Dear friends all over the world

This letter concerns our show "Boomerang-Effect".

We are already received the illustrations of boomerangs to exhibit from some of you; and we thank them very much for their solicitude.

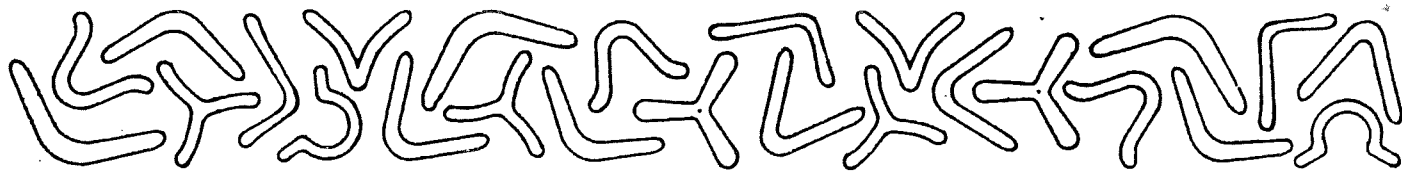
We want herewith to remind those who want to participate, it's important for us to receive their material within the end of May as a last date. We are realizing that all operations for the preparation of the show is taking us a lot of time. We would be very grateful to everybody who take note of our necessities.

Thank you all again.

Good flight and return

Yours truly

prof. Mario Crescimbeni.



"EFFETTO - BOOMERANG"

Verona '94

SEDE ESPOSITIVA DELLA MANIFESTAZIONE
"EFFETTO - BOOMERANG"
PALAZZO DELLA GRAN GUARDIA - VERONA '94





FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA BOOMERANG

Presidente Prof. Mario Crescimbeni

F.I.B. C.P. 86 37100 VERONA

Tel. 045-8009080

Fax.045-7951122

P.I. 02384210239

THE ITALIAN BOOMERANG FEDERATION
in collaboration with
Local Sports Authorithies of Verona

is organizing on 19-20 June 1993
at the "Glaxo Sport Club"

The
4° ITALIAN BOOMERANG TOURNAMENT

The tournament is individual.

The best italian and foreign Throwers will take part in the following specialities with international rules:

Australian Round	- 5 throws
Accuracy	- 5 throws
Consecutive catch and doubling	- 1 raund
Fast Catch	- 2 round
Endurance	- 1 round
M.T.A	- 5 throws

happy flight and return

for information write to:

F.I.B. C.P. 86 37100 VERONA - ITALY

BUON RITORNO

1993 AUSTRALIAN... BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS.

PERTH

#	Competitor Name	Trick Catching		Fast Catch		Australian Round		M.T.A.		Doubling		Endurance		Accuracy		Overall Total		
		Place	Points	Best Time	Place	Points	Total	Place	Best Time	Place	Points	Total	Place	Points	Total		Place	Points
1	Rob Coote	7	200	14	26:32	200	14	52	2nd	14	4	2nd	13:5	12	6th	10	79.5	1st
2	Adam Carroll	5	500	10	26:16	1st	16	27	8th	8	1	9th	55	18	3rd	13	55.5	6th
3	Brett Descent	6	300	12.5	2	13th	2.5	12	10th	6	5	1st	16	4	10th	5	500	8th
4	John Edwards	1	1300	2	2	13th	2.5	10	11th	4	1	9th	5:5	24	2nd	14	310	12th
5	Greg O'Brien	4	800	7.5	30:5	5th	11	44	4th	12	4	2nd	13:5	8	8th	8	550	7th
6	Kevin Moran	1	1300	2	48:01	8th	8	8	14th	2	1	9th	5:5	10	7th	9	37.5	11th
7	Eric Hazel	3	1000	5.5	56:31	10th	6	34	7th	9	2	6th	9	2	13th	2.5	380	10th
8	Bruce Carter	5	500	10	30:78	6th	10	18	9th	7	1	9th	5:5	28	1st	16	61.5	5th
9	Steve Panikurest	6	300	12.5	27:00	4th	12	49	3rd	13	3	4th	11:5	16	4th	12	700	3rd
10	Ian Skroull	5	500	10	31:52	7th	9	56	1st	16	2	6th	9	14	5th	11	710	2nd
11	Brian Anderson	1	1300	2	4	11th	5	37	6th	10	2	6th	9	4	10th	5	410	9th
12	Glen Cameron	2	1200	4	1	15th	1	10	11th	4	0	13th	2	0	15th	1	150	15th
13	Laurie Cranston	3	1000	5.5	11th	4	4	10	11th	4	0	13th	2	2	13th	2.5	250	14th
14	Roger Peery	9	1st	16	26:55	3rd	13	42	5th	11	3	4th	11:5	4	10th	5	68.5	4th
15	Steve Selw	4	800	7.5	52:99	9th	7	4	15th	1	0	13th	2	6	9th	7	27.5	13th
1	Gary Mitchell	2	200	4.0	55:44	1st	8	47	1st	7				12	1st	8	350	1st
2	Ryan Peery	2	200	4.0	2	4th	4	4	6th	1				4	2nd	50	160	5th
3	Marie Rousden	3	1st	7.0	1:06	2nd	6	42	2nd	5				0	6th	1.5	25.5	2nd
4	Scott Narvell	1	300	1.5	0	7th	1	12	5th	2				4	2nd	50	13.5	7th
5	Christene Metzakis	2	200	4.0	1	5th	2.5	39	3rd	4				0	6th	1.5	14	6th
6	John Metzakis	3	1st	7.0	3	3rd	5	26	4th	3				4	2nd	50	22	3rd
7	Johannathon Mucent	1	300	1.5	1	5th	2.5	47	1st	7				1	5th	30	19	4th
1	Angie Leicester	1	1st	2	1	1st	1	16	2nd	0				8	1st	2	6	1st
2	Leanne Metzakis	0	2nd	0	1	1st	1	29	1st	0				0	2nd	0	4	2nd

N.S.W. STATE BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993

HELD AT OXFORD FALLS ON MARCH 21ST.

COMPETITOR	ACCURACY	FAST CATCH	1 HAND	GERM.DOUB.	NOVELTY ACC.	MTA	AUSSIE RD.
KEITH ANDERSON	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	9	DNC	39+34=73
BIRGIT WALTER	8	DNC	DNC	DNC	8	DNC	11+22=33
ROSS LINTON	3	1CT	0	2	10	0	43+8 =51
RAY FREEBODY	0	0	0	4 3RD	0	18.13 3RD	36+45=81
MICHAEL COLLINA	11	1.59.22 3RD	2	4	2	0	22+45+67
DAVE MARTIN	19 2ND	0	0	4	0	26.14 1ST	46+30=76
GUY MARTIN (JUNIOR)	11	0	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	36+23=59
GUNTER WANDTKE	33 1ST	60.45 1ST	3 2ND	5 1ST	4	7.88	30+13=43
PHILIP MARTIN	15 3RD	2 CT	0	5 2ND	4	17.14	30+42=72
INZE BONT	4	4 CT	0	1	15 2ND	0	39+30=69
KEN ARTHUR	12	0	3 3RD	0	15 3RD	0	36+52=88 24+16=40 3RD
BR. BRIAN THOMAS	14	4 CT	0	2	14	22.82 2ND	61+55=116 36+26=62 2ND
HOLGER RAGOWSKI	8	2 CT	0	1	19 1ST	16.81	9+10=19
BOB BURWELL	9	1.42.65 2ND	3 1ST	3	0	17.41	58+44=102 60+45=105 1ST
TERRY PATTERSON	5	DNC	0	2	DNC	DNC	DNC
MARGARET PATTERSON	0	DNC	DNC	0	DNC	DNC	DNC
ROBERT COBURN (JUNIOR)	6	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC

THE FRED HOLLOW'S MEMORIAL TROPHY (FOR AUSSIE ROUND) WAS WON BY BOB BURWELL.
MRS. GABI HOLLOW'S PRESENTED IT.

NOVICE CHAMPION: PHILIP MARTIN. JUNIOR CHAMPION: GUY MARTIN.
LADIES' CHAMPION: BIRGIT WALTER.

OUTSTANDING CATCHER OF THE DAY: MICHAEL COLLINA.

MANY THANKS TO DAVE MARTIN FOR THE BOOMERANGS FOR TROPHIES.

CONDITIONS WERE STRONGLY WINDY ALL DAY.

BOB BURWELL SCORED ONE 20 POINT THROW IN AUSSIE ROUND..IN THE FINALS.

2ND CENTRAL COAST BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS..18-4-1993

HELD AT ST.EDWARD'S COLLEGE, EAST, GOSFORD.

COMPETITORS	ACCURACY	FAST CATCH	MTA 100	CCWID	GERMAN DB.	AUSSIE ROUND
ADAM CARROLL	44 2ND	22.77 1ST	21.81	13	6	68+50=118 3RD
RAY FREEBODY	40	43.22	16.41	8	5	4+60=64
DAVE MARTIN	39	42.25	17.63	17 3RD	2	60+64=124 2ND
KEVIN MORAN	32	33.50 3RD	22.46 3RD	15	5	53+44=97
GUNTER WANDTKE	44 3RD	34.13	30.19 1ST	20 2ND	7 2ND	61+69=130 1ST
KEN ARTHUR	28	4 CTS.	15.41	0	2	30+21=51
BR.BRIAN THOMAS	46 1ST	28.23 2ND	29.87 2ND	25 1ST	10 1ST	52+50=102
BIRGIT WALTER	26	DNC	DNC	2	DNC	10+30=40

MTA PAIRS: 1ST: GUNTER WANDTKE & KEN ARTHUR .. 30.71 SECS
 2ND: ADAM CARROLL & KEN ARTHUR 25.47 SECS
 3RD: RAY FREEBODY & BR.THOMAS ... 25.33 SECS
 4TH: DAVE MARTIN * KEVIN MORAN 16.72 SECS

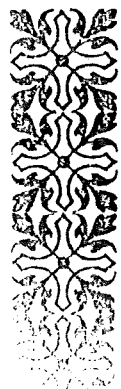
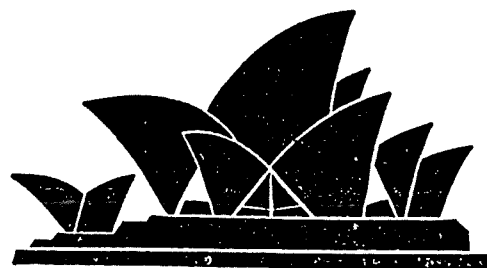
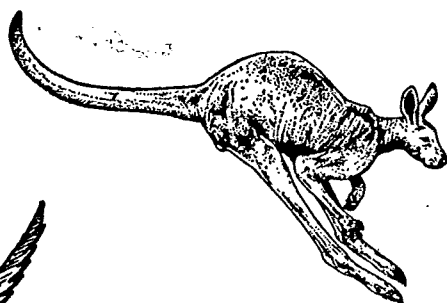
WINNER OF THE ARTHUR JANETZKI PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR AUSSIE ROUND:
 GUNTER WANDTKE.

LADIES' CHAMPION: BIRGIT WALTER.

CONDITIONS WERE NEAR PERFECT FOR MOST OF THE DAY.

MANY THANKS TO ST.EDWARD'S COLLEGE FOR THE USE OF THEIR GROUNDS & FACILITIES.

NEXT COMPETITION:...EASTERN SUBURBS AT QUEENS PARK, WAVERLEY, N.S.W.



- REGARDING THE BOOMERANG : SOME REFLEXIONS OF THE DAY -

A recent article by Brian Kemp published in the Bulletin of the Boomerang Association of Australia relates a protest by members of the Australian Aboriginal community regarding the use of the word "boomerang" to designate "the more recently developed shapes (particularly multi-bladed)". The Aborigines arguing that these were not boomerangs but "rather gimmicky toys more suited for clowns and acrobats".

Brian Kemp "admits in all fairness that the Aboriginal community has a point" and then he suggests to name "Boomerang" the new sporting implements capable of a return flight, differing from the traditional boomerangs, and to register the name. Personally I feel that quite commendable but with a few reservations, and these who read me before will not be surprised. Then, I wish to take advantage of this article to set forth what numerous researches let me find out, without nevertheless pretending to be able to set up rules of an absolute strictness. A certain interpretation of things is necessary, but logic and reason may determine the rule.

When one is concerned with the boomerang, when one has a taste and a possibility of doing it, it is quite natural to search for what was of it in the past, and particularly what was the origin of the word to which all of us have so much a quick ear. This, I tried to find out by making researches in public and private libraries, in museums and universities, as well in France as in foreign countries, and eventually at the Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra (AIATSIS). I spent hours studying books and narratives, gathering an impressive collection of documents. I think that I did not miss much of what had been written in regard with the boomerang in the last century and the beginning of the XXth. Felix Hess's bibliography was a good help for me, and I was surprised to find out that an important part of this litterature had been the production of French writers.

I completed literary researches by research and study of a lot of ancient pieces, mostly of museum stores. I had in hand and studied about two hundred different old or very ancient boomerangs, killing-sticks and throw-sticks, Australian, Egyptian or others, prehistoric and ethnographic. I threw on the field replicas which I had made to add practical experiments to theoretical speculations. From the whole of these studies, I acquired of course some knowledge of the matter, and I could draw some interesting inferences. It is only from a basis of sure and precise data that significant conclusions can be set up.

When discovering New Holland, future Australia, the newcomers discovered the Aborigines and their strange wooden implements which appeared to them as being a kind of weapons. These were shown by artists on drawings like glaives, scimitars or swords, as they were seen or thought to be seen. "Wooden swords, iron wood swords, ricocheting swords, curved clubs", all these names were given to them for a long time at the end of the XVIIIth century and at the beginning of the XIXth.

In 1820, near Port Jackson, future city of Sydney, the French writer Jacques Arago attends some boomerang throwings and he describes perfectly well a return flight. It is the oldest account, and probably the first one ever published, which I was given to read. Arago nevertheless does not seem to know the name "boomerang" and he speaks of "club". The word however is used during the same year (1820) by Louis de Freycinet who was in command of the ship aboard which Arago was, in the form of "Bomerang", and by Philip Parker King under the form which we know. But none of them both mentions a return flight.

From this time, as accounts regarding Australia are immensely on the increase, the word is going to appear more and more frequently in the litterature of the years coming, heard and transcribed in different ways. Womerang, bommereng, bommerang, boomerang, boomerang, bomring, boumarang, bowmerang, boumerang, boomerang at last, the word will take its definitive form around 1840, thanks to the Colonial press, according to W. Gardner (1853). Several authors have searched for the true original word, and three have been found: "Booroomoorong, bou-ma-rang, boomerang". It is important also to notice that in the narratives of the time the use of a boomerang is almost always connected with the idea of return flight.

These data are objective and sure ones. Without having found with an absolute certainty the original name, we have come quite close to it, and circumstances induce me to join the ethnologists who have written afterwards that the word "boomerang" comes from the expression "Boo-ma-rang" which was the name given to the two-bladed implement capable of a return flight by the Turuwal, the Awabakal, the Kammers-Gal tribes who lived near Botany Bay and Port Jackson. Collins in 1802 mentions the name "Wo-mur-rang", but without connecting it neither with the idea of return nor even with this of flight. He has seen only "clubs". Anyhow we are quite close by hearing to the word "boomerang" and there is no need in my opinion to search elsewhere for a more or less fancy origin.

Thus, we find the same name used from 1820 under different spellings to designate the implement capable of a return flight, discovered among the Aborigines of New South Wales. As these ones had no writing it is not surprising that their expressions were perceived in somewhat different ways by those who approached them. Incidentally, it must be noticed that if the word "boomerang" was used in this part of the continent, others of the six hundred and one tribes speaking more than three hundred different dialects, counted by Tindale, used different words to name the same returning implement, like "Barragan, Woungum, Kylie". To the contrary of what has been sometimes written, the "kylies" were true boomerangs of Western Australia, and the same phonetic phenomenon occurred with the word which is found under the forms "Killee, kiley, kaile, cale, coyley, kilie". All of them being pronounced almost in the same way.

These data appear to me as being necessary and sufficient to reserve the name "boomerang" to the "two bladed implement, rigid and flat, bent at an angle or curved at its elbow, which when thrown spinning flies and follows a curved flight-path which brings it back to the thrower". If all these conditions are not observed, it is better not to speak of "boomerang". Moreover, habit has confirmed in an irrevocable way the association of the notion of return with the word "boomerang" traditionally given to the two-bladed implement.

Maybe some will object to defend them, that the Aborigines had multi-bladed. That is true. Some small four-bladed implements which were named "cross-sticks" have been found in Cairns district, Queensland. But they were so few that this kind of implements cannot be reasonably taken into account as a factor of decision. Moreover, the name "boomerang" seems not having been known and used in this part of New Holland.

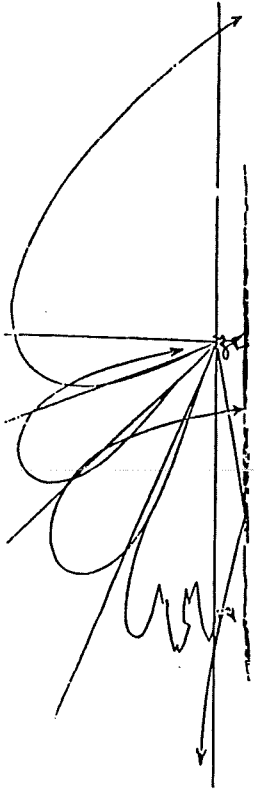
So, "boomerangs" were discovered in the part of the Australian continent which was to become the State of New South Wales, before to be found in many other places. As people of the Colony probably did not pay sufficient attention to the aptitudes of the different curved wooden implements which the Aborigines were having, they made use of the same word "boomerang" to designate indistinctly any of these, without considering if they were able to return or not. It is only in the middle of the XXth century that a clear distinction will be made.

This leads us to consider the different varieties of wooden implements able to fly spinning thanks to their shape and cross-sections, to the whole of which I think that the name of "flying-sticks" or "bois de jet" may be given. Two great families are then to be considered: the flying-sticks which are able to return, the boomerangs; and these which cannot return. In their turn, each of these two families divides into two groups.

The low and almost circular flight-path of modern boomerangs is well-known. It is probably the same as the flight-path of lure-boomerangs which were used by the Aborigines to imitate the flight of a hawk, frighten birds and drive them into nets. Several accounts mention this way of hunting birds. These boomerangs, if they were thrown flat in a horizontal plan, could also climb up quickly in the air to attack birds from underneath. Their to and fro movement could be almost in a vertical plan, and their return pretty accurate.

Beside the usually circular flight-path, there is another one which is not so well-known nowadays. Some big Aboriginal boomerangs, generally more open and heavier than the former, were thrown directly at flocks of birds, high up in the air, at an angle of 45 degrees to the horizontal plan. They flew up to a given altitude before returning almost along the same path as on going. These "high flyers" boomerangs have a "passive return". But of course, as the other ones, if they came to hit a prey, they could not return. They form a second group of boomerangs. The distinction between the two groups is not always easy to do, and some implements could be ambivalent.

An interesting drawing made by Commodore Wilkes during a U.S. expedition in Australia, in about 1838, presents the different flight-paths obtained with a boomerang according to different values given to the angle of the throw to the horizontal plan. After Wilkes, only a throw at an angle of 45 degrees permits a return to the thrower. It is the typical flight-path of a "high-flyer" boomerang with a "passive return". Wilkes presents neither the circular flight-path of lure-boomerangs nor the one obtained after a flat throw. Probably he had not yet observed them.



FLIGHT OF THE BOOMERANG.

From these considerations, it seems that one may reasonably consider as definitely precised the possible use of the word "boomerang" and the sort of implements which it regards. I have not taken into account the notions of dimensions or weight of a boomerang as a criterion of selection. Effectively, I cannot see any reason for that, on a conceptual level, as far as, giant or mini, implements answer the requirements stated in the definition of a boomerang.

The second great family of flying-sticks include the two-bladed implements which are able to fly spinning but which cannot return. They appear to have been much more numerous than the boomerangs, and wide-spread in the whole world. For them, it seems right to choose their use as a criterion of subdivision. It squares in fact with ranges of size and weight, and with their shape.

Sometimes made of ivory, carved from a mammoth tusk in prehistoric time, "killing-sticks" may be big and heavy as most of Australian ones are or of a lesser weight and size as are the handsome "rabbit-sticks" of the Hopi Indians of Arizona, North-America. If they are usually flat with sharp edges, some killing-sticks may be thicker with oval cross-sections and blunt edges. They were used for fighting at war and for hunting game. "Pales de jet" in French.

When smaller and lighter flying-sticks are concerned, with a lesser relative width of their blades, one may speak of "throw-sticks" or "batons de jet". They were used for hunting birds and small game sometimes, for playing, by pastoral people to get quiet excited cattle grazing, and as a not very dangerous weapon in brawls.

The study I have carried on and of which I have presented some views will have allowed me to bring some facts to light and also to settle a general frame in which it seems that all the implements with two blades and able to fly spinning can find a place. To carry it out, I had to plunge into the past for, but a few exceptions, traditional use of flying-sticks has vanished. The raw materials for the study were museum collections of ancient implements, old accounts, drawings and paintings, rock carvings. As these elements are in a high degree subject to interpretation, one can take them into consideration only after objective criticism and comparative analysis. What means much time required! I wish that these conclusions bring relief and mental comfort to those if any who were concerned with a since long ago confused situation.

Regarding the matter of practising boomerang as a sport, the Aboriginal protest seems logical, as well as Brian Kemp's suggestion which I can see as an extension of Brother Thomas' thought and article: "The Beginning of the End".

Seeking for easiness and efficiency in "Fast Catch" and "Consecutive Catching" events has obviously generated a deviation from what was usual before, and this led to all mini-boomerangs and multi-blades which are in use today. As far as Europe is concerned, I will trace back this deviation to the overwhelming triumph of Chris Hentzen at the Amsterdam International Tourney, in 1984, where he alone was using a small boomerang with a span of 24 cm. Since this time, I have always thought that it was not logical to find in the same events competitors using boomerangs so different one from each other as having spans from 20 cm to 50 cm, weight being twice one from another, with two or more blades.

Due allowance being made, modern way of practising has evolved, in regard with a more traditional way as it was practised in the 70's, to become a little what ping-pong is to tennis. If these different ways of practising can be both difficult and hard, they require different aptitudes from the thrower. I think that they have become incompatible in a same event, and that it would be a good idea to keep them clearly distinct from each other in competition. What can be easily done by prescribing minimum standards of length and weight to the boomerangs to be used. It is a measure which we have taken since long ago in our Club, and it has always been appreciated. Maybe it avoided a total disappearance of the more traditional boomerangs from the field.

Kept distinct from one another on the field, the two ways of practising would have also to be distinct by their name. Suggested by Brian Kemp, the term "BOOMERING" seems proper to practising with all sorts of small boomerangs and multi-bladed rotors (which certainly cannot be named "boomerangs"). This word, as Brian Kemp says, would have the advantage of being distinct from "Boomerang", but it would keep a root reminding of its origin. "BOOMERANG" would be strictly devoted to practising with more traditional boomerangs.

I do not think that separating these two ways of practising would be prejudicial for one or the other. On the contrary. Each of them would have its fans and its own contests. No one would feel frustrated. Maybe some throwers who today stay out of the field would return to compete. Being aware of what they come to see, the public would have no more to express their disappointment. All things would be clear.

Catching does not come from the Aboriginal tradition. It started probably in the 40's with Franck Donellan and Joe Timbery who were both involved in the boomerang by profession. Catching has immensely developed since this time, when weight and span of the boomerangs decreased, to become an attractive and essential part of the sport. But once again, if "BOOMERING" can include all kinds of catching, even the most acrobatic, "BOOMERANG" would accept only the traditional way of catching with the hands.

"BOOMERANG" MTA would prescribe strong requirements in accuracy, but no compulsory catching. On the contrary, "BOOMERING" MTA could be practised with no limits for a return, but with a catch. The road would be open to any adventure!

At last, as a practical conclusion for these reflexions, after having pondered for long on the matter and much taken it over, according to experience too, I think that the following minimum standards prescribed for practising "BOOMERANG" in competition could be :

- WEIGHT = 100 grammes
- SPAN = 40 centimetres
- DISTANCE WITHIN THE BLADES MEASURED AT THE LEVEL OF THE CENTRE OF GRAVITY = 13 centimetres

Jacques Thomas

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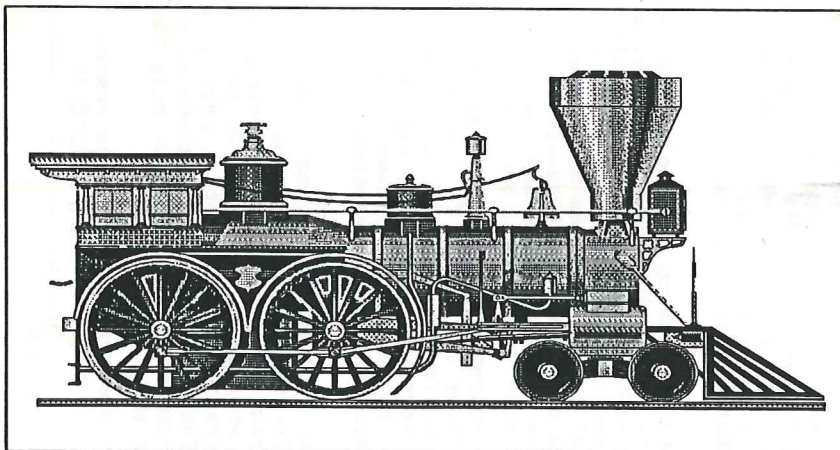
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