




About
Boomerangs



America's Silent Sport

Kelly Boyer Sagert

Action-Packed Cover: Kelly Boyer-Sagert's New Boom Book

BOOMERANG NEWS

Latest Boomerang Book Review.

From the USA comes another book on boomerangs. But this is definitely different to most others. It is called **ABOUT BOOMERANGS**

America's Silent Sport and is written by *Kelly Boyer Sagert*. Yes, folks, we have a boomerang book written by a woman..and a left hander at that! And to add to the surprises she has not been throwing boomerangs very long.

So what does a left-handed neophyte female thrower bring to the sport? A marvellous book that is so fresh in its approach. It is hard bound and full of beautiful clear photos, as well as being so readable. It gives a comprehensive look at the major parties involved in the sport in the USA today, and is so up to date. It even has Adam Ruhf's latest Endurance effort.

It is not a book that analyses shapes and designs and flaps and weights, but it does analyse the people and what makes them tick. We experience their philosophies on boomerang throwing. It certainly helps you realise why the USA is such a force in the boomerang world these days.

One chapter deals with overseas throwers. Another great glimpse at these people. Those outside the USA are only sorry she hasn't given more coverage to more overseas personalities. Maybe one day she will. It is full of information for the modern day enthusiast with such things like magazines and internet sources. This is a real must for boomerang collectors.

It is a near-perfect book. I would say that the weakest chapter (and it is only made up of one page) is on Making Your Own Boomerang. This could have been clearer and diagrams would definitely have helped. But don't let it worry you, since most of you readers out there already know how to make a boomerang!

Catchy poems (mostly by Bud Pell) are spread throughout the book too.

If you are looking for a good present for some one then this book is it. So how can you get it? It will cost you \$29.95 US plus \$7 US postage (\$36.95

US) and you can order it from Kelly Boyer Sagert, 1131 W Fifth St., Lorain, OH 44052-1411. U.S.A.

Noted South Australian writer and boomeranger Ed Russell liked the book and added that he would have liked the book to be cross indexed on subjects and people. He also would have like to have seen more Australians mentioned (naturally enough).

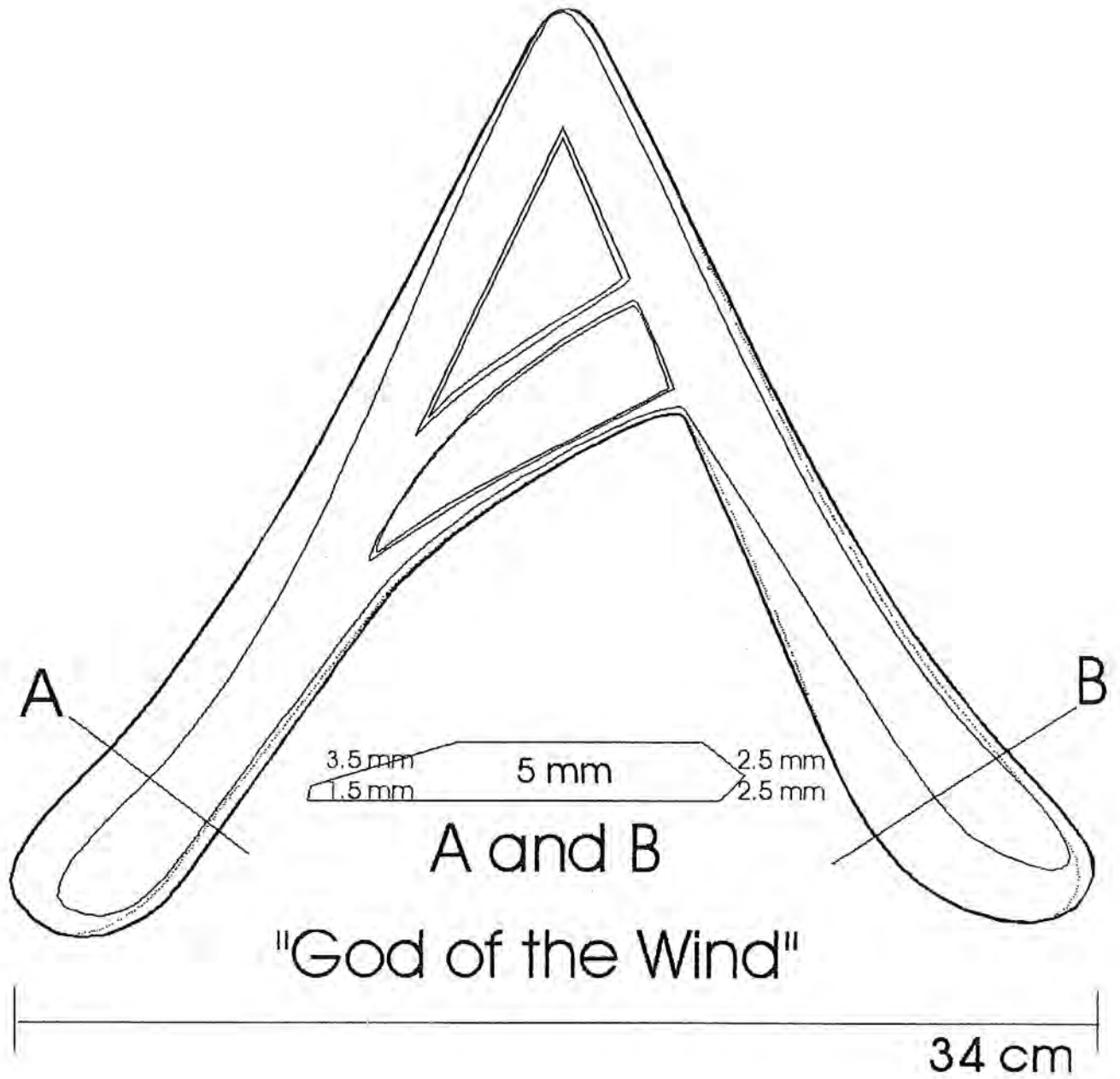
By the way, Kelly is a correspondent for the Lorain Morning Journal newspaper. She has written over 60 magazine articles and is also the author-interviewer for America On-Line. After writing newspaper features on world class boomerang throwers Gary Broadbent and John Gorski (17 min.+ MTA man), she started writing about boomerangs for magazines, including Boys' Life, Boys' Quest, People and Places and The Works magazine. She decided to start throwing while writing this book. Now her husband Don is a keen thrower too and they have formed a boomerang business with photographer Len Burns called "Something Catchy".

Br.Brian M.Thomas, Editor.

Here is a sample of one poem:
TOURNAMENTS

A tournament can be a
Great deal of fun,
But they're not meant
For everyone.
I'll be back next year
At this time,
'Cause it's not winning
That counts,
But the friends
That you find.





Samish "God of the wind" is the creator of this boomerang.
Very wind resistant and reliable boomerang.
Range from 20 - 30 meter. WT 0 - 7.

1997 SEAMIST VICTORIAN STATE TITLES

2nd February 1997

Wind: ranged from 3 knots to 30 knots as the day went on. Difficult.
12 competitors before a crowd of 50 on-lookers at Bev Reid's Palamino Stud.

Results.

FAST CATCH: 1. R.Croll 38.47; 2. B.Carter 39.43; 3. Craig Carter 47.18; 4. Sadir Kattan 64.45; 5. R.Barras, Miles Jorgensen, Trent Carter 4 catches; 8. Steve Dick 3 catches; 9. Peter Robinson, Kay Carter, Janet Barras 1 catch.

AUSSIE ROUND: 1. R.Croll; 2. Craig & Trent Carter 24; 4. R.Barras 19; 5. Peter Robinson 18; 6. Bruce Carter 16; 7. S.Dick 12; 8. S>Kattan, K.Carter, J.Barras, M.Jorgensen 10.

MAXIMUM TIME ALOFT: 1. Rob Croll 11.9 ; 2. Bruce Carter 10.60; 3. Sadir Kattan 7.31. No other scores recorded! Wind!! Some big flights though by Craig Carter of 28.53 and Richard Barras of 32.03 and 63 seconds finishing 300 metres away.

ACCURACY: 1. Miles Jorgensen 24; 2. Sadir Kattan 14; 3. Rob Croll 13; 4. Betty Woodburn, Bruce Carter, Craig Carter, Janet Barras 8; 8. Peter Robinson 4; 9 Kay & Trent Carter, Steve Dick, Richard Barras 0.

OVER-ALL VICTORIAN CHAMPION: Robert Croll

LADIES' CHAMPION: Janet Barras

JUNIOR CHAMPION: Craig Carter

CATCH OF THE DAY: Trent Carter

OVER-ALL SCORES using all throwers: Rob 45 ; Bruce 32 ; Craig 30.5; Sadir 29.5, Miles 25 ; Trent 22; Richard 20.5; Peter 17.5 ; Steve 15.5 ; Janet 12 ; Kay 8.5 ; Bettina 7.

EXCLUDING LADIES AND JUNIORS: Rob 6; Bruce 12; Sadir 14.5; Miles 17.5; Richard 18.5; Peter 20.5; Steve 22.5.

Sadir Kattan gave a good showing with his smallest boomerang. He hopes to set a world record with it at the nationals in March. His other throwing skills show he is not far off winning a major comp.

The late arrival of several throwers meant a few events had to be dropped, since the comp had to fit in with the Seamist timetable.

Congratulations to Janet Barras who successfully defended her Ladies' title. Her husband Richard also showed great form.

Many thanks to *Bev Reid* of Seamist for their trophies, luncheon and support. The fees for the day went to buying a bouquet for Bev.

The annual meeting of the VBTA followed. *President:* Rob Croll. *Secretary:* Bruce Carter. *Treasurer:* Sadir Kattan. *Publicity Officer:* Richard Barras.

URGENT!! VERY URGENT!!!! LOOK!!!!

A **mounted plaque** donated to the BAA by the KIWANIS is missing.

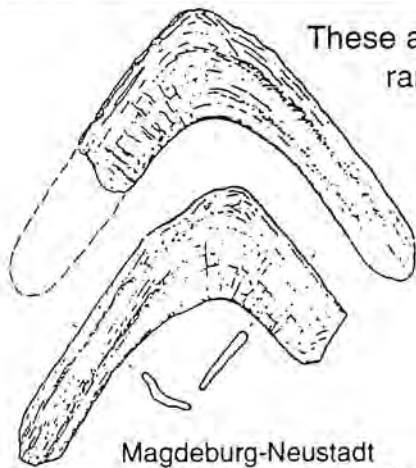
It is to be presented to the winner of the **CATCH OF THE DAY** at the **NATIONALS**. If you know where it is, please contact **Bruce Carter** as soon as possible.

Ed Russell of South Australia has been carefully studying the new Philip Jones' book: "Boomerangs, Behind and Australian Icon". Ed found a few small errors in the text that you can add to your errata sheet: On page 120, the caption inadvertently stated the date for the first Smithsonian tournament as 1979. That was the last date. The first tournament was in 1971. In the bibliography, the correct date for Lorin Hawes' third edition is 1987, not 1975 (second edition). Also, the Bernard Mason book was originally written in 1937. The reprint was dated 1974. Thanx for sharing this information with us, Ed.

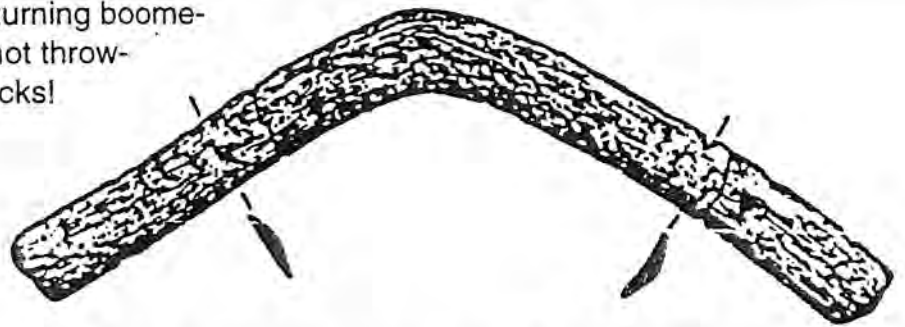
BELGIUM

Pascal Chauvaux is a student of primitive weaponry (things like atlatls, throwsticks and boomerangs). Pascal recently came across an article that discussed "evidence of boomerangs in West Europe". The publication was titled: "Bumerang-Fund in den Elbeschottern von Magdeburg-Neustadt und seine Erprobung. Archäologie in Sachsen-Anhalt, Heft 4, Halle (Saale)", pp. 8-12. The article was written by Dietrich Evers of Wiesbaden, Germany in 1994 about a partial wooden boomerang that was found in Magdebourg-Neustadt, Germany. This boomerang was

dated using the C14 method between 800 BC and 400 BC. The same article shows figures of the Dutch Velsen Boomerang (300 BC) and petroglyphs of boomerang figurations from Scandinavia: Sweden (3500 BC); Sweden (3600-3200 BC); Norway (1200-900 BC); Sweden (1000-900 BC) and Sweden (750-500 BC). These figures were so intriguing, that I decided to use some of the petroglyphs on the cover of this issue. The remainder are shown below. Take a good look at the two boomerangs. Can these be anything but true returners? The evidence that [returning] boomerangs were used outside of Australia continues to mount.



These are returning boomerangs, not throwsticks!



Magdeburg-Neustadt (Germany) boomerang, found in Elbe river during gravel quarry excavation. Above: underside with workmanship marks. Under: top side (finding state) with two slices. Dated: 800-400 BC (Drawing: E. Weber).

Returning boomerang found (1962) in a sand dune of Velsen (North of Netherlands). Plano-convex, oak wood. Dated: 300 BC (Drawing: H. J. Calkoen).

Evidence of Pre-historic "Boomerangs" from Western Europe



Petroglyphs: Shamans with animal masks, with a "ceremonial stick of reappearance" in their left hands. Site: Näsäker, Kataraktbezirk Nämforsen (Sweden) Datation: 3,600-3,200 BC

Petroglyph: Cultic relation and association: boat, men, spear and boomerang. Site: Bottna, Gisslegärde (Sweden). Datation: 750-500 BC Same period/shape as boomerang at top left this page

Thanks to Ted Bailey for BN articles.

Curious, captivating curved stick

Ray Humphries

Kids, most of us would have at one time or another tried our boomerang throwing ability.

And whether you used one crafted from an old piece of three-ply or bravely nicked the souvenir boomerang of the mantelpiece in the lounge, most of them had one thing in common — they don't perform to expectations.

The wayward flight of these curved pieces of wood usually resulted in them being stuck 50 feet up a gum tree in the backyard or on the roof of the house.

Worse still, the family memento of that holiday to Lakes Entrance heads off over the neighbor's fence and gets reduced to a million toothpicks by the teeth of their mongrel dog.

And no matter how you held it, threw it, or which way the wind was blowing, there was no way you could get that cursed thing to land back at your feet.

By now you're starting to think the words of Charlie Drake's hit "My Boomerang Won't Come Back" were written just for you. After all, that's the big attraction with boomerangs — they're supposed to come back.

But there's no real mystery to making them perform, it's all to do with aerodynamics says Leopold's Richard Carras.

"Boomerangs must have a lean and trailing edge to make them do the things you expect them to," he said.

Richard should know. He's demonstrated boomerang throwing in Japan and Asia and was a placegetter at two events at the Australian titles in 1996.

He was also chief judge and organiser of the last Australian titles to be held in Victoria in 1982.

Richard will be part of a class field taking part in the Annual Victorian Boomerang Throwing Championship to be held at Seamist Stud near Winchelsea on Sunday, February 2 from 2 to 4pm.

Organised by Bruce Carter from the Victorian Academy of Boomerangs in Glenroy, the event offers the chance for everyone to get out and see how the experts make their boomerangs 'come back'.

Line dancing and beginners' boomerang are also on the agenda for the day.

But imagine a boomerang return, doesn't constitute a championship — there are seven events, each utilising a different type of boomerang.

The 'Fast Catch' requires competitors to throw a boomerang 20 metres, have it return and catch it, repeating the procedure five times. Fastest time is the winner, with the national record standing at 16 seconds.

The premier event is 'Australian Round' where points are awarded for distance, accuracy of return and catch.

'Doubling' involves throwing two boomerangs simultaneously and catching them while performing stunts such as catching it one-handed or under the leg behind the back, etc.

The 'Endurance' event is a test of how many catches a competitor can make in five minutes.

'Maximum Time Aloft' as the name suggests requires the boomerang to stay airborne for as long as possible and be caught when it lands. The national record is just over one minute.

In the 'Accuracy' test points are allocated for accurate throws and where they land.

Many sports have tried



Many happy returns ... in the hands of experts boomerangs will perform as expected.

events and boomerang throwing is no different. The 'Trick Catch' involves ten set catches which test skills out even requiring the boomerang to be caught between the feet.

Bruce Carter says the boomerang industry is now hi-tech with boomerangs taking on different shapes and sizes to cater for special events.

And it's also an international sport, with a huge following in countries such as the United States, France, Germany, England, Switzerland, Japan and New Zealand.

"World championship events are held every two

years. In 1998 they'll be in Louisiana, USA and in 2000 back in Australia," he said.

Bruce has won events at Australian championships eight times since 1988 and holds three current national records. He was also the Australian boomerang champion in 1995.

He says boomerangs are not only hi-tech, they've joined the computer age, but these marvels are only used in high boomerang throwing demonstrations run by his academy.

"We have one with a computer chip and it's used to create a strobe effect with lights mounted on the boomerang.

"Other boomerangs used in our displays have lights and pyrotechnics and then there's an exploding model."

"But the mother of all boomerangs is Dr Death, the world's largest right flyer, with \$300 worth of lights embedded in it," Bruce said.

For anyone interested in learning the ins and outs of boomerang throwing, the academy offers free lessons at its Glenroy headquarters, 21 Francis St.

"If you're after a boomerang, we've got the best," Bruce said.

"I have access to the 15 best makers in Australia and supply over 100 different models."

Any why so many models?

"There are models for different events and conditions. Some go high, some go low, others perform in windless conditions while others are for low or high wind," Bruce said.

Like Bruce said, the boomerang business is very hi-tech.

And don't forget, you'll see the best of Australia's boomerang throwers at Seamist, including world champion Robert Croft and Australian junior champion Craig Carter. So pack the family in the car and prepare for a great day out. Besides, admission to the championships is free.



... the throw ... Bruce Carter sets his boomerang flying at Seamist in 1995.



The right way ... catching between the palms avoids nasty injuries.



Task completed ... probably the most difficult (and dangerous) manoeuvre for competitors.

AUSTRALIA'S

WORLD FAMOUS JANETZKI BOOMERANGS.

Amongst the most valued boomerangs in the world in any collector's store is always a Janetzi boomerang. The question is "Why?"

There are quite a few reasons actually, and every reason adds to that value.

First let's look at the people who made them.. **Les and Arthur Janetzi**. They were unusual in that they took up the sport in their old age. They had both retired from their business of being grocery store operators. They were founding members of the first boomerang club in Australia, the *Albury Boomerang Club* which Jeff Lewry got off the ground. They won a number of the competitions run by this club. (I possess two boomerangs won by them at these contests.) They were also founding members of the *Boomerang Association of Australia* in 1969, which is the official sporting body for boomerang throwing in Australia. They began throwing in the early sixties and both threw until their deaths, Les in 1987 and Arthur in 1995. Arthur was 91 when he died and Les 86, both **monuments to the sport**.

Apart from their throwing involvement and skills, they were also famous Vaudeville actors in the 1920s and 1930s, appearing on the stages of all the major theatres in Australia and New Zealand forming part of the famous **Janetzi Trio** with their brother, Harold. They played the marimbas and xylophones, and received magnificent write-ups in the papers of the time. This career terminated because of two events..the death of Harold at an early age, and the appearance of talkie movies!! Talkies did to Vaudeville what TV did to movies in our time. Of course, movies are on the way back and so is live theatre. Maybe they hung up their gongs too soon.

The other aspect about them was that they were utterly loveable to all who met them. They were thorough gentlemen through and through. There was no gamesmanship in their approach. They were full of admiration for the fine throwing of others and gave credit where credit was due. They were the sort of people you just loved to be with, and leaving them was always a sorrow. You knew they respected you, no matter who you were.

So much for the people. **What about the boomerangs?** How were they any different to anyone else's boomerangs?

Here I think two things stand out. One was the way Les **made** the boomerangs and the other was the way Arthur **decorated** them. Their work was both painstaking and pioneering.

Les used to collect the old packing cases that the Gestenar machines came in, and remove all nails and fill their holes with wood putty. He then cut out the shape he was making **TWICE**. These would then be glued together and clamped until the glue was hard. He would then remove a layer or two of the Finnish ply, so that the boomerang would not be too thick. This was hard work and took much time. He then shaped the boomerang and finished it off as smooth as a baby's bottom! It was then ready for testing. I was privileged to test many of these, since Les realised I had a harder throw than he had. If the boomerang didn't behave satisfactorily it went back to the work bench (which was incredibly tidy!) for more shaping and a further test. Once Les (and Arthur) were satisfied with its flight then it was handed over to Arthur for the art work.

Arthur would French polish it many times until it shone beautifully. He might give it six to eight layers of shellac before it was ready. Then he would start to paint his unique designs, one colour at a time. He used very fine brushes for this. These were usually bought in Sydney each year when they made their annual trip north. He couldn't get good enough quality ones in Albury at the time. Arthur learnt all his art when he became interested in boomerangs. He researched books at the library and studied Aboriginal art and came up with his own interpretation, which we see on their

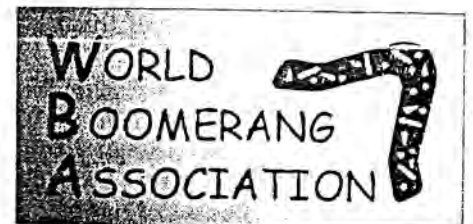
boomerangs today. For a year or so he actually decorated Lorin Hawes' M17s on consignment. This became too much for him to maintain. Needless to say Lorin's decorated boomerangs sold very well at that time! Some of Arthur's boomerangs were given a red colour by staining the wood with leather dye before shellacking them. From the time Les gave Arthur a boomerang it was about a week before it was fully finished. He would paint one colour and let it dry that day, then put on the second colour of the scene, and so on. Once all was done he would paint a clear lacquer over it two or three times, allowing each layer to dry first.

I believe that the Janetzki's were the first to put so much time into decorating boomerangs so well. They were the **fore-runners** of **Rod Jones, Brian Kemp, Thomas Hartmann, Fridolin Frost, John Cryderman, Fred Malmberg, Didier Bonin, Kim Deutschmann, Alan Scott Craig** and a host of other makers today. I believe they set the standard for a well decorated boomerang. All Arthur's decorating was done without the use of an air-gun too. Les was first to constantly join pieces of wood together to make his boomerangs. Their boomerangs were not designed to break records, but to fly well and be very pleasing to the eye, and that they are. Morris Maxwell won several Aussie Rounds using their "Greyhound".

Janetzki boomerangs are designed to be thrown in a particular way. Usually the best type of throw is to launch the boomerang at a high spot about 60 degrees above the horizon. As it comes back it gradually descends, like a Jumbo Jet coming in to land. Most were not designed for the straight ahead throw of more recent boomerangs, although *Arthur's Red Baron* flies best with this type of throw. Being a little heavy the normal Janetzki boomerang stands up to wind fairly well.

Today some collectors will offer over \$500 for a Janetzki boomerang. When they first started they were selling for \$2.10!! I bought a few from a shop in Albury for about \$7 in the mid-1970s. Of course they gave away the bulk of what they made. Let's hope those owning them today fully appreciate what they possess now that Les and Arthur can no longer produce any more **masterpieces for the world.**

Br. Brian M. Thomas, CFC.
 Australian National Boomerang Coach. 1997.
 131 Birrell St., Waverley. N.S.W. 2024.



WBA

The logo design contest is now over. Many thanks to Harri Pietilä of Finland for hosting the contest on his web server. Web surfers can view the logos at: <http://astro.utu.fi/~hpietila/boom/wba/> in full color. The winning logo by Ben Tesch and first runner-up by Stéphane Marguerite are shown above. Additional logos, which are shown on the following page were submitted by: Tony Brazelton; Steve Conaway; Gerhard Bertling; Heikki Niskanen; Etienne Sourd; Roger Perry; James Neno; Max Bone; Günter Möller and Christian Möller



Winning Logo by Ben Tesch



First Runner Up by
Stephane Marguerite.



Astronaut with Space Boom

Barrie Forsyth sent in a newspaper clipping about Dr. Andrew Thomas, an Aussie Astronaut who is the great-great-grandson of Frederick George Waterhouse, the first curator of the SA Museum. Dr. Thomas borrowed an old Aboriginal boomerang and carried it with him on a space trip this past May. The century old boomerang travelled a full 6,400,000 km with a full return.

1996 Braeside Championships (Victoria). 7th Dec.1996.

An awful day with winds gusting between 10 & 30 knots. The oval was changed to one sheltered slightly by some trees, so due to lack of space there was no Aussie Round. A very small field of throwers for the last comp of 96 was off set by some very good throwing and catching in terrible conditions. (If ever Melbourne has good throwing weather it will make history! Ed.)

ACCURACY saw a good score of 28 by Rob Croll.

TRICK CATCHING was won by Rob with 6 catches with Sadir Kattan just behind on 5. The Carter boys showed their skill with Craig taking his first one hand behind the back, and 7 year old Trent diving length ways to take a one hander. The only catch to rival this was Sadir stretching out to take a one hander in the MTA, which was won by Bruce Carter with Trent coming second!

The only other event was FAST CATCH which was won by Rob also.

OVER-ALL: 1st Rob Croll; 2nd Bruce Carter; 3rd Sadir Kattan. For the first time in his short career Trent beat his brother by half a point, mainly due to his great effort in MTA.

1996 EXECUTIVE

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NOTE!!!

Rob Croll

5 Tyson Court

Wantirna Sth.3152

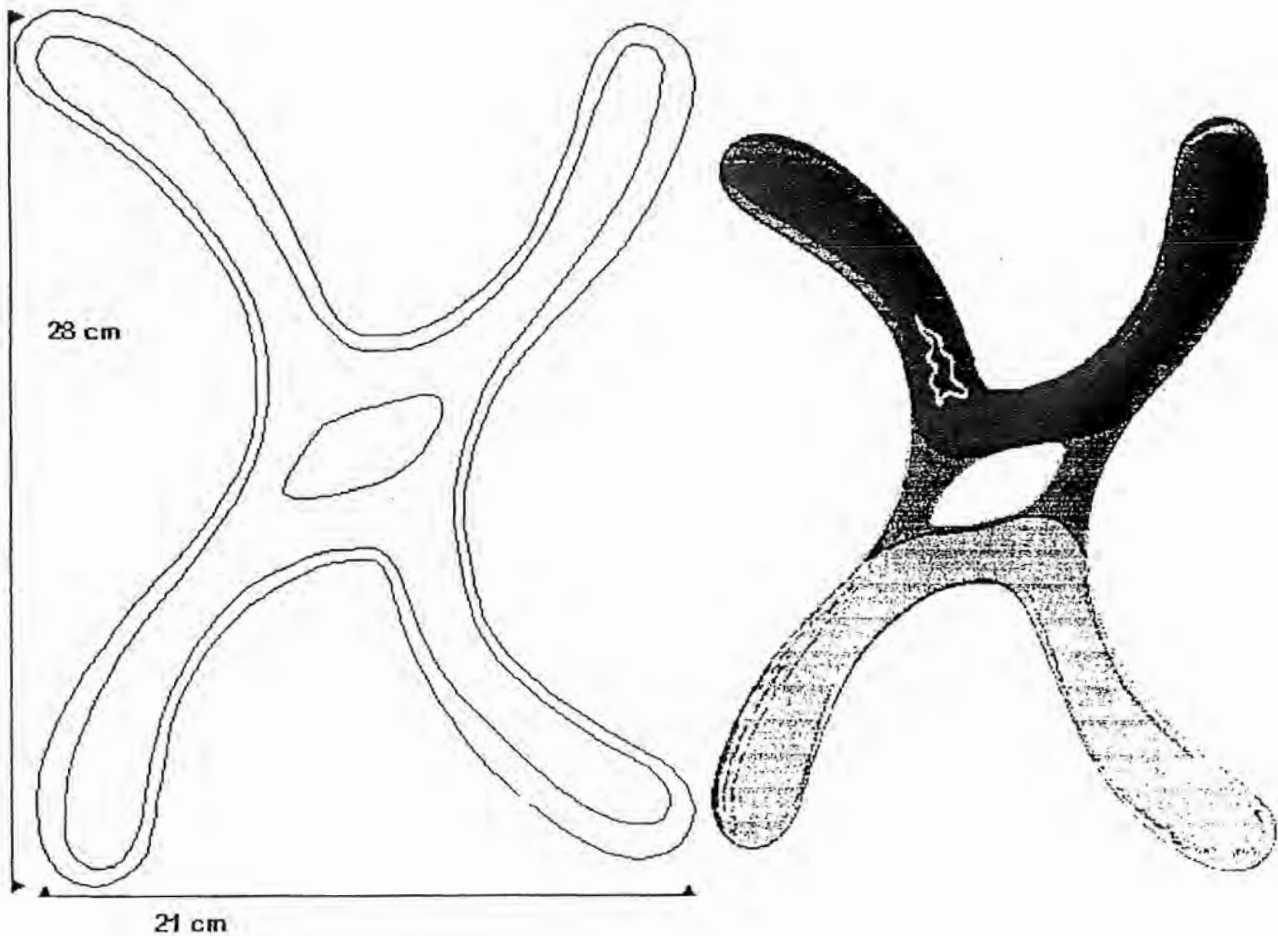
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Some Boomerang Plans

found on the Internet on the web page of Heikki Niskanen from the Finnish Boomerang Association.

Internet adress : <http://www.uku.fi/~hniskane/absurd.html>

Wizardsnake (Noitakäärme)



Wild thing! Range some 22 meter. Very forgiving, quite fast, easy to catch boomerang. One of the best I have thrown. The small ornament is a Samish symbol for wizardsnake.

Material 4 mm Finnish aircraft Plywood.

1997 NSW STATE BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

at Oxford Falls on Sunday, 9th February 1997

Results

Competitors	Accuracy	Fast Catch	Aussie Round	MTA 100	Over-all
A.Carroll	36 / 1	2 cts / 9	31 / 7	23.65 / 4	21 / 4th
K.Moran	27 / 6	4 cts / 6	48 / 2	6.07 / 11	25 / 6th
Br.B.Thomas	14 / 12	1 ct / 10	47 / 3	17.35 / 5	30 / 8th
K.Arthur	15 / 11	0 ct / 11.5	42 / 5	12.50 / 7	34.5 / 10th
T.Butz	34 / 3.5	63 / 3	24 / 9	30.01 / 1	17.5 / 2nd
T.Patterson	17 / 10	3 cts / 8	26 / 8	16.47 / 6	32 / 9th
Mrs.M.Patterson	35 / 2	4 cts / 6	32 / 6	8.01 / 10	24 / 5th
E. Siladi	19 / 9	59.24 / 2	6 / 12	DNC / 12	35 / 11th
K.Andersen	30 / 5	63.5 / 4	51 / 1	12.14 / 8	18 / 3rd
G.Wandtke	34 / 3.5	51.64 / 1	44 / 4	26.95 / 2	10.5 / 1st
I.Bont	22 / 7	0 ct / 11.5	16 / 10	9.87 / 9	37.5 / 12th
H.Ragowski	20 / 8	4 cts / 6	7 / 11	25.06 / 3	28 / 7th

Nearest The Pin for the **Janetzki Perpetual Trophy** : Kevin Moran.

Fred Hollows Perpetual Trophy for Aussie Round : Keith Andersen.

Dave Martin Award for the Over-all Champion : Gunter Wandtke.

Ladies' Champion : Margaret Patterson.

Most awkward, but effective, catch : Tony Butz for his 30.01 MTA throw.

Trophies were donated by Inze and Sarah Bont of **BONT SKATES**.
Ray Bottrell also donated \$50. Many thanks.

Juniors

Competitors	Accuracy	Aussie Round	2 min Endurance
Isaac Harvey	14 / 1st	13 / 5th	1 / e 3rd
Wayne Patterson	13 / 2nd	18 / 3rd	1 / e 3rd
Mark Patterson	2 / 5th	15 / 4th	1 / e 3rd
Peter Holmes	7 / 3rd	52 / 1st	10 / 1st
Scott Raymond	2 / 5th	10 / 6th	2 / 2nd
Megan Patterson	7 / 3rd	24 / 2nd	0 / 6th

Girls' Champion : Megan Patterson.

Chief Recording Judge : Peter Lewry (recovering from a broken leg).

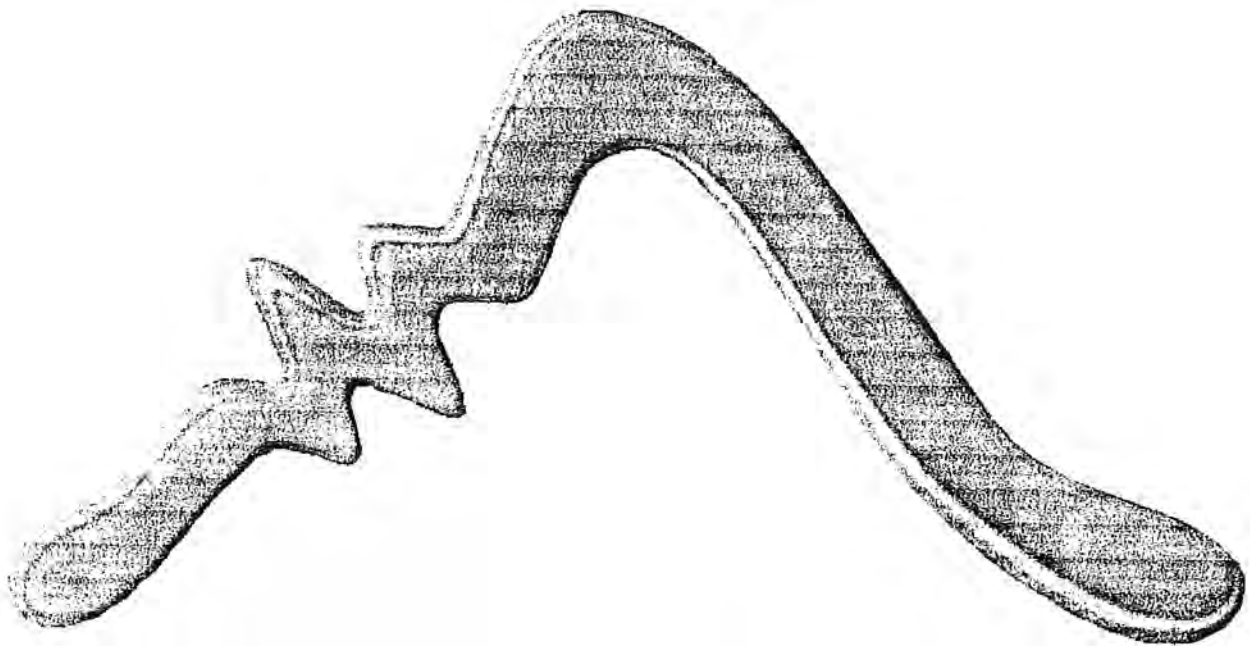
All trophies were presented by Dave Martin's widow, Merle. Dave's daughter, Loray, plus grand daughters Hayley and Rachel were also present.

In an effort to beat the usually windy conditions we started at 8 a.m and finished at 12.30. It was generally calm, but some windy and tricky patches occurred, especially in Fast Catch. It was extremely hot reaching 36 degrees C. Endurance was postponed till the end of the month throw owing to the heat and the health of the throwers.

Thanks again to Pius X College for the use of their grounds and to curators Patsie and Peter Bromley for their co-operation.

1997 NSW CHAMPIONS are: KEITH ANDERSEN .. Aussie Round,
ADAM CARROLL .. Accuracy. GUNTER WANDTKE .. Fast Catch,
TONY BUTZ .. MTA.

"DISORDER"



I must admit : I like it.

This "absurd" boomerang was actually a test and a mistake. I was just trying the limits. But it works - and it works good. Steady all round boomerang.

Dimensions: Widht appr. 35cm and hight appr. 25cm. Wood: Finnish Aircraft 4 mm 8 plies plywood. Painting: Polyurethany sealing.

Retirement comeback for Tony

Winnalee boomerang-thrower, Tony Butz, has come out of retirement to win the 1996 Blue Mountains Boomerang Championships Aussie Round held recently at the property "Winbourne", Mulgoa.

In this event, points are scored for accuracy of return, distance and catching.

Tony, who competed from 1973 to 1982 and was Australia's first international referee for the sport, has spent the last 14 years teaching the sport to children, but decided this year to compete once more in the championships, which began in 1982.

Strong winds played havoc with the boomerangs and even seasoned international throwers had lower scores than usual. Competitors came from around Sydney as well as from Wollongong, Albury and even Papua New Guinea. With the wind at over 20km/h most of the day, and gusting to over 30km/h at times, Tony used a weighted boomerang he had made this year, to win the Aussie Round by just one point over Terry Patterson from Berowra. Third was Gunter Wandtke of Dural who also won the fast catch event in which he had previously defeated overseas competitors.

In the junior events, the junior champion and winner of the Aussie Round event was another Winnalee resident, Tim Lendrum, whose consistent throwing and catching in the difficult conditions allowed him to take and hold an early lead.

His brother Michael won the catching event, consolidating an excellent performance by these two boys throughout the year.

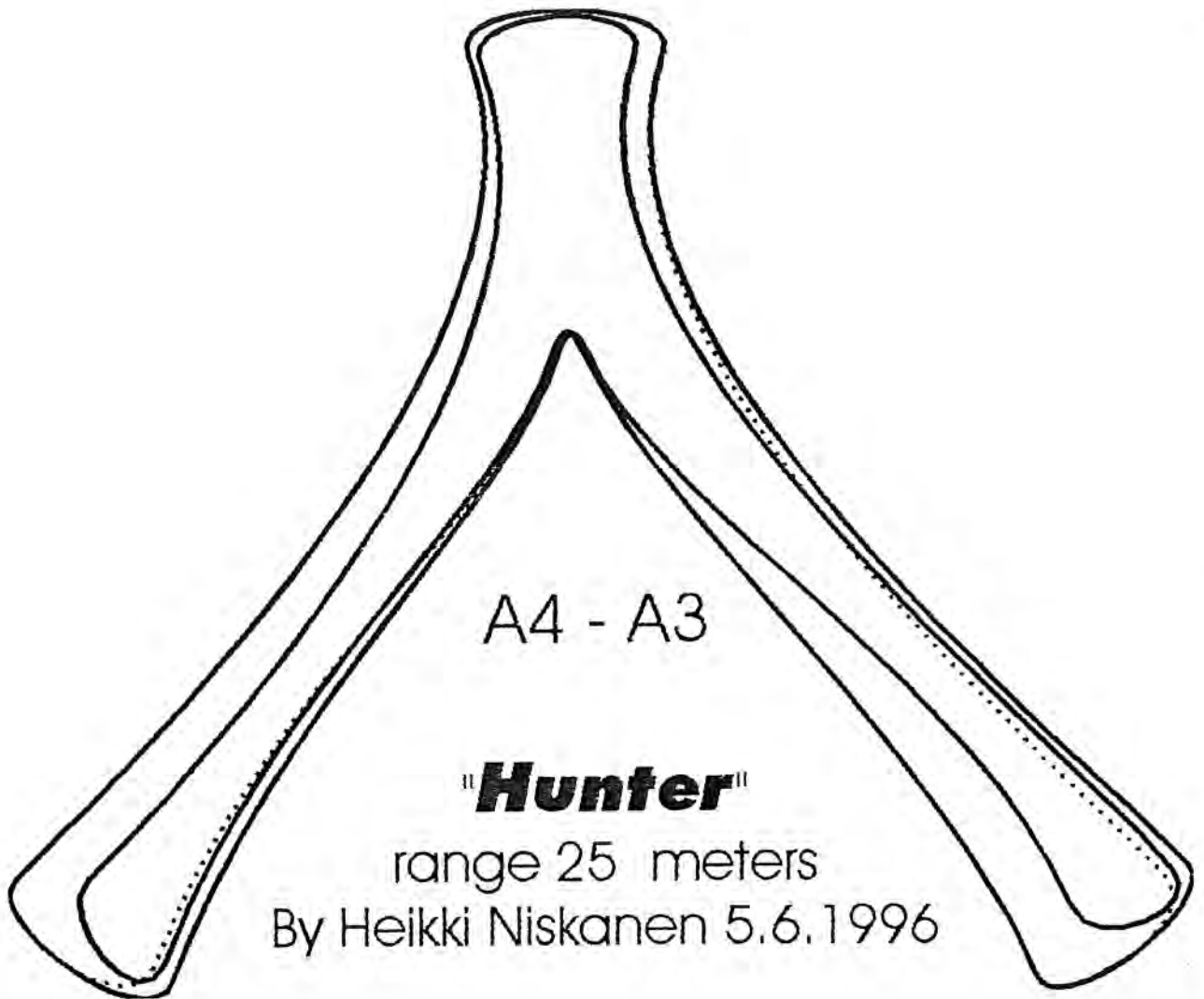
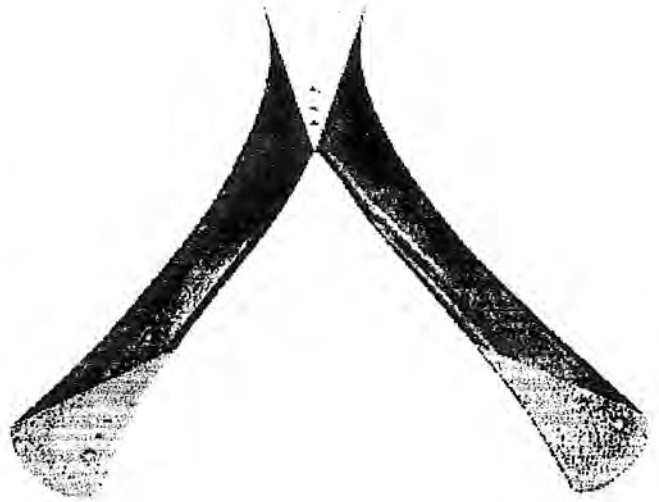


Tony Butz with the Blue Mountains Boomerang Championships trophy.

The next competition is the NSW State Tilles to be held on February 2, at Oxford Falls.

HUNTER

Good first boomerang to anyone.
Range some 20 - 25 meters.
Forgiving and accurate boomerang.
You can use either 5 or 4 mm
Finnsih or Baltic aircraft plywood.



Boomerang of Liberty a non-flier

By MARK SKELSEY

ARTISTS have a growing fascination with turning a little-known Harbour reef into a base for giant monuments.

The latest plan for Sow and Pigs Reef, off Middle Head, would see a 12-storey boomerang erected as Sydney's "Statue of Liberty".

The reef has also been earmarked for 18m long bronze whales, a revolving restaurant and a giant sculpture of Governor Macquarie.

Costing as much as \$22 million and created by Woollahra writer Malcolm Goldfinch, the latest plan is for a "Syrang", which is short for Sydney Boomerang.

Mr Goldfinch said his sculpture would form a spectacular entrance to the Harbour, with an elevator to carry people to the top and ferry docks.

A spokesman for Ports Minister Carl Scully, responsible for approving such structures, gave the proposal a cool response.

"This is the latest in a long line of suggestions for sculptures in the Harbour... it would appear to have as much chance of being



The proposed Syrang



The Statue of Liberty

approved as they did," he said.

Meanwhile, Sydney sculptor John Ladyman is proposing a circle of 6m tall astronauts at the yet to be built Millennium Park at Homebush.

Made from white concrete, the five astronauts with their arms raised to the sky are meant to signify the welcoming of the new millennium in a positive way.

With Sydney playing such a major role in the start of the new millennium, local and State authorities have been receiving increasing numbers of plans for large artworks.

US-based artist Brett Livingstone Strong wants to site a 2m high Guardian Angel on a 125-year-old column at Bradley's Head, near Taronga Zoo.



Michael Lendrum, Tim Lendrum and Scott Raymond

Boomerang trio does it again.

Michael Lendrum, Tim Lendrum and Scott Raymond (above) whose success at a boomerang throwing novices competition was reported in the Blue Mountains Gazette of September 11, have done it again.

Invited to compete in a full contest against experienced throwers, they came home with even better results than before.

After 5 throws in the junior accuracy event, brothers Michael (9) and Tim (11) were tied in first place on 20 points each. A throw-off was ordered and the result was that Tim took the gold medal and Michael the silver. In the junior Aussie round (which scores points for accuracy, distance and catching) Michael took the gold medal, Scott the silver and Tim the bronze in a 1,2,3

finish for the Winmalee boys.

Other throwers had come from Berowra, Dural, Blacktown, Kellyville, Harbord, Lane Cove, Pymble, Manly and Wollongong.

The senior Aussie round event went to the oldest thrower, 75 year old Ken Arthur of Lane Cove, whose consistent throwing won him the gold medal for the first time in this event.

Winmalee teacher Tony Butz won the 'Coach of the Day' award, presented by Brian Thomas, National Coach of the Boomerang Association of Australia which donated the total \$95 entry fee money to the Children's Hospital — Institute of Sports Medicine

1997 NATIONAL BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

at **KNOX GARDENS RESERVE** (Melway Map 72, G2)
on Saturday, 22nd, & Sunday, 23rd March 1997

SATURDAY

Registration: \$20
9.30 Pre-rego & instructions
10.00 start
12.30-1.15 small lunch supplied.

Senior Accuracy ... 5 throws on line,
Junior Fast Catch
Doubling Senior ...5 throws ..NZ Rules
Junior Accuracy .. 5 throws on line.
Senior Aussie Round ... 5 throws
Junior MTA ... 5 throws.
Senior Fast Catch ...2 rounds 1 min cut off.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Rob Croll's, 5 Tyson Court, Wantirna
South,
at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

8.30 start

Senior Trick Catch .. NZ Rules 10 throws.
Junior Aussie Round ... 5 throws.
Senior MTA ...5 throws.
Junior Accuracy ... 5 throws on line.
Senior Endurance ... 5 mins.
Junior Consecutive Catch.

Trophies for first three places, plus **Catch of the Day** in both Junior and Senior,
Nearest the Pin.

There will be a **Smallest Boomerang comp.** Current record holding boomerang is 5 cm
across and 7 cm high. To set a record you would have to be smaller.
OVER-ALL points system will be points for placings. Smallest total wins.

Organiser: Rob Croll, 5 Tyson Court, Wantirna South.3152. Tel:(03) 9887 5085.

NZ Trick Catch Points and order: 1. Clean left hand 2 pt. 2. Clean right hand 2 pt.
3. 2 hands behind back 3 pt. 4. 2 hands under leg 3 pt. 5. Eagle 4 pt. 6. Hackey sack
6 pt. 7. Under leg with both feet on ground 6 pt. 8. One hand behind back 7 pt.
9. One hand under leg 7 pt. 10. Foot catch 10 pt.

Trick Doubling combinations are: 1. 3 & 4. 2. 8 & 9. 3. 7 & 2 4. 6 & 1
5 10 & 5.

