

Boomerang Bulletin 128

May
2012



Editorial

First off, apologies from the BAA committee for the long delay between productions. While a new Editor was not elected at the recent Annual Meeting, the committee felt it necessary to publish what we could as soon as possible. We hope

you enjoyed both this *Bulletin* and the new *Handbook*. We are still looking for a more permanent Editor, though, so please contact the Committee (committee@baa.boomerang.org.au) with any suggestions. A reminder that we also welcome contributions for future editions; they can be sent to editor@baa.boomerang.org.au. And as an aside, any thoughts on the semi-3D variant of the BAA logo here (we'll understand if Tasmanians aren't keen on it)?



Temporary Editor, David J Richardson

- 
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Cover</i> | <i>2012 Nationals Placegetters</i> |
| 2 | <i>Editorial + Contents</i> | |
| 3 | <i>Report</i> | <i>2012 Nationals Report</i> |
| 8 | <i>News</i> | <i>2012 World Cup Info</i> |
| 9 | <i>Article</i> | <i>Competition Rule Changes</i> |
| 11 | <i>Clipping</i> | <i>Bruce Carter interview</i> |
| 12 | <i>Clipping</i> | <i>Rob Croll interview</i> |
| 13 | <i>News</i> | <i>BAA Meeting Minutes</i> |
| 14 | <i>Article</i> | <i>The Great Snouffers</i> |
| 19 | <i>Report</i> | <i>2011 Nationals Report</i> |
| 26 | <i>Article</i> | <i>Origins of the BTANSW</i> |
| 27 | <i>Clipping</i> | <i>Boomergolf + Yahoo Answers</i> |
| 28 | <i>Cover</i> | <i>2012 Nationals Throw-off</i> |

2012 Nationals Report

The 2012 Australian National Championships returned to the site used in 2010, Lewis Park in Melbourne, on March 10th. Despite substantial rain in the weeks leading up to the Nationals (and then on the night before), the ground had drained very well and the surface was excellent. Winds were generally light to medium, but were often swirly and hard to judge. A small field of local throwers were joined by one South Australian (Simon Bollen, in his second Nationals appearance) and a bevy of Western Australians.

Through either coincidence or an unspoken agreement on the “one true order of events”, we ended up conducting the events in the same order as we had one year ago in Perth: Accuracy 100, Fast Catch, Endurance, Trick Catch/Doubling, MTA 100, and finally Aussie Round.

The first event, Accuracy, was a prime example of the occasionally tricky wind: not all that strong, but often shifting in direction. The end result of this was just two perfect throws being made during the event, with Rob Croll claiming ‘Nearest to the Pin’ ahead of Grant Perry, and every single person being subjected to at least two zeroes during their ten throws. The unpredictableness of the scoring resulted in a surprise winner — even for that thrower, as Roger Perry was heard to say unkind things about his least-favourite event just before he found out he had won it! His 47 points put him just ahead of a tie by his son Grant with Leonie Metzakis, whose distinctly “low tech” choice of a Hornet boomerang, with its slow spin and speed through the air, seemed to simply ignore the wind’s foibles.

Fast Catch was next, and the wind was tricky enough that there were a lot of “almost” rounds — a drop or a gust of wind denying one or more catches — afflicting nearly everyone. Every round was completed in the minute, but no one could pull off a decent time. Grant was leading after the first round on 31.56

Lewis Park, in Wantirna South, Melbourne



*Scorekeeper
Kelly Hind*



seconds, with second place being held by David J Richardson after he was the sole person to simply throw and catch five times (using a slow and thick 'Grey Magic' rang from Germany). The pattern continued into the second round, with Grant marginally improving his time to 29 seconds exactly, and David having the rare benefit of throwing last and knowing he already had second place wrapped up. So he threw a rang he knew was a bit too fast for the conditions, hoping to sweep past Grant, grounded the first throw, and could happily enough give up within seconds of starting.

Third place was taken by Rob Croll with 33.90 seconds, his score from the second round.

Craig Carter and Grant led the next event of five minute Endurance, both chronologically and, eventually, score-wise. In moderate winds that stayed more or less in the same direction during their session, both put up respectable scores. Craig was the winner as he made 49 throws and caught them all, rarely venturing from the centre circle, while Grant made a few less throws and dropped a few more, to end with 42 catches. Craig's basically flawless round was an indication of his progress during recent years: he judged the wind correctly, choose an appropriate rang rather than one just that bit sexier or faster, and made no errors.

Roger and Simon threw next, and failed to show the composure the previous two had — though admittedly the wind started playing some dirty tricks on them! Roger, in particular, had periods where he hit his groove but given he changed boomerangs about half-a-dozen times during his round, it was never sustained. He ended on just 20 catches, and Simon on 26.

Much the same story followed in the final round, with Rob losing all composure on his way to a disastrous tally of just seven catches. David took a long time to get into the groove, swapping rangs a few times as the winds changed, and ended with 23 catches.

While we did not know it yet, the overall rankings after the first three events would end up being the final rankings — indeed, the overall placements after the third, fourth, fifth and sixth events were identical. Lots of sound and fury signifying nothing!

The small field of throwers meant Trick Catch could be completed before lunch, and while the winds were occasionally gusty there were generally good conditions for the event. The field split into two groups of three, with the group of Roger, Craig, and David taking the clear lead during the first ten throws, scoring 40, 37, and 36 points respectively (the two Perrys were the only ones to complete the foot catch). One of David's catches came only after a rather dramatic chase into the other throwing circle, about forty metres downwind.

The Doubling portion of the event was not so kind, with only Grant (who made the first eight catches flawlessly, before failing to take either catch on the last throw) and Simon improving on their first half of the event. Roger led out strong, taking the first six catches, but his final two throws netted him no points, allowing Grant (65 points overall) to slip past him and claim the win, with Craig in third on 60 points.

After lunch, we went to place cones on the 50 metre circle for the events of MTA and Aussie Round, and discovered Rob had placed the centre of the circle a bit wonkily, thus putting an arc of said 50 metre circle through the car park! The ground is big enough despite a drop-in cricket pitch in the middle (it worked in 2010) and we're not quite sure how it was offset so far this time! Luckily this would have no effect on the running of the events.

MTA was held in fairly light winds, but the direction of those winds was extremely variable, with every thrower running out of the circle at least once. For this reason the eventual winning times were quite modest, despite some very substantial throws. Some of the changes in direction during throws were outright cruel...

In the first round, Roger made a creditable 31.90 seconds, while Craig and David trailed after throwing conservative three-bladed boomerangs. The



Rob and Simon during hunting stick

other three failed to score.

Grant and Simon got on board in the second round; in fact, they were the only ones to make a catch within the circle. Grant's time of 26.90 seconds was crucially 0.03 seconds more than Craig's first-up score.

Grant improved on that in the third round, making 32.78 seconds. Roger and David (the latter improving to 23.49 seconds) also caught in this round.

Four catches were made in the fourth round, but only David (24.41 seconds) saw improvement. It followed a quite remarkable quest from him to work out where to throw from: he started at the very south of the 100 metre circle, then headed to the west, and then trotted back to within the scoring circles in the middle before rapidly making his throw on the basis that 'it'll change again if I wait a few seconds more!' It did actually change **twice** during that flight – but they cancelled each other out, and the boomerang was caught less than twenty metres from the throwing point.

Into the final round, and Rob was still scoreless. His throws were OK, but he would either drop them or find himself heading off outside the circle. But he finally made a scoring catch, and slipped 0.15 seconds ahead of Simon (who along with every other thrower bar Rob had three scoring catches to his name). Craig hit a useful one at the end, with his 32.10 seconds slotting him neatly between the other two place-getters, Grant and Roger.

And finally, to the event of events, Aussie Round. The conditions were quite similar to those experienced in MTA; a few times throws were met with abrupt

Name	Division	Sex	Accuracy			Aussie Round			Endurance		
			Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points
Grant Perry	O	M	45	2	2.5	148	1	0	42	2	2
Craig Carter	O	M	29	5	5	146	2	2	49	1	0
Roger Perry	V	M	47	1	0	109	4	4	20	5	5
David J Richardson	O	M	28	6	6	124	3	3	23	4	4
Rob Croll	O	M	41	4	4	96	5	5	7	6	6
Simon Bollen	O	M	24	7	7	86	6	6	26	3	3
Leonie Metzakis	O	F	45	2	2.5	24	8	8	-	8	8
Angie Perry	O	F	20	8	8	44	7	7	-	8	8

Name	Division	Sex	Fast Catch			MTA			Trick Catch			Overall	
			Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points	Points	Place
Grant Perry	O	M	29.00	1	0	32.78	1	0	65	1	0	4.5	1
Craig Carter	O	M	34.55	4	4	32.10	2	2	60	3	3	16	2
Roger Perry	V	M	43.63	5	5	31.90	3	3	62	2	2	19	3
David J Richardson	O	M	33.35	2	2	24.41	4	4	51	4	4	23	4
Rob Croll	O	M	33.90	3	3	21.27	5	5	22	6	6	29	5
Simon Bollen	O	M	45.19	6	6	21.12	6	6	36	5	5	33	6
Leonie Metzakis	O	F	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	8	8	42.5	7
Angie Perry	O	F	-	8	8	-	8	8	-	8	8	47	8

lack of wind, meaning a chase forwards, but these were the exception rather than the rule. Leonie and Angie returned to the field for this event, but only to limited success. Everyone else except David threw fifty metre boomerangs, with David throwing a 40 metre range big V Hummingbird. That latter boomerang was operating pretty much as a long-range fast catch, often returning less than a metre off the ground and setting up some very entertaining catches. In fact, David (along with Grant) took all ten catches and that plus an average of 4.4 points of accuracy would lead him to third place on 124 points. The last catch had everyone perplexed as to how it had happened: the catch of the low circular throw was made a foot off the ground above the seven line, but with the feet remaining in the centre circle!

It was beaten for Catch of the Day, though, by a backwards-tumbling effort from Roger, who ended 15 points behind David, mostly due a single throw where he collected zero points.

At the top, though, we had a gripping battle between the young guns: Grant and Craig. Both had two perfect scores of 20 during their ten throws, with Craig leading early, collecting a blistering 55 points from his first three throws. Grant came back strong with a 20 and 17 to end the first set of five throws, placing him at 70 to Craig's 77 at the half-way mark. The high standard continued into the second half, but an inexplicable drop by Craig within the accuracy circles would ultimately determine the winner: Grant, with 148 points, won by just 2 after he finished with scores of 20 and 19.

This provided Grant with his fourth victory for the day, and along with his two second placings, he was a clear and obvious Nationals champion, for the first time. Well back, the champion of recent years, Craig, just barely beat Roger. It was a well-earned victory for Grant after last year's heartbreak where he led early before succumbing to a knee injury.

Tallying up the scores showed we had a tie for Ladies Champion, requiring a 'Nearest to the Pin' throw-off that saw Angie Perry claim victory.

A rather ingenious design of long strips of cheap plywood and a cardboard box (after the ground was found to be too hard to push the plywood into!) was the target for the following Hunting Stick competition, which saw Simon Bollen progress to 30 metres range before being beaten by Rob (a relief to him after a not very successful day!)

Next year: we're doing something different. For the first time since 1986, Adelaide will host the Nationals. Let's hope it sparks a renaissance of sorts there!

Competition Rule Changes

By now, you have presumably seen the new BAA Rules of Competition in the 2012 *Handbook*. So I thought I'd give a little bit more context to why and how the changes were made.

I'm pretty sure most people have not read the previous rules any time recently, or maybe at all. We're not all interested in minutiae. Most of our tournaments are held in the big cities that hold most of our population, and hence with at least one very experienced thrower who knows the rules (or a close facsimile of them). Those veterans also ignore some aspects of the rules (e.g. they used to say that a boomerang in flight at the end of a Fast Catch or Endurance round could not be caught). I didn't know the BAA rules said that for quite some years after I started throwing, because I was taught by the likes of Brother Thomas and Peter Lewry that you could make that final catch. Rules that get ignored are asking for trouble; where do you draw the line at what to ignore, and what not to?

At least there was consistency in everyone ignoring that particular rule. But some other basic stuff like how to rank throwers has been far from settled. Some people count up (winner of the event gets 1 point), some count down (winner of the events gets as many points as there are people in the event, or in the tournament). At World Cups they've traditionally, and bizarrely, done both (in the individual tournament you want a low score, in the teams you want a high score). Some give a bonus point to the winner, some don't. Some do count-backs if there is a tie at the end of a tournament. Some do bonus points **and** count-backs, and if you actually think about that one much, you'll realise it really is quite unfair. And this applies at the highest level of our sport in the country, at the Nationals, which I've seen flip-flop constantly over the years. Yes, most of the time it doesn't matter — but just occasionally it has. Let's codify this stuff, make sure everyone can see it, and not have to worry about it again.

I freely admit getting the details perfect on this kind of creation is an awfully hard thing to do — every time I proofed it I found something new to correct. As far as possible I have re-used words and phrases from previous Australian and World Cup rules to avoid creating new confusion or loopholes. Those rules have been reviewed by many eyes over the years. Where you see changes there is probably a very explicit reason for it: much of the time it's just to be a bit clearer (in my opinion!), but other times the change is very deliberate. For example, previously if you set a record in an event but the event was then cancelled (due to, say, a lightning storm), you lost the record. It never happened. That's insane!

A key concern that was raised during the creation of these rules, and in

particular with the recent World Cup rule change to Aussie Round (30 metres range of flight being required to score accuracy points) was that any changes to the BAA rules should not create a barrier to inexperienced throwers. If we make the most iconic of our events, Aussie Round, inaccessible to younger, weaker, or starting throwers then we are not helping our sport, a sport that needs more people. This is why the suggestion to simply adopt the closest thing we have to “international” rules, the World Cup rules, was rapidly ruled out. They are designed for an event at the highest level, one in which time limits in events are basically always observed, and the thirty-metre rule was brought in because higher-level throwers were “abusing” the twenty-metre rule by taking the “easy” 70-point round. World Cups don’t have beginners, and teams always provide four throwers and one judge in any given event. None of this is particularly relevant to most events. If we make the BAA rules too strict or too narrow, they’ll get ignored.

Fundamentally, the rules for the individual events described in the World Cup rules, the rules practiced (not written) in Australia in recent years, and the new BAA rules are the same. There are no surprises here. The one significant change **is** the adoption of the thirty-metre rule, but it is softened by rule 1.5, as below:

Portions of a tournament may diverge from these rules without the tournament losing ratification. For example, at a given tournament it could be decided that younger competitors might not need to meet the usual minimum requirement of 20 metres range of flight with their throws, or that an additional person could make the catch. If any such exceptions are made, they must be clearly noted in any scores for that tournament, and rankings for competitors meeting and not meeting the entirety of these rules must be able to be separated. Competitors diverging from these rules are not entitled to the privileges noted in section 1.1 for the event in which the divergence occurred. They remain entitled to the privileges noted in section 1.1 for any other event from the same tournament in which they did comply with these rules.

(Rule 1.1 refers to the use of scores to determine record scores, or to rank throwers from different tournaments against each other.)

So the effect of this is that your tournament has no excuse avoiding these “strict” rules, as you can just document any deviations. For the record, the rankings must simply be **able** to be separated; you don’t actually have to do so.

Any suggestions or comments on the new rules should be sent to the BAA committee — hopefully there’s not too many “bugs” in this version 1.0 set of rules! Suggestions on a consistent description for the ‘Throwing Stick’ target are particularly welcomed — that’s the only thing holding back its event being included in the rules.

Local Knowledge

FACES
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY

Boomerang Association of Australia's coach and former president, Glenroy resident Bruce Carter, talks about a sport that keeps on coming back.

How did you get into throwing boomerangs?

I threw my first boomerang at age 20 when I was volunteering on a youth camp with Rotary. That was 35 years ago. I loved the Australian feel, the fact that when you throw something it comes back.

You're a former national champion. What's the secret to throwing well?

You need a bit of power, you need the correct technique. Like sailing, you've got to get the wind direction right. You throw it across the wind and the wind helps stabilise it and brings it back. You've got to have ability to read the wind, be well co-ordinated, use both sides of your body. A good strong arm is an advantage. It's something we can all do if we learn.



What do you like about the sport?

It's certainly a good feeling. You've got to remember that it's the only sport where you're its own target.

How popular is it?

It's not very popular. Boomerangs were bigger in the '80s, when we had the first-ever World Cup. Internationally it's still all right. Germany is very strong, Australia hasn't won on the international scene since 1991 and never won the World Cup.

How big is your association?

We have less than 100 members Australia-wide.

Who wants to learn to throw a boomerang?

It's most popular with international backpackers.

The Australian National Boomerang Championships are held March 10-11 at Lewis Park, Wantirna East. Details: 0412 200 144.



'What did the didgeridoo?'

*'It answered the phone when
its mate Boomer rang!'*

New Idea – 30 January 2012

Rob tells us that the very last line got him into all sorts of trouble with Tracey!

BARMY ABOUT BOOMERANGS

You can't get much more Australian than Robert Croll – a professional boomerang maker who has competed for Australia at the World Boomerang Championships and owner of 5000-plus Aboriginal artefacts, including the country's largest boomerang collection!

There are about 2000 boomerangs in my collection,' the 52-year-old Melburnian tells New Idea. 'It got so big that I now have to display them at a museum at Gumbuya Park, where I'm creating the Great Wall of Boomerangs. I'm a very proud Australian – the only thing I'm not is Aboriginal!'

Robert bought his first boomerang when he was eight and has been obsessed ever since. He's been world champion twice and represented his country more than 10 times.

'It does make you pretty proud to represent your country,' Robert says. 'Especially when you're doing a sport that is truly Australian!'

Incredibly, Australia has only won the World Championships once, in 1984, with Robert on the team. The German and US teams have been strongest in recent years.

When he's not competing for Australia, Robert loves nothing more than teaching others all about boomerangs.

'Every Australia Day you'll find me at the Kings Domain in Melbourne doing a boomerang-making workshop and doing some throwing,' Robert says.

'My wife Tracey isn't overly thrilled about the amount of time I spend on boomerangs, but I'm happy people can go and see the collection.'



BAA 2012 Meetings Summary

The Annual Meeting and General Meeting #17 were held on the evening of March 10th after the Nationals had finished. Full minutes can be obtained from the Secretary (secretary@baa.boomerang.org.au), but a summary of the key discussions and decisions are below for your convenience.

With the exception of Gary Mitchell as Webmaster, all positions were retained by their current holders. Christene Metzakis took on the additional role of Webmaster from the retiring Gary Mitchell – so look for changes to the club website in the near future!

The role of Editor, despite what you see in your hands right now, remains unfilled – if you're interested, contact the Committee!

Moneys held by the BAA did not change substantially during the financial year (ending 30 January 2012), with the total held in the two active accounts finishing at \$3914.97. Further funds remain in the World Cup term deposit, which came from profits at the 2000 World Cup held in Melbourne, but they will be mostly exhausted after the 2012 team has been to São Paulo.

Memberships for next year were maintained at the same rate as previously.

Simon Bollen was given authority to arrange the Nationals in Adelaide. Possible locations include The University of Adelaide at the northern end of the CBD, or Kenilworth Cricket Club at the southern end of the CBD, where Simon has some contacts. While not confirmed, it was suggested that the 2014 Nationals be held in Perth, one week before the World Cup proposed for there.

The location of the 2014 World Cup will most likely be confirmed at an IFBA meeting at the 2012 World Cup. As previously advised, the BAA's proposed location is Guildford College in Perth. Accommodation for 125 people is available on site, and it is believed there will be considerable demand due to the long period since the last World Cup in Australia and a possible low turnout at the 2012 World Cup. Roger Perry advised that Rangs Boomerangs would likely provide starting funds to the BAA for the proposed 2014 World Cup in Perth.

Rob Croll featured in the ABC's 'Collectors' TV show and the January 30 edition of 'New Idea' magazine (to the left). As part of the City of Melbourne's Australia Day celebrations, he provided 300 boomerangs to the public per the City's sponsorship, and then sold a further 200.

Leonie and Chrissie Metzakis are pursuing possible inclusion in the 2013 Sports Expo at the Perth Convention Centre. A storefront and demonstration area would be available.

A case in which a Western Australian woman was hit by a boomerang in Yanchep National Park in December 2010 was discussed. The woman suffered substantial damage to her teeth and jaw, and has in recent months pursued a civil case against the thrower of the boomerang as well as seeking bans on boomerang throwing in public places. The Western Australian Minister for Police has rejected the latter proposal.

Simon Bollen described aid provided to him by the previous South Australian State Representative Barrie Forsyth over the past year, and possible future works with the South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy.

The Great Snouffers



*originally printed in 'New Frontiers',
a magazine by Bruce Carter and
Brian Kemp*

by Bruce Carter



I had only heard about the legendary Chet (even as far back as '88 he was a living legend) in the prelude to the Australian Bicentennial Boomerang Cup in the little town of Barooga, on the Murray River.

My first meetings with Chet were not too successful — here is this bloody smart-arse yank who can gather all the media attention on Earth, it seemed, all because he could jump like a cat and do a fancy back flip — to make it worse, the smart-arse even caught the boomerang a few times.

He got on well with everyone, except me it seemed — I would try to keep to myself, let my boomerangs do the talking. Talk maybe, but his boomerangs screamed and weren't they mighty accurate, and the little bastard could catch them as well.

Had not spoken a word to this guy all tournament, but we drew the same circle in a round of fast catch... great, I seemed to drop everything that came my way, s'pose I will cop plenty of Chet chat! Like: 'bloody Aussie couldn't catch a cold'. So my second round I want to get off the oval as quick as possible. Throw, catch, throw again, try to finish the round and look for a hole to bury myself. Well, I started to catch a few, when the guy who was watching me yelled out 'great round' for a fast catch time of 28 seconds. Could not believe it, the great man Snouffer actually paid the crappy Aussie a compliment. I was later to find out, it did not matter to Chet who did what; the real winner to him was the sport of boomerangs.

So professional, his wife Carmen and he would have discussion after discussion after each event — she would time and score Chet, then do the same on the

other throwers.

What a great team they were. Chet knew who he had to beat, the times he had to master, who was hot on his heels (not that many were ever close enough on the scoreboard to worry him).

So the '88 Cup come to a close, the media were all over the USA team when suddenly everyone went silent as our own boomerang god was making a real statement: not knocking the crap opposition, not boosting the ego of his team mates, his words were 'YOU, THE MEDIA, YOU HAVE BEEN HARSH ON YOUR OWN AUSTRALIAN TEAM. YET LOOK CLOSELY, THEY KICKED OUR BUTTS THE LAST DAY. [*Yes, we did fluke a win on day 3.*] DON'T THEY DESERVE SOME RECOGNITION?'



The Cup was now over and an Aussie bush dance was held at the local school. The grade 5 and 6 children had been practicing their dance routines for months and I was fortunate enough to witness the following, something that has stayed ever so clear in my head for nearly 20 years.

We were all in a long line and when you and your partner got to the front you had to ZIG to the left — but Chet ZAGGED to the right! His partner stopped and gave him the biggest glare you could imagine. How could this man let her down in her moment of glory — front of the line, in front of all of her friends and family — stupid man did not know his left from his right.

No amount of apologies was going to fix this mess. She just stopped dancing — everyone just stopped and without saying a single word, Chet got the biggest payout of his life. I can tell you after that every boomerang thrower was very nervous when they got to the front of the line and they made sure they knew which way to turn.

Witnessing Chet at schools was always a delight. He gets on so well with kids and it is a real treat to watch him on the monkey bars performing stunts to the kids, yet never stealing the show, always encouraging the kids to have a go and join in the fun.

I competed against Chet several more times over the years; it used to piss me off that our own Robbie Croll, a dual world champion, absolutely adored Chet. He would always talk about that man. I could not be so open about the opposition but I grew to admire Chet, especially as he got older, as much if not more than Robbie did.

In Perth we all met in the World Team Cup and it was in the relay event that a boomerang actually got away from Chet and was going to crash into

the turf, which would make Chet have to throw again and lose valuable time for his team. No mere mortal could launch himself horizontal across the ground like Chet did just to catch a piece of wood. Catch it he did — then flip in mid air so that he would land on his back and the boomerang would not touch the ground. Then spring to life again and run with the speed of a gazelle back to his team.

‘DID YOU SEE THAT?’ was the cry, but the reply from America’s own funny man John Koehler was ‘BIG DEAL — it was only Chet, and he’s a gymnast!’ This from the same man who won the ‘91 individual event and announced ‘Looks like I have to travel around the world just to be able to beat Chet...’

I was editor of a magazine called *New Frontiers* — aimed at boomerang throwing around the world and the humour associated with the sport. We were never going to let the truth spoil our stories and we made sure that the KING of our sport was going to feature periodically.

We even ran with the headline ‘What is the difference between Superman and Chet?’

(Superman has a weakness — Chet doesn’t.)

But we had to tell the world about the tournament Chet did not win — the 1991 World Championship in Perth. He did not even win the indoor championship — that was won by Gregg Snouffer. What was amazing in Perth was that the yelling and screaming done on the boomerang field was mainly done by Chet, in the absence of his good friend Mike “Gel” Girvin. And to think that Chet was a quiet guy when he was champion.

It was in Perth that the unthinkable happened — Chet was introduced as ‘This is Gregg’s brother Chet!’ We even witnessed ‘Hello, Gregg’s brother. You used to throw boomerangs, didn’t you?’

SO NOW WE WILL LET THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT GREGG SNOUFFER.

Mr Nice Guy — prepared to live in his brother’s shadow — OK as a thrower, nothing special. Can catch a few rangs, even do a couple of tricks, but then again so can my dog. I met Gregg in Europe in ‘88 and this quiet man was quickly named CHET-LET by the Aussies (well, me actually). There was this sad case of ‘Let Chet go first; Gregg the good guy will follow’. He would introduce himself as Chet’s brother Gregg and of course any media that wanted some stories let Chet speak to them first. And so the name CHET-LET was born. Trouble was only the Aussies knew of this name — I did not have the heart to tell Gregg about his REAL name for 3 years. It took this long to work up the courage to tell Chet-Let about Aussie humour at work.

Chet-Let took to his name OK, but we could not get the Americans to use this term though. In '91 the unthinkable happened — not only did Gregg beat Chet at the inaugural World Indoor Championships, Mr Nice Guy beat everyone and won the event.

Who could forget the excitement from boomerangers everywhere. Chet-Let no more. He dethroned the King. Pictures taken of him sitting on the sign above the entrance to the Super Dome. The new World Champion.

And his brother so gracious in defeat — just left, went back to the hotel where the team was staying, leaving Gregg to bask in the glory — but that left him to find his own way back — Chet has taken the car!

I have lots of memories, stories and wonderful experiences with the Snouffer boys. Their love of the sport, their pure passion for competition, their respect for every opponent, no matter how good or bad the opposition was. To witness their love for each other at tournaments — the giant hugs after one has done something SPECIAL, time after time — the proud parent and uncle when young Cody used to run around a field like a headless chicken playing with a 'rang, makes you realise how lucky we are to have known a great couple of guys for such a long time. It's a pity that we all have gotten older and that I have got old.



Gregg, at the 2006 World Cup



Boomerang Review

We asked boomerang thrower Big Bazza Harrison to road test his pride of joy, a Chet Snouffer boomerang I purchased for Bazza at the World Cup in Perth in 1991. The trouble started when my dog Boomer picked up the rang and put a couple of teeth marks into the artwork. For the past 10 year the boomerang has sat quietly on the walls of Bazza's house, although the lady in charge has made the boomerangs move to different places over the years. It no longer has place of pride in the living room.

We quizzed Bazza on various aspects of the boomerang.

QUALITY OF FLIGHT? Yes! This boomerang flies & returns when thrown correctly.

CAN IT HANDLE STRONG WINDS? The ceiling fan never blew it off the wall. The tricky cross winds did not present a problem although it must be pointed out it has never been thrown outdoors in wind.

DOES IT APPEAL TO LADIES? Never once appealed to Lady Lynne. She wanted it off the walls from day one. Asked can it be swapped for a Picasso. Obviously the artwork needs to be improved to win the ladies' hearts.

CAN IT PASS THE STRESS TEST? Definitely not! It dents quite easily as Boomers' teeth-marks feature quite prominently on the boomerang.

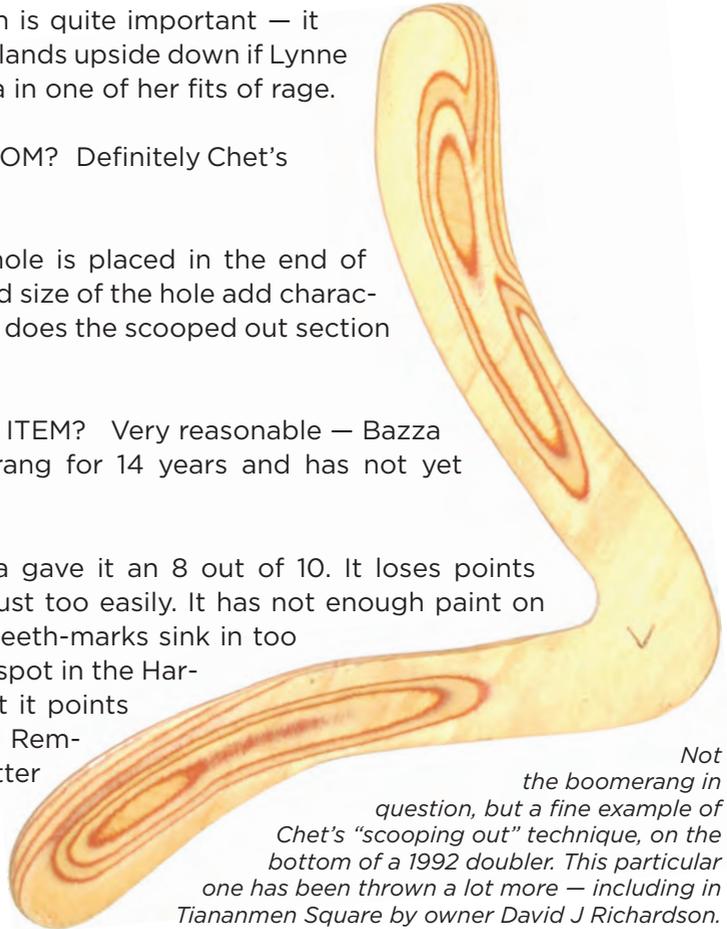
PAINT/FINISH? Excellent finish, although it lacks colour underneath which is quite important — it could be hard to find if it lands upside down if Lynne throws the rang at Bazza in one of her fits of rage.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOOM? Definitely Chet's signature...

ACCESSORIES? One hole is placed in the end of each wing. The shape and size of the hole add character to this boomerang as does the scooped out section underneath each wing.

PRICE OF THIS LUXURY ITEM? Very reasonable — Bazza has owned this boomerang for 14 years and has not yet bothered to pay for it!

FINAL RATING? Bazza gave it an 8 out of 10. It loses points for the fact it collects dust too easily. It has not enough paint on the underside and dog teeth-marks sink in too easily. The fact it lost its spot in the Harrison's lounge room cost it points as did Lynne deciding a Rembrandt would be a better item to display on her walls...



Not the boomerang in question, but a fine example of Chet's "scooping out" technique, on the bottom of a 1992 doubler. This particular one has been thrown a lot more — including in Tiananmen Square by owner David J Richardson.

2011 Nationals Report

The 2011 Nationals were held on Saturday May 14 at Fremantle Park in Perth, a field that had been used for the same purpose in 2002 and 2004, in which Ian Sproul and Roger Perry claimed victories. Roger and Angie Perry arranged the on-field details, while Leonie and Christene Metzakis arranged the trophies and certificates. The eighteen participants were mostly in their home state, with the exceptions being three from Victoria, one from South Australia, and one from Germany. The day was overcast, with moderate but gusty and swirling winds being a key part of the day.

The tournament started, as arguably all should, with the classic Accuracy event, with two circles in use. The occasional throw was mercilessly battered away by the wind, but the wiser throwers judged it well and were rewarded points-wise. Brothers Ryan and Grant Perry, on different circles, showed the necessary nous and jumped the opposition early, being the only ones to exceed 30 points from their first five throws (Grant on 38, and Ryan on 36).

The first perfect return to the throwing circle, however, was from competition debutant Simon Bollen from Adelaide. Angie Perry was right behind him with her second throw, giving her a brief moment leading the pack. At the half-way mark Angie was tied with Ian Sproul in third place, with 29 points each.

As it turned out, the second half of the event would deliver much of the same, with Grant and Ryan being the only ones to finish with ten scores from their ten throws, with Grant finishing first with 78 points and Ryan second on 70. Chris Johnson, another debutant, and Rob Croll came home strongly, scoring 41 and 38 points in the second half respectively, but neither could quite get past Mr Consistency himself, Ian Sproul, who tacked on another 34 points to finish with 63 in third place. Chris missed a debut placing by just one point, with Rob a further one point behind him.

Fast Catch was next, and most struggled to string together five clean throws and catches. In the first round only Ryan (37.15 seconds),



Simon Bollen during Endurance



German visitor Nils Buerger

German visitor Nils Buerger (38.12), Grant (44.00), Rob (48.35), and David J Richardson (56.70) managed to complete their round within the one-minute cut-off.

While most throwers improved on their score in the second round, only two ended up completing their five catches twice: Grant (35.40) and David (53.62). The minor improvement by David would not change his position for the event (sixth) but for Grant the better time meant he had won the first two events for the day. Indeed, the top two spots were the same as they had been for Accuracy, with Ryan's first-round time being good enough to hold off the rest. The only other big change arising from the results of the second round was Ian moving up from a four-way tie for sixth into an undisputed fourth, thereby maintaining his overall third place.

From that we moved quite rapidly onto Endurance, which was run simultaneously all over the field, with throwers grouped in pairs to watch and count each other. This levelled the playing field somewhat, and it seemed that the story at many of the circles was the same: nasty conditions for the first few minutes, and then some respite towards the end of their allocated five minutes, allowing the better throwers to get into a groove and hammer out most of their catches.

This event would prove to be the pivotal one for the day; late in his round Grant injured his left knee, and while he still managed to make 21 catches and place third, his involvement in the day was all but over, and he would plummet from a substantial overall lead to a final placement of eleventh. Defending champion Craig took out the event with 25 catches, and with Ryan having a shocker (he made only 9 catches, the least of anyone in this event) and Ian not being much better on 14 catches, suddenly Craig was just — just! — in second place overall.

Josh Smith was second for this event with 23 catches, and that put him back into contention for the overall title too. Fourth spot was taken by debutant Simon; having been paired with him, I can say his second half included about three times as many catches as the first half!

Standing, from left: Ian Sproul, Matt Barker, Grant Perry, Ryan Perry, Craig Carter, Simon Bollen, Roger Perry, Wayne Summerfield, Leonie Metzakis, Chris Johnson. At front: Nils Buerger, Rob Croll, Gary Mitchell, David J Richardson, Chrissie Metzakis.



bling. Or should I say Trick Catch, after tournament runner Roger deemed conditions too harsh. And then it became two rounds of Trick Catch, to get the total potential score up to 100 once more.

Grant tried to persist through his knee injury, but retired shortly into the event. The first few throws went largely to plan, but when only two throwers complete the 'two hands under the leg' catch, you know conditions aren't the best! Those two throwers, Craig and Roger, led the scores at the half-way mark, with totals of 29 and 27 respectively. The sole person to make the foot catch in the first round was Nils, which helpfully doubled his score for that round.

Ian had a disastrous first round, scoring just 2 out of a possible 50 points, and while he would be much better in the second round, his ninth place here on the back of his struggle with Endurance had notably dented his chance of winning the overall title.

The low scores meant the event went down to the wire, with the last three throws particularly crucial. Gary had taken the first seven catches of the second round, pushing him to a total of 49 and the lead. He then proceeded to miss the next two (one hand behind the back, and one hand under the leg), allowing Roger (49 points), Josh (47) and Craig (45) to move into contention with one throw left.

But their moves would be in vain, as only one person — Gary! — would take that final foot catch to emphatically claim victory. After four events, that still left him equal eighth — but his day was far from over...

So as we went to lunch, Craig held onto first place of the remaining throw-

ers (Grant was technically still just ahead of him, but out of contention) by a slim margin ahead of Josh, with Rob in third.

As we came out to practice after lunch, the sun popped out from behind the clouds briefly, stirring up some thermals and hopes from throwers. Rob and David quickly found this was not necessarily a bonus on a day of some wind, as they went off searching for MTAs that disappeared behind the clubhouse! The sun would disappear behind the clouds before the event started, but the taunting winds did not, with several throwers ultimately getting caught out by throwing in the wrong direction or from the wrong point.

The first round was mostly conservative throws, with all but two times being in the teens. The exceptions were from Ian (24.62 seconds) and then Ryan (29.29). Ian would raise the bar with his second throw to 32.70 seconds, with the only other change of note being David moving into third with a 22.23 second throw of a Georgi Dimantchev Primer.

Round 3 saw David basically repeat his second throw (0.10 seconds less), and Ryan repeat his first throw (0.05 seconds less), but Matt claimed a stake by moving into third with his catch after 24.66 seconds. The only other score for that round was by Simon, making his first catch. It may have only been after 15.63 seconds, but it was a score in tough conditions, and bigger — much bigger! — things were to come.

Round 4 opened with Craig moving up to 19.19 seconds, which would be his best time. It was an uncharacteristically poor showing by Craig in this event, as several of his throws crashed and burned. Gary followed him by posting a 29.56 second time, moving into third place at the expense of Ryan. The big drama of the round was yet to come; with a slight lull, Simon flung one to the sky and 34.44 seconds later he had more than doubled his time, and moved into first place. Rob was the next thrower, and he seized the opportunity: up it went, and forty seconds later... he dropped the gentlest of returns! So instead of being in a near unassailable first place, he was four throws up and four throws down, being the sole thrower without a time!

The final round: David powered up, and went ten metres out the back of the hundred metre circle about thirty seconds later, and Roger did similarly. Only two throwers scored in the final round, with Matt (28.19) and Rob



Evil monkey Craig Carter scales the clubhouse...



(21.50) narrowly keeping it inside the big circle. Rob actually waited on the back of the circle, watched his rang go out, and then stepped inside to catch it as it swung back within reach!

So the surprise winner was Simon (34.44) ahead of Ian (32.70) and Gary (29.56). Ian's second place had brought him to near equal with Craig at top of the rankings (28.5 points to Craig's 28), with several other throwers, notably Josh and Ryan, still just in range if case either was to stumble in the final event: Aussie Round.

The three Victorians (Craig, Rob, and David) led off the first of three groups for Aussie Round, and while Rob and David struck out with zeroes from their first throw, Craig did exactly the opposite, scoring a perfect 20. The rest of his throws for the first set of five throws weren't as spectacular (and included a zero), but come half-way Craig had a reasonable 54 points to his name.

*... then ponders how forcibly
to return the boomerang!*

Gary Mitchell was continuing his run home with 52 at that point, but the runaway leaders were Roger on 77 and Matt Barker on 66. Matt's best throw was somewhat comical: he ran this way, he ran that way, he turned around and chased down the catch, and when he looked down after all that, he discovered to his amazement he was right back in the middle!

I would argue that for most of the day the wind wasn't **that** strong, just sneaky, but half-way through Aussie Round a large tree on the edge of the field behind the fifty-metre spotters decided it didn't agree with me — as it ripped itself out





The overall place-getters: Gary Mitchell (second), Craig Carter (first), and Ian Sproul (second)

Name	Division	Sex	Accuracy			Aussie Round			Endurance		
			Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points
Craig Carter	O	M	48	8	9	123	2	2	25	1	0
Ian Sproul	O	M	63	3	3	84	7	7	14	10	10.5
Gary Mitchell	O	M	39	13	13	114	3	3	17	6	7
Josh Smith	O	M	48	8	9	88	6	6	23	2	2
Rob Croll	O	M	61	5	5	110	4	4	14	10	10.5
Roger Perry	V	M	48	8	9	124	1	0	17	6	7
Ryan Perry	O	M	70	2	2	52	12	12	9	13	13
David J Richardson	O	M	52	7	7	67	9	9	17	6	7
Matt Barker	O	M	44	11	11.5	100	5	5	15	9	9
Simon Bollen	O	M	44	11	11.5	46	13	13	20	4	4
Grant Perry	O	M	78	1	0	-	18	18	21	3	3
Nils Buerger	O	M	36	15	15.5	44	14	14	19	5	5
Wayne Summerfield	O	M	34	17	17	59	10	10.5	10	12	12
Chris Johnson	O	M	62	4	4	8	16	16	-	18	18
Angie Perry	O	M	54	6	6	41	15	15	-	18	18
Leonie Metzakis	V	F	36	15	15.5	69	8	8	-	18	18
Christene Metzakis	O	F	38	14	14	59	10	10.5	-	18	18
Kelly Hind	O	F	15	18	18	-	18	18	-	18	18

Name	Division	Sex	Fast Catch			MTA			Trick Catch			Overall	
			Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points	Score	Place	Points	Points	Place
Craig Carter	O	M	60.50	7	7	19.19	8	8	45	4	4	30	1
Ian Sproul	O	M	43.03	4	4	32.70	2	2	26	9	9	35.5	2
Gary Mitchell	O	M	3 catches	10	11	29.56	3	3	59	1	0	37	3
Josh Smith	O	M	4 catches	8	8.5	18.99	9	9	47	3	3	37.5	4
Rob Croll	O	M	48.35	5	5	21.50	7	7	37	5	6	37.5	4
Roger Perry	V	M	3 catches	10	11	14.58	11	11	49	2	2	40	6
Ryan Perry	O	M	37.15	2	2	29.29	4	4	25	10	10	43	7
David J Richardson	O	M	53.62	6	6	22.23	6	6	18	11	11	46	8
Matt Barker	O	M	4 catches	8	8.5	28.19	5	5	29	8	8	47	9
Simon Bollen	O	M	2 catches	13	13	34.44	1	0	37	5	6	47.5	10
Grant Perry	O	M	35.40	1	0	-	18	18	2	12	12	51	11
Nils Buerger	O	M	38.12	3	3	17.24	10	10	37	5	6	53.5	12
Wayne Summerfield	O	M	3 catches	10	11	11.42	12	12	-	18	18	80.5	13
Chris Johnson	O	M	-	18	18	-	18	18	-	18	18	92	14
Angie Perry	O	M	-	18	18	-	18	18	-	18	18	93	15
Leonie Metzakis	V	F	-	18	18	-	18	18	-	18	18	95.5	16
Christene Metzakis	O	F	-	18	18	-	18	18	-	18	18	96.5	17
Kelly Hind	O	F	-	18	18	-	18	18	-	18	18	108	18

of the ground, roots and all!

Ian had a shocking first half (three zeroes, and a total of just 16 points) but recovered in the second half by scoring 68 points, including his own perfect 20. He wasn't alone; Rob did the same and tallied up 65 points to reach a total of 110. Gary made 62 in the second round, for a total of 114 and third place, but the second round belonged to Craig: doing maximum distance, he caught all five throws in the scoring circles, adding 69 to his first round and ending on 123 points.

But it was not to be enough, as Roger scraped together 47 points to pip Craig by a solitary point!

The third and final group to throw abruptly got some gentle conditions, allowing them to run over some of those who had preceded them — most notably, Leonie moved into the top half by totalling 69 points, including two gentle twenty-metre returns to the centre circle for the catch. Made it look absurdly easy at the end of the day...

With the exception of the little gap Craig managed to win the tournament by, second through tenth were separated by only twelve ranking points, with second through fifth all but a tie. Of course, had Grant Perry avoided injury, it could have been a blow-out.

In the end: congrats to Craig for his fourth Nationals title, making him second only to Rob Croll. Long way to catch up to Robbie's tally of ten titles though!



Origins of the Boomerang Throwing Association of NSW

by Tony Butz

We had just had the first International Match with the American team. They had just started their National Association before they came over for this International.

Brother Brian Thomas and I were travelling in my Kombi van to Melbourne, Albury and Sydney. As we went we talked about how the Americans seemed close as a team. They shared accommodation and worked together. We weren't the same.



After this, in 1981, I asked the Department of Sport and Recreation about how to start up a State Body. We held our first sport administration meeting for the purpose of setting up a state body. There were five of us throwing at Mars Road, Lane Cove, at the time. Rick Haywood was our first President. He did not stay with us for long after this. There was Brother Brian Thomas and two others. I was the first secretary as I had to liaise with the Department of Sport and Rec. A lot of thought went into the name of 'Boomerang **Throwing** Association of NSW'. We did not become 'Boomerang **Throwers** Association' as that sounded like a trade union mob, and I wanted the emphasis to be on the throwing.

We set up a constitution which was what had to be done and then wrote to the BAA. We were officially recognised at a meeting in 1982!

In 1982 Victoria followed soon after us. The first Interstate Match was at Beauchamp Park, Chatswood. There were about 40 spectators, the Commonwealth Bank as a sponsor and the Channel 9 camera crew!

A NSW University student, Yoshinobu Kimura, came and was taught on the day. He went in the events and even won the Accuracy event. The media lapped it up, with the following headline:

SHAME

Boomergolf is the new sport

Anyone for Boomergolf?

It's a sport that originated this week in Albury to give a new twist to the dying art of boomerang throwing.

Because of apparent disinterest by the public in boomerang throwing Mr Jeff Lewry, an Albury butcher, came up with Boomergolf.

He plans to include it as a contest in the Riverina and north-eastern Victoria Boomerang Championships he is arranging for September.

Balloons

How to play it?

"All you need," says Mr Lewry, "is either one, nine or 18 helium-filled balloons and a boomerang guaranteed to return.

"You stand up to, say, 35 yards and throw the boomerang at the balloon floating above the ground attached to a string.

"If you miss the first time the boomerang will return close enough to you after a skilful throw, so as not to give you a disadvantage.

"Of course a wild throw could send it into the rough.

"The number of throws you take to burst the balloon will be your score for the 'hole.'

"With varying distances from the balloon,



or with different heights you suspend them above the ground, there should be no trouble in having par three, four and five.

"Who knows, it may be a chance for a frustrated golfer to throw away his clubs and get a hole-in-one with a boomerang."

Mr Lewry, of Dean Street, Albury, has been throwing boomerangs for about a year and gives free lessons to about a dozen children at the local sports ground on Saturday afternoons.

He makes his own boomerangs, mainly of plywood.

The internet is not always the most accurate source of answers to your questions. Here's a classic one from 'Yahoo Answers', found for us by Simon Bollen.

QUESTION: Do boomerangs really come back when you throw them? Just curious... how accurate are they?

BEST ANSWER: They don't actually come back when you throw them. In fact, it's yourself that catches up with the boomerang.

It's difficult to picture, but you know how the world is spinning but ALSO moving around the sun? Well, the unique shape of a boomerang allows it to literally 'hover' in the air whilst we move away from it and then eventually back towards it. This is due to there being two elliptical movements; one of the Earth spinning and one of it moving around the sun.

Often when a person throws a boomerang and it fails to come back they're simply throwing it in the wrong direction and the world is 'carrying it away' with it as it spins.

Hope this helps!

SOURCE(S): I'm Australian.

ASKER'S RATING: ●●●● / ●●●●●
Seemed most informative... but I don't know if you're completely right or not.

