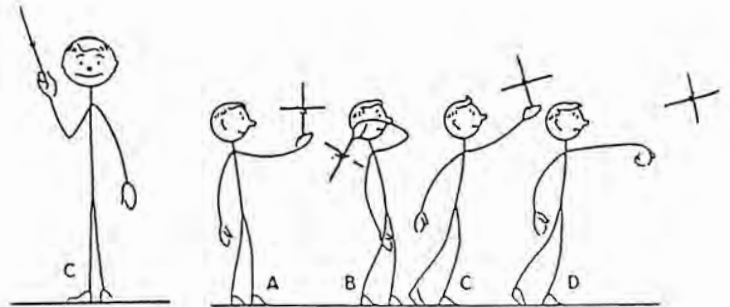




AUGUST 1996

INDOOR

BOOMERANG THROWING

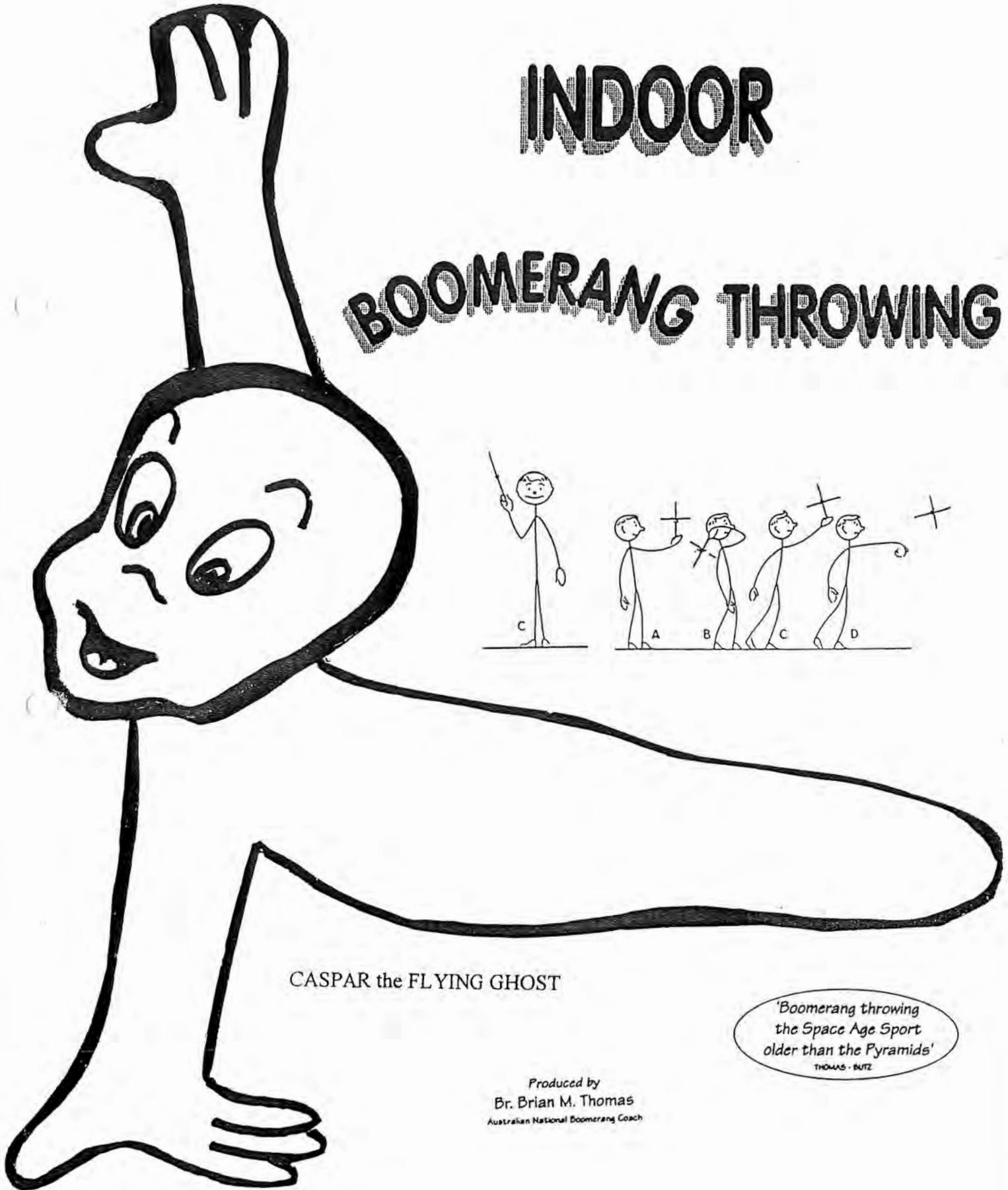


CASPAR the FLYING GHOST

*'Boomerang throwing
the Space Age Sport
older than the Pyramids'*

THOMAS - BUTZ

Produced by
Br. Brian M. Thomas
Australian National Boomerang Coach



EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL



When you read the article on the following page you may search in vain for mention of boomerangs. So the question immediately rises in your mind; "What is an article on archery doing in our boomerang magazine?" Once you have read the article I hope it will be transparently clear to you.. the similarity between the two sports. It is a small sport with little spectator interest. Does that worry the contestants ? No. They enjoy their sport for what it does to them. And that is the way all sport should be: participants enjoyment first, spectator interest second. Otherwise we have the horse riding the jockey.

Often our throwers bemoan the fact that we don't have yelling crowds at our comp. But when you look at it there are very,very few sports that do. They are usually the ones with large media push and sponsorship. They are usually the very instant action sports, like football. Even our own very popular cricket, which is played by thousands throughout the land and is an international sport, only attracts crowds to the action packed one-day games, and an occasional test. Go along to any club game or even state game and it will be mostly family members of the players that you see.

So why have an editorial on crowd attendance? I think that our thoughts on this issue tend to determine the type of competitions we have. Are we trying to measure boomerang throwing skill, or are we trying to entertain a crowd, who don't understand the intricacies of the wind or throwing skills, etc. .. if there is a crowd? The hard facts are that we usually throw with only the boomerang throwing people there. So let's make the comps suit our throwers. This means having an understanding of the people we have present. This obviously varies from place to place. Here in NSW we mostly have old throwers who can't be running around like hairy goats and rolling all over the ground to catch a boomerang in their feet. Overseas it is a different picture where large groups of younger people have discovered the magic of the boomerang. They like vigorous competitions. Maybe it's time to establish a Masters section (50 plus) with appropriate competitions for that section, and not expect them to do the things that an old body can't do with safety. With so few in the sport we want to hang onto every thrower that we can. I am sure we all felt it a special privilege to be able to throw in a competition with 91 year old Arthur Janetzki last year. I remember in 1982 we had 82 year old Les Janetzki and 2 year old Ben Loveland competing on the same field. Not too many sports can boast of an 80 year difference in competitors. We are in danger of losing this great treasure with the move to more and more athletic type events. Do we want to keep our old throwers or not ? Let's think about it.



Aim in sight for the young man they fear



PETER FITZSIMONS

Atlanta: It's called Stone Mountain, lies well west of Atlanta, and beneath its puny shadow — maybe one-hundredth the size of the one cast by Ayers Rock — 64 of the world's best archers are going at it on this hazy, lazy, slumberous afternoon. This is, nevertheless, the qualifying rounds of the Olympics, so it's a serious business.

Ready. They fit the pencil thin arrow and pull the bow waaaaaaay back. *Aim.* They sight the pupil of the bullseye far away. *Fire!* By the time the "g" in "twang" has stopped vibrating, the arrow has not only found its mark but also received one. On the series of concentric circles of which the target is made up, the very middle is worth 10 points, grading down to zero for anything wide of the outside circle.

The archers are absorbed, but for a stray passerby it is surely not a particularly riveting scene. Around the arena there are, if you exclude all the journalists who are paid to be here, only about four genuine spectators. They look suspiciously like the three men and a dog of sporting mythology. Wherever the massive Olympic crowds that have been getting so much press are, they are definitely not here.

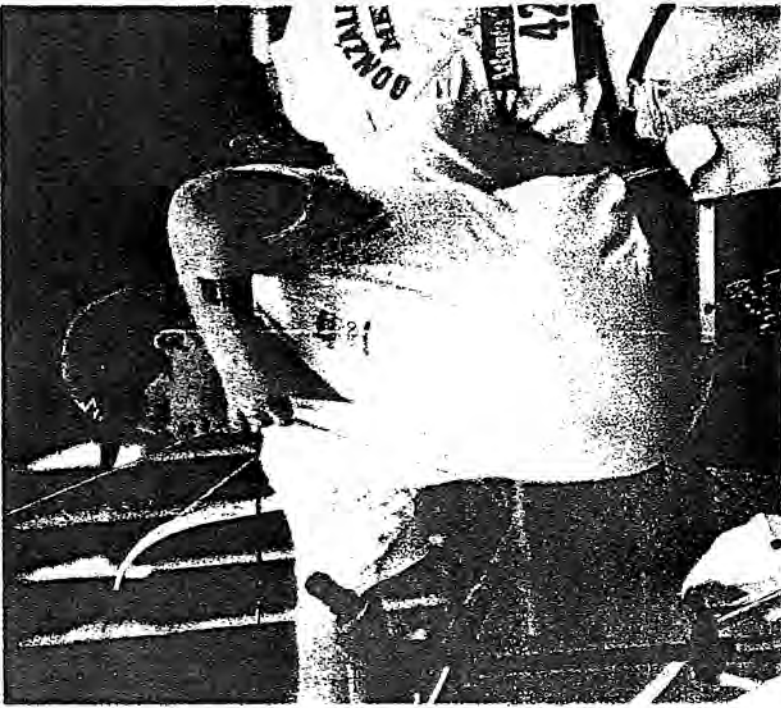
But these young men don't care a fig. They pull the arrows from their quivers and methodically send them hurtling 70m to their destination, just as they have always done, just as they will always do. Some folks say this is not as exciting as the final of the men's 100m sprint, but that's OK — people who say that are not archers and can't be expected to understand.

One of the bowmen stands out from the others. He looks like the youngest, only 17 or 18 years old; is definitely the biggest, perhaps 125kg but more likely there would be no change left over from 135kg; and he seems to be doing pretty well, judging from the occasionally envious looks from other archers. He's doing extremely well, and by the time the afternoon's qualifying is over, he has every reason to celebrate.

His name is Jackson Fear, he's from Kirrawee in Sydney's southern suburbs, he's studying for his HSC and he seems every bit as sombre and reserved as the afternoon ambience.

Still, this young man has not only just fulfilled his dream by competing in the Olympics, but also recorded a personal best of 671 out of a possible 720 and has moved into eighth place, just 13 points off the lead. So is that PRETTY FANTASTIC OR WHAT, JACKSON!?

"Yes it's pretty good," he offers. "And I am happy to have been a bit more consistent." Somehow, the way he says it implies that that is about as far as he wants to go in the matter of



Eighth place ... Sydney teenager Jackson Fear is 13 points off the lead in the archery competition. Photo by TIM CLAYTON

being joyous, which is fine. Any predictions? Are you going to rip 'em, bust and tear, shoot their socks off, go for gold and glory until their noses bleed?

"I'll just shoot my arrows and see what happens," he says quietly. "If I can shoot as well as I've been shooting, I'll be happy with that."

Goodo, and what do you love most about archery? What is it within that thrills your soul so much you just want to hug yourself for the joy of it?

"I don't know," he says. "Just, I guess, that my dad taught it to me when I was eight, and I've sort of been doing it ever since. And I guess it's good to be good at something, isn't it?"

Turning his answer over, and deciding he likes it, he comes back again.

"Yes, I like it because I'm good at it, I guess." He seems a sensitive soul, this 'un, not entirely comfortable with even this brief flash of the media spotlight upon him, even though he has readily acceded to an interview request. The other possibility is that he just doesn't like the look of my melon.

He is somewhat sensitive about his weight. A reporter can't ignore it, though, because he is a man so mammoth — twice the size of his rivals, while in many cases half their age — that the obvious question begs: Is it possible that part of his phenomenal accuracy derives from firing from such a steady ship?

"No, I don't think so," he replies, "there is no classic form for an archer."

When asked though, just for the record, how much he tips the scales at, he replies with just a touch of menace: "I don't think that's really relevant, actually."

Which is good, because suddenly I don't think so either — if anyone mentions weight around here again we can both pop him one — and what a good thing to see a new subject appear just when we need it.

How about school? What do your school friends think of your archery?

"They didn't say much at all about it at first. But now that I'm an Olympian ..."

Now that he's an Olympian, the competition resumes Tuesday.

one gathers, he's starting to get a bit of respect that merely being the world junior archery champion never provided.

(Pause. Look around. Sigh. Uncomfortable silence.)

Does it feel like you're at the Olympics?

"Not really," he replies. "Which is good, because a lot of people get caught up in the hype of it, I suppose. I just try to do it really steadily ..."

Was it at least FANTASTIC march in the opening ceremony "It was fine."

Jackson, let's be frank, dying here. Any chance you could give a sucker an e-break and turn your mind over more to just what it is about sport that thrills you so?

"I love it when you let arrow go, and you know going to be a bullseye, you know it. I love that feeling." I'll go with that. Thanks, good luck.

In the team competition which runs concurrently with the individual competition, Australia is also well placed a Sunday's qualification round.

The Australian team of F. Simon Fairweather and Matt Gray is placed fourth or cumulative total of 1,994, points behind Italy and United States, who are tied second. Korea is in the lead with a world record of 2,031.

In the women's competition our best-placed competitor Myfanwy Matthews is in 4th position.

The competition resumes Tuesday.



INDOOR BOOMERANGS

Indoor boomerangs are marvellous things. You can use them any time in the 365 days of the year, regardless of the weather outside. As we know, our outdoor boomerangs are limited by the weather, plus an empty space in which to throw, and our physical fitness to do so.

One of the beauties of indoor boomerangs is the great availability of material to make them. There are basically two main types of indoor boomerangs. We have the one that we throw which is usually based on the crossed-rulers principal, but can be made into many interesting shapes. In this magazine I have depicted two eye-catching shapes. Caspar and the flying dolphin, but there are endless shapes to invent. All you need for these is some stiff (not too heavy) cardboard. The cardboard on our breakfast cereal boxes can be used, but slightly stiffer cardboard is better.

The second kind of indoor boomerang is the Flickerang, which you simply put on the back of your hand, aim it up into the air at least 45 degrees, and then flick the edge. You can have great party games with this one in trying for mouth catches. People of all ages are able to do both these indoor boomerangs. All you need is a few metres space and off you go.

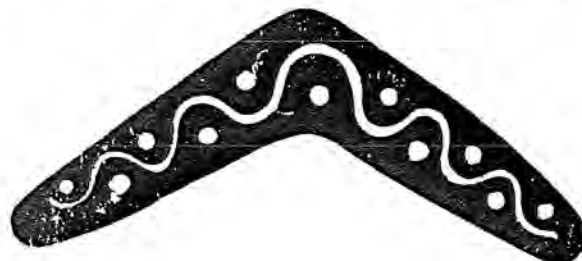
I have found that one of the beauties of these indoor boomerangs is that most people are able to be instant successes with them. This makes them feel positive towards boomerangs and those who throw them. While many will never try an outdoor boomerang I am sure they must feel some affinity with us as fellow boomerangers. In other words we have won a bit more support and gained a few more friends.

As I said, the cross-bladed boomerangs (known to the Aborigines as Maris), can be made from stiff cardboard. They can also be made from balsa wood. These fly very nicely, but are prone to break more easily on catching them. There are commercial foam made ones that are very difficult to break, but these are much dearer. So experiment with all sorts of material and see what you can come up with.

The main rule I try to follow with both types of indoor boomerangs is to make sure there are no points anywhere, since the main damage you could do with one of these is to flick someone in the eye. The absence of points will help to protect people (and yourself!) in this area. Yes, it is even important in such little things as the flickerangs.

With flickerangs you can make almost any shape fly. It is the spinning on it that makes it come back and it has an out and back flight path. These are great things to do with school groups. Old birthday cards, Christmas cards etc. make excellent material for these. So you can see that we boomerangers are into the re-cycling habits.

I always carry six or more flickerangs in my wallet, so that an instant lesson can be given to anyone slightly interested. As the old saying goes: "Seeing is believing". Most people are very impressed when they see their first flickerang wing its way out and back, and they are more thrilled when they find that they can do it too. And then, when you give it them, they are even more impressed! So always be armed with some of these in your pocket.



So in only three of the ten books mentioned was the fact that boomerangs can be either non-returning or returning. Its invention by the Australian Aborigines was acknowledged by all. It could have been stated, however, that several other countries used it until it became obsolete by the bow and arrow. The Aborigines still use the boomerang.

However, top quality encyclopedias give longer, better descriptions of how boomerangs that return, perform the way they do. One well-known book is the Children's "Golden Book Encyclopedia", 1981, which states :- "*Boomerangs were made in different shapes and sizes, but the returning boomerang is the most famous kind. If the boomerang misses its target, it would turn around and come back to the thrower. The returning boomerang was invented by the Aborigines. It was light and thin with a deep curve, the ends were slightly twisted in different directions, and the lower surface was flat, but the upper one was raised a little.*" A reference to the two types.

The foregoing refers only to two bladers. But we know that boomerangs having three or more blades are as common as these. Yet no where were they mentioned, which is the other featured overlooked. (Editor's note: To my knowledge the only multibladers known to the Aborigines were the four-blader Maris, which were only found on the coast of Queensland. These were made for the children to play with, not for hunting. So they were not as common as the other types mentioned in this article.)

A recent instruction sheet produced by the Boomerang Throwing Association of NSW defined boomerangs as :- "*An implement which when thrown away, circles and will return to the thrower.*"

Adam Ruhf Grabs World Record in Fast Catch and Ties World Record in Endurance



One of boomeranging's longest standing marks was broken June 15th by Adam Ruhf, a sixteen-year-old cannon-armed youth who competed for the US Team in New Zealand back in March. Adam's blistering 14.98 second Fast Catch round at the Amherst, MA tournament smashed the five year-old mark of 15.03 seconds held by Frenchman Gregory Biseaux.

The affable son of east coast legend Larry Ruhf knew he was ready for the challenge after throwing rounds of 14.3 and 14.4 seconds in practice the day before the tournament in light breezes. But when tournament day dawned with gusty, unpredictable winds, the stage was far from set.

In his first of two attempts, the winds lightened for him, allowing a mid-16 second round, which easily clenched first place. Then, before his second round, the willowy, 6-foot-two youth meditated for a moment then publicly asked the ancient gods of wind for a world record. As an amazed, but expectant crowd looked on, the winds moderated and died while Adam cranked out the world's fastest round of five, 20-meter throws and catches ever done in competition. When asked how he did it, Adam replied, "I threw hard and had fast turn arounds." Ruhf previously held the US Fast Catch record of 16.5 seconds, which was the second best time in the world.

Then again, at the National Championships in Virginia Beach on June 30, Adam tied a World Record. This time, in the Endurance event with 76 catches, equaling the world mark set by France's Yannick Charles in September 1995 at the Strasbourg tournament.

Adam is throwing a modified Darnell ABS Tri-Fly which he carved down, tuned up and added fast-catch airfoils. While the experts disagree on the exact speed of boomerangs at any given moment, it could be safe to say that Adam's boom was approaching the 100 mph mark during the round, specifically during the outward leg. Adam's Fast Catch round was recorded on video and has already been examined by video experts who determined that the time was accurate, using slow motion and time-encoding. The official USBA score sheets and other documentation have been gathered and will be sent to the Guinness Book of World Records for inclusion in the next issue.

1997 NATIONAL BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

VENUE: Knox Gardens Reserve (tentative)

DATE: 22nd 23rd March 1997

ORGANISER: Rob Croll -- bus. (03) 9807 2386. pvte. (03) 9887 5085

EVENTS: Saturday: AUSSIE ROUND (5 throws); FAST CATCH (2 rounds); MTAC (5 throws).....followed by ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at the Pavillion on the oval.

Sunday: TRICK CATCH /DOUBLING (scoring as per World Cup 96 . 100 pts)
ACCURACY (5 throws); ENDURANCE (5 mins.)

JUNIOR EVENTS: AUSSIE ROUND; FAST CATCH..2 rounds; MTA 5 throws;
CATCHING EVENT (1 pt two hand,2 pts one hand)..5 throws;
ACCURACY (5 throws); CONSECUTIVE CATCHING.

LADIES' EVENTS: Saturday: AUSSIE ROUND; FAST CATCH; MTAC.

Sunday: CATCHING EVENT;ACCURACY; 2 min.ENDURANCE.
(if agreed by lady competitors)

Throwers can enter ONLY ONE SECTION. Either OPEN, LADIES or JUNIORS.

ENDURANCE / TRICK CATCH-DOUBLING open to all competitors.

All eligible for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places. Over-all points will be in their own section.

Prizes for every competitor .. shoot out ..team comp, plus tuition for the public on Sunday afternoon.

IMPORTANT ! IMPORTANT !!

FEES: There will be a scale of payment on a time factor.

BEFORE JANUARY 1st: SENIORS .. \$20; LADIES & JUNIORS \$15;
FAMILY \$50.

BETWEEN JAN 1st and MARCH 1st 1997 .. \$30.

AFTER MARCH 1st and prior to the tournament .. \$50.

ALL COMPETITORS MUST BE FULL BAA MEMBERS OR AN AFFILIATED MEMBERS OF THE WBC.

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NOTE!!!

Rob Croll

5 Tyson Court

Wantirna Sth.3152

(03) 9887 5085

The Boomerang

A long time ago a little boy and girl were playing on the seashore. The boy was not yet old enough to begin the training that would lead eventually to his being received by the elders of the tribe as a warrior. Like most children of his age, he liked to show off.

Then he made a bad mistake. He killed a little bird that he should never have touched. In fact he should have made a special effort to protect it, for this was his "Eurie" — his "meat".

Each person has his own particular Eurie given him at birth, and it is regarded as his second self. Should you be hunting with someone whose Eurie is the duck you must first ask his permission before you kill any ducks, or run the risk of being impaled on the end of the duck man's spear!

It is Yindingie — the spirit god and messenger of the higher god Beerall — who, when you die, takes your spirit to the bottom of a certain lake. Here you pass a guard at the mouth of a cave, then on past two more guards to the end of the cave. After going through certain rites*, your spirit is ready for its journey into the east. Yindingie often comes to earth in the form of a large snake. You will remember that his sign is the rainbow.

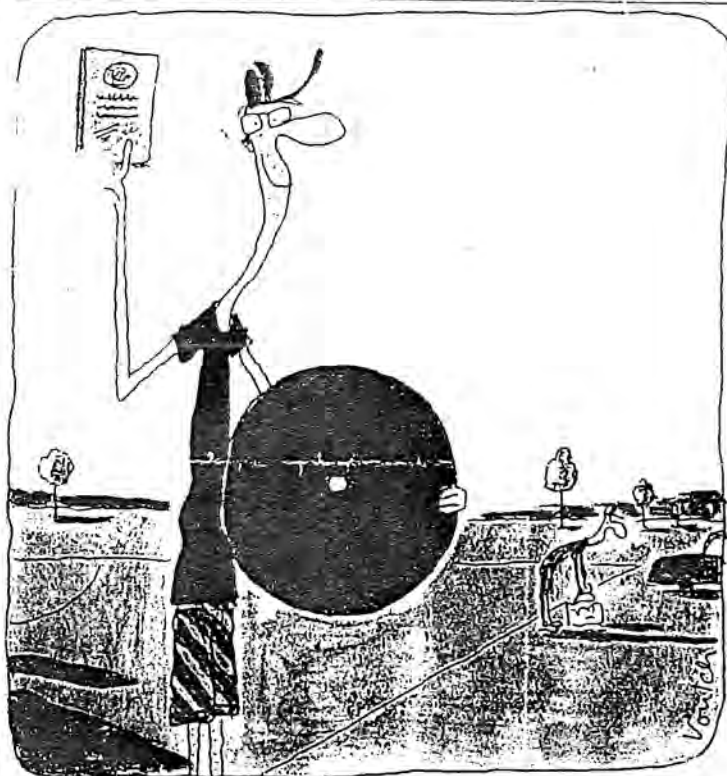
Now when Yindingie saw what had happened he decided to punish the children. He came as a large serpent, picked up the children and began to swim out to sea. Hearing their cries the fighting men grabbed their spears and rushed to the beach. When they saw who it was they were afraid, that is all except one man, the father of the children. He threw his nulla-nulla. There was a great splash of water as it hit the serpent's head, glanced off, and came hurtling back towards him, and had he not stepped quickly aside, no doubt he would have been killed.

When next they looked towards where the splash had occurred, the Yindingie and the children were gone, and in their place stood two rocks side by side.

On picking up his nulla-nulla, the father found more disappointment. Not only had he lost his children, but here was his best nulla-nulla, the one he intended to use on the next full moon when there was to be a war with a neighbouring tribe. He had spent weeks "hardening" it and getting it just so, for he prided himself as a maker of fine weapons. Now here it was quite flattened and bent out of shape.

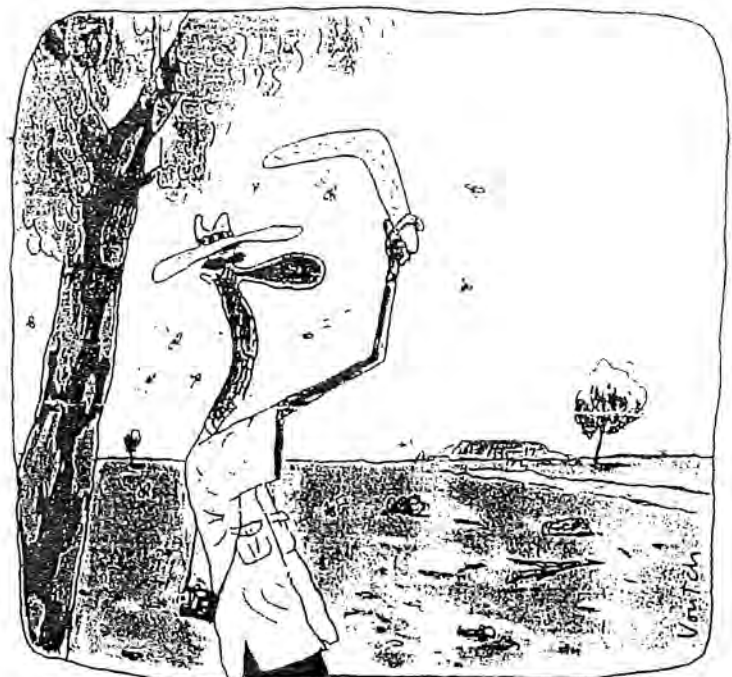
In disgust he threw it at the rocks. But even before it had reached halfway, it circled in the air and came back to rest at his feet.

*rites — ceremonies



7 September 1999: Peter W. Carpenter (aged 21) wins his fifth consecutive annual tournament thanks to his 172-blade revolutionary home-made boomerang.

another cartoon by Olivier Vouktshevitsh



27 December 2047: whilst visiting the Australian Bush, a young german thrower found, in a tree, a very strange-looking half four-bladed boomerang (which, surprisingly, flew with a perfect return).

BOOMERANG NEWS

another cartoon by Olivier Vouktshevitsh

Issue #26

DIVERSE DESCRIPTIONS OF BOOMERANGS IN DICTIONARIES

by South Australian, Ed Russell, June 1996.

Dictionaries have various ways of explaining what boomerangs are, that are sometimes strange because important features are overlooked, so as to make it brief.

The massive Websters International Dictionary, 1981, says that the word boomerang is often attributed to the native Australians as:- *"a bent or angular throwing club usually somewhat flat which can be thrown so as to return near the starting point."*

The American World Book Dictionary, 1978, describes it, firstly, as :- *"a curved piece of wood used as a weapon by Australian Aborigines, and in some other countries. Boomerangs are made of a shape, so that when properly thrown, they return to the thrower."* And, secondly, as *"a similar curved piece of hardwood used by the Hopi Indians of northern Arizona for hunting jackrabbits."*

The Macquarie, 1995, said it is:- *"a curved stick used as a weapon by the Aborigines, which sometimes returns when you throw it."* There are other types, not meant to return.

The Funk & Wagnall's Desk Dictionary, 1984, made a slight change to the latter, by :- *"A curved, wooden missile originated in Australia, one form of which will return to the thrower."* The other types are not meant to return.

But how were boomerangs described pre-World War II? The Little Oxford Dictionary, 1941, said that it is :- *"Australian missile of curved wood, that can be thrown so to return to the thrower."* While the Concise Oxford Dictionary, 1934, says that it is an:- *"Australian curved hardwood missile with convex edge, returning to its thrower."* The words "convex edge" are vague but are meant to identify the characteristic of the boomerang, which can also be used to start a fire, by hand.

When the book was reprinted forty-two years later, 1976, this subject was omitted with the definition:- *"Australian thin curved hardwood missile that can be thrown so as to return to its thrower."* No reference to the fact that there are two general types: boomerangs which are supposed to return and throwsticks or kylies which are not.

However the "sharp edge along the convexity of the curve" was mentioned in the same year, in the two volume Shorter Oxford Dictionary as :- *"An Australian missile weapon: a curved piece of hardwood with a sharp edge along the convexity of the curve. It can be thrown so as to hit an object in a different direction from that of projection, so as to return to or behind the starting point."* Again no reference to the two different types. Nor in the following.

The University English Dictionary, edited by R.F.Patterson, of no date, but probably in the 1970s, stated it as :- *"An Australian missile of hardwood, which can return to hit an object behind the thrower."*

However, the Concise Oxford Dictionary was reprinted in 1995, it said that the boomerang was :- *"A curved, flat hardwood missile used by Aborigines to kill prey, and often of a kind able to return in flight to the thrower."* Otherwise, two types.

TRADITIONAL FOUR BLADER
CARDBOARD INDOOR RANG



COMING EVENTS

Sat. 31st August: FIRST CITY OF BLACKTOWN CHAMPIONSHIPS at Francis Park, Richmond Rd., Blacktown. 9 a.m. Contact: Patricia & Geoff Gray (02) 9629 3531

Sunday 10th Nov. 96..BLUE MTS. CHAMPIONSHIPS at Winbourne, Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa, at 10 a.m. Contact: Br. Brian Thomas (02) 9369 0675.

1st Dec. 96..DINGLEY CHAMPIONSHIPS at Braeside Park. Contact Rob Croll (03) 9887 5085
1997

Sunday 19th Jan. 97..LEOPOLD 9GEELONG0 4WHEEL DRIVE EXPO AND MUD BASH ..a senior competition PLUS events for novice throwers. Contact :Bruce Carter (03) 9300 2374

Sunday 2nd Feb. 97 ..SEAMIST VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS at Seamist Palamino Stud..including novice championship. Contact: Bruce Carter.

Sat. & Sunday, 22nd & 23rd March..AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS at Knox Garden Reserve at KNOXFIELD. Contact: Rob Croll (03) 9887 5085

BR. THOMAS' DOLPHIN-RANG



Set the Flickerang on the back of your closed hand and flick it at least 45 degrees above the horizontal with a finger of your other hand. Watch it come back! For greater accuracy adjust the slope of your closed hand, if necessary.

ORGANISING A BOOMERANG COMPETITION.

BEFORE THE COMPETITION

- Book a ground. If necessary, send map of location of ground to throwers.
- Set a definite date.
- Draw up a program of events.
- Notify contestants as early as possible. Notify "Boomerang Bulletin" of date, time, and venue.
- Seek a sponsor.
- Invite the sponsor to present the prizes.
- Order trophies in plenty of time.
- Within two weeks of the competition notify the media by post, fax or phone.
- Announce entrance fee with notice of competition.
- Make sure any relevant perpetual trophies will be there.
- Prepare any certificates that may be needed.
- Draw up score sheets.
- Collect any material needed for marking the ground.e.g. saw-dust, line marker, cans.
- Make sure toilets are available at or near the ground.
- If possible, ring contestants a week before to remind them of the competition.



ON THE DAY.

- Unlock any gates, doors or toilets that need opening.
- Have ground marked out.
- Bring marking cones.
- Stop watches needed.
- Backing boards for score sheets to rest on.
- Score sheets and pens.
- Tin for entrance money.
- Tables, chairs. Bring any food and drink needed. Sunburn cream if needed.
- Tape measure & screw-driver (for holding tape in the ground).
- Megaphone and any P.A. system you may be using.
- Appoint judges, disputes committee, time keepers and range stewards before events.
- Bring any boomerangs needed.
- Camera, if photos are to be taken.
- Umbrella, in case of rain (for the scorer with the score sheet).
- Announce any safety rules especially to spectators.
- Make sure safety rules are kept.
- Inform throwers about practice areas and times.
- Keep spectators at a safe distance, usually outside the 50 metre circle.
- Place scoring table in a safe place.
- Inform throwers of their throwing order before an event.
- Collect all the equipment at the end of the competition and leave the ground in perfect order.



AFTER THE COMPETITION.

- Send results to media: fax, phone, or letter.
- Send a fully written account of the competition (ready for printing) to the "Bulletin".
- Write any follow up letters of thanks to sponsors, owners of the ground, or people who helped.
- Forward competition result sheets to the proper authority.

News From The: USA

John Flynn sent in the sales brochure for *Safesport*, a wholesale distributor that John works for. The company has a large selection of flight toys, including boomerangs. The cover of this issue features art from the brochure. Several well known models are prominently featured within.

Most of the models are *Turning Point* (**Eric Darnell**) designs, including the polypropylene *Tri-Fly* tri-blader, the small foam *Fun Fly* and the even smaller *Flip 'N Fly*. The large foam *Air Dancer* is great for outside activities. If you favor two bladed boomerangs, try the *Pro Fly*, a terrific throwback from the 1980s. If you want to do some night throwing, there is a *Glow-In-The-Dark Tri Fly*.

Safesport markets boomerangs made by other manufacturers, as well. *Rangs'* brand *Hornet*, *SuperHook* and *RadRang* are available, as is **Doug DuFresne's** *Nor'wester*. Two additional oddities are listed. One is the *Flat*

Ball, a ring that flies, bounces on the ground, and even floats on water. A four blader with a ring, called *Getch*, is a cross between a boomerang and a flying disc.

Safesport only sells wholesale quantities, so you can't order single boomerangs from the company. However, you can request a sales brochure and take it to your local kite shop and ask them to carry your recommended models. To obtain a brochure, call John at (802)-296-7244 or write to:

Safesport - Toys That Fly
P. O. Box 4425
White River Jctn., VT 05001

John Flynn mentioned that he was featured on the *New England Sports Network* (NESN) on 12 February. The spot lasted 4+ minutes and featured John and all of his boomerang throwing activities. John also did a boomerang throwing demonstration with **Steve Kavanaugh** in Hawaii in early March as part of a week long kite festival.

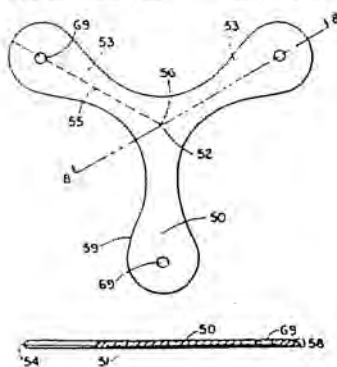
Adam Ruhf received great coverage in the March 4 issue of *Sports Illustrated* magazine. Adam was the *Old Spice Athlete of the Month* even though he

hasn't yet started to shave. The full page story, with a color photo, highlights Adam's terrific 1995 competition season and how he makes competition boomerangs in the family workshop. This article was really great coverage, not only for Adam, but for the boomerang community as a whole. It helps to make boomerang throwing a legitimate sport. If you can get a copy, the story is on page 4.

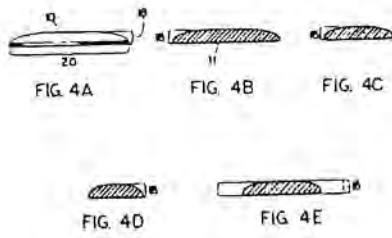
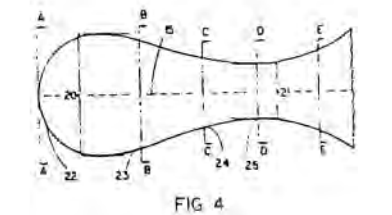
Congratulations to **Eric Darnell** who has been awarded U.S. Patent # 5,490,678 (see below) for his family of ambidextrous tri-blader boomerangs (*Tri-Fly*, *Fun Fly*, *Flip 'N Fly*, *Air Dancer*, etc.). Eric really covers all of the bases by making claims for: tuning a boomerang made out of a homogeneous material; using the same boomerang for LH and RH; using bulbous tips; using holes and using symmetrical airfoils. The 10 page patent took nearly 9 years to make it through the patent approval system. Now you can scratch out the "patent pending" signature on your tri-Flys and mark in the actual patent number.

United States Patent (11) Patent Number: 5,490,678
Darnell (41) Date of Patent: Feb. 13, 1996

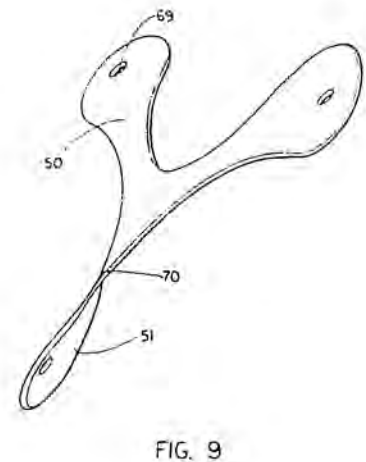
1. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
2. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION
3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS
4. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION
5. CLAIMS



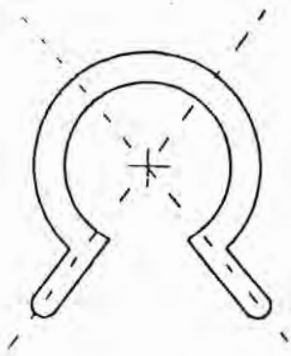
U.S. Patent Feb. 13, 1996 Sheet 2 of 1 5,490,678



U.S. Patent Feb. 13, 1996 Sheet 2 of 1 5,490,678



Eric Darnell Was Awarded U.S. Patent # 5,490,678 For His Ambidextrous Tri-Blader Boomerangs



CANADA

Stéphane Marguerite wrote to say that he really enjoyed the World Boomerang Cup. With his busy schedule this summer, including a move, he has had to cancel the proposed Montreal tournament. T-shirt collectors, take note - Stéphane has a few Canadian Boomerang T-shirts that are available for \$18 (USD) Ppd. to the USA. Throw in a few extra bucks if you are overseas. Make payment out to Stéphane and mail to the following address:

Stéphane Marguerite
 2114 de chambly
 Montréal [QC] H1W 3J4
 Canada

COLOMBIA

After an absence of 11.5 years, **Oscar Cuartas V.** has returned to making boomerangs. No word from the *Boomerang Man* yet, but you can expect some real collectable lap and S/L booms to be on the market in the very near future.

For those of you who have never seen a Cuartas boom, Oscar supplied a variety of hook and omega models in the early 1980s that flew 50 - 100+ metres. Oscar used tropical species like Rosewood and Mahogany and he laminated sheets of Aluminum between the tropical hardwood plys.

ENGLAND

Anim Smith sent in a photograph of **Herb Smith's** beautiful headstone which has a metal boomerang mounted on the stone. The boomerang was donated by Holland's **Max Hoeben.**

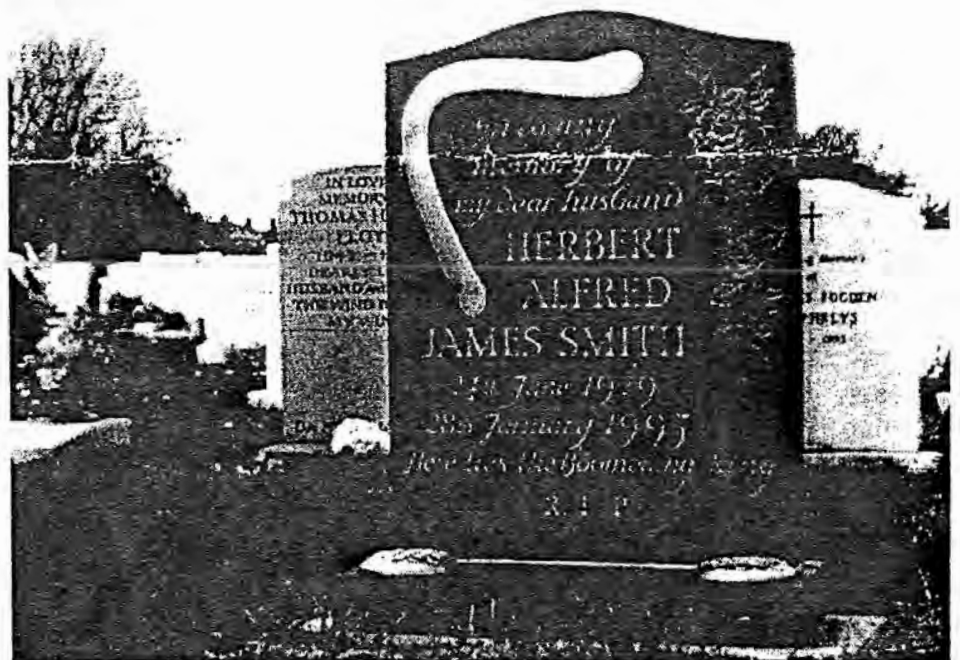
Bob Reid of the UK has written a paper explaining the mechanics of boomerang flight with an

emphasis on the gyroscopic forces that keep a boomerang properly oriented and ever turning. The paper makes some simple assumptions regarding gravitational forces, lift and drag and he uses a four bladed cross stick as a model in the paper. An explanation of layover is given at the end of the article. The assumptions are indeed necessary to hold the paper down to 9 pages. The material is physically correct and is worth reading if you have at least a knowledge of high school level math and physics. The BBS is planning to distribute this publication to it's readers for a small charge when the layout is complete. I will try to get a few copies for interested BN readers in the USA and will announce it's availability in BN. Overseas readers can contact the BBS at the following address:

British Boomerang Society
 The Wayletts Annex
 Church Road, Tostock
 Bury St. Edmonds
 Suffolk IP30 9PE
 United Kingdom

By the way - you may already know the name, **Bob Reid.** Bob was an academic at Leeds University specializing in Cosmic Radiation. He spent time at the South Pole studying cosmic rays and he was the first to throw a boomerang around the South Pole. Bob lectures a lot about the mechanics of boomerangs. He has made some marvelous equipment to demonstrate the fundamentals of boomerang physics, such as precession, aerodynamic lift etc. Also, he has had physics students study flight patterns of boomerangs by attaching lights to boomerangs, throwing them in the dark and producing multiple exposure photographs from various angles over a reference grid! Maybe we can talk Bob into sending us a few pictures to include in a future issue of Boomerang News.

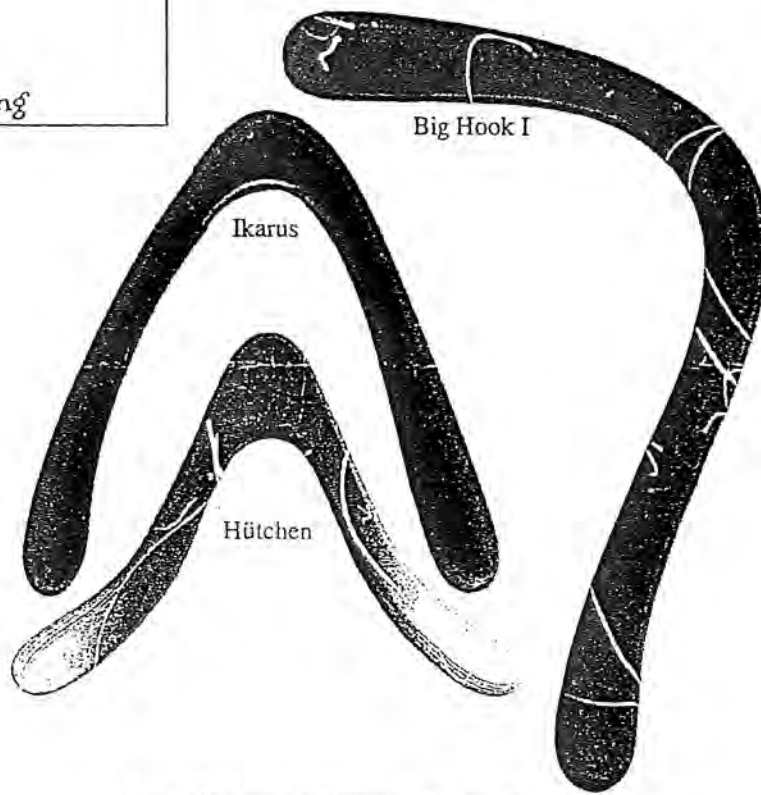
And don't forget about the 7th Annual Shrewsbury Tournament on 6/7 July. This is always one of the friendliest events in all of Europe. Write to the above BBS address for more information on this tournament.



Herb Smith's Beautiful Grave Marker with Metal Boomerang

It seems like eons ago when this column predicted a big future for Anthony LaPaglia, the only Australian male actor who can do a convincing American accent.* Since our prediction, Anthony of Adelaide has popped up as a Mafia killer in *The Client* and in a series of movies that went straight to video. We were beginning to worry that he might have suffered The Curse of Stay in Touch (as soon as we name them, they disappear). But now comes the

news that he has scored one of the prime parts that American television can offer — as the replacement for Daniel Benzali in the top-rating and intellectually respectable series *Murder One*. In the next season of the series, LaPaglia will play James Wyler, an LA lawyer who fills in for Benzali's Teddy Hoffman after Hoffman leaves the firm to save his marriage.



Axel Heckner's German Made Boomerangs

The Ultimate Boomerang Book

All about throwing, making and catching a boomerang and a lot more



Michael Siems

GERMAN

Michael Siems has done it again with the release of "The Ultimate Boomerang Book", an English reprint of "Die Neue Bumerang Mappe". The 43 page book is absolutely excellent! It has sections on competition, technique, making, tuning and throwing booms. There are four large cardboard foldouts covered with full sized plans of boomerangs. No word on pricing yet, but in the USA, Doug DuFresne will be the sole distributor. More on availability and cost in the next issue.

The Boomerang Man sent seven of Axel Heckner's boomerangs to the editor to review. The B'Man is planning to carry several models for his customers. The one thing that stands out about the Heckner boomerangs is the similarity in flight characteristics between the various models, even though the shapes are quite varied. This is not a negative comment. The flights were nearly perfect circles, just like a flight simulator program. The only other person I know of who makes boomerangs with this attribute is George Reithbauer from the USA, and George has dropped out of the boomerang scene.

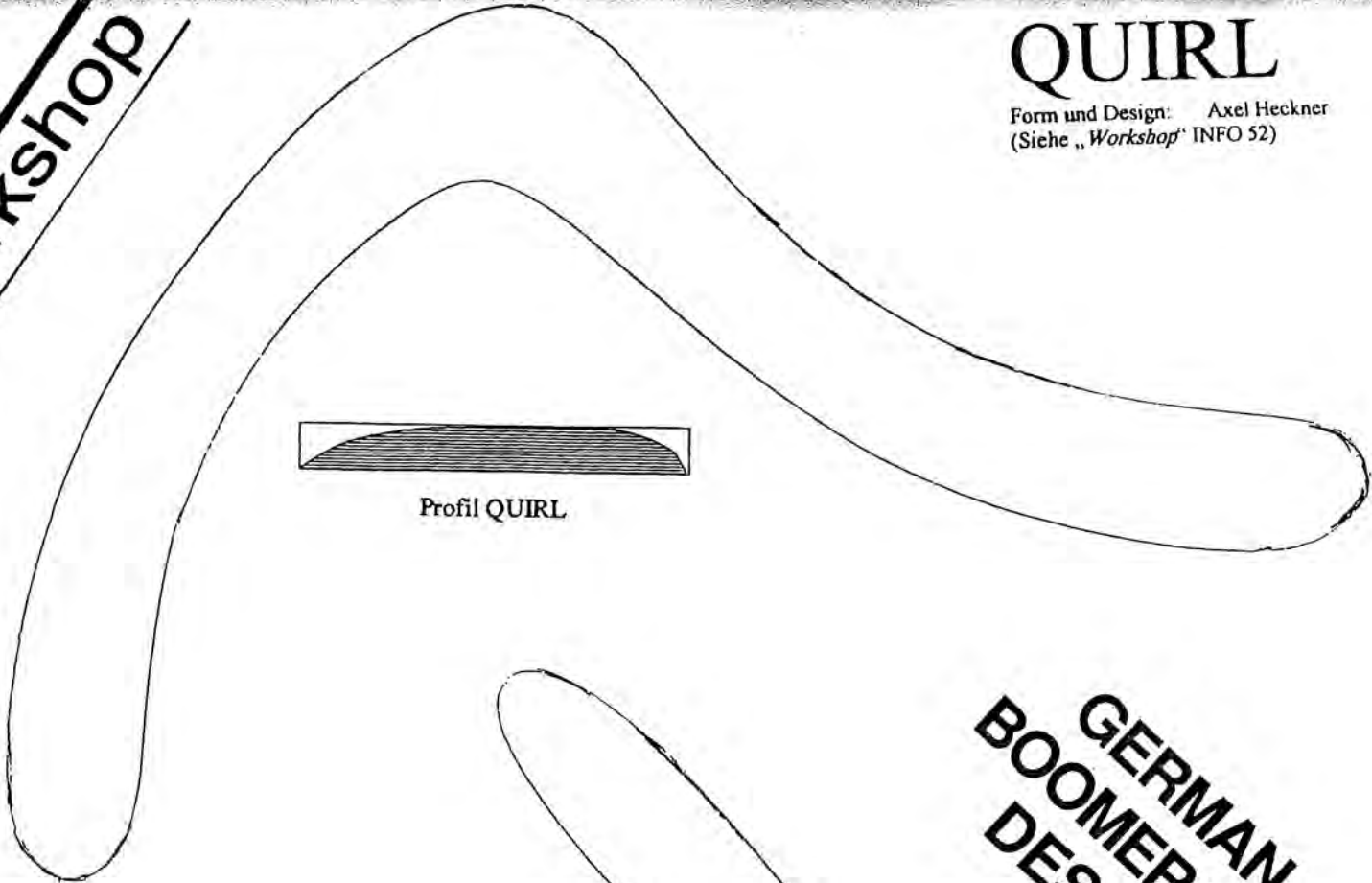
Mother Goose and Grimm / By MIKE PETERS



Workshop

QUIRL

Form und Design: Axel Heckner
(Siehe „Workshop“ INFO 52)

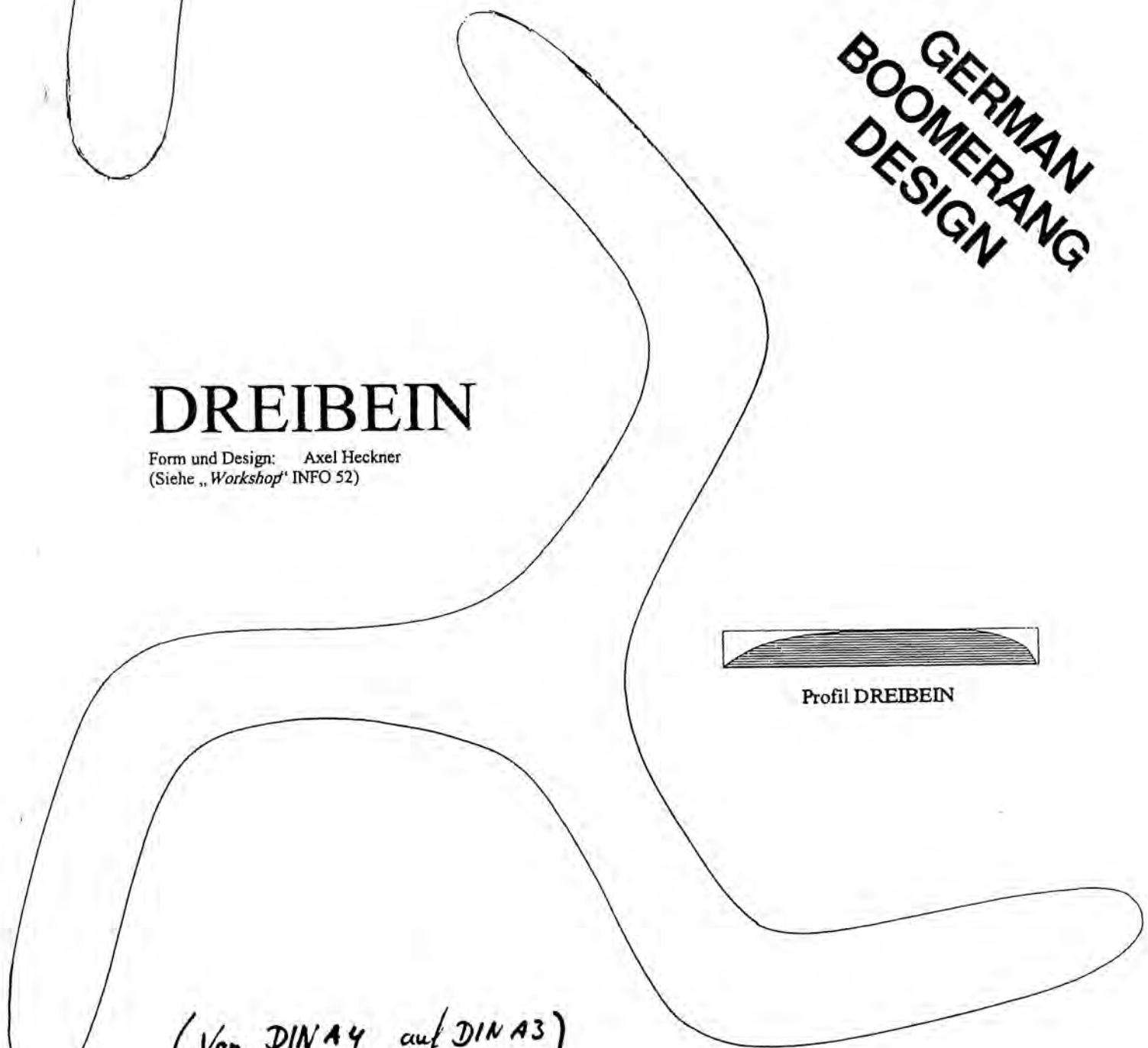


Profil QUIRL

**GERMAN
BOOMERANG
DESIGN**

DREIBEIN

Form und Design: Axel Heckner
(Siehe „Workshop“ INFO 52)



Profil DREIBEIN

*(Von DIN A4 auf DIN A3
vergrößern!)*



- Okay, the tournament is over : you can come down now, Helen-

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to SEPTEMBER BABIES: 6th Amy Croll 2; 11th Trent Carter 7.
OCTOBER: 8th Keith Andersen 62; 24th Gunter Wandtke 39.
NOVEMBER: 15th Br.Ray McInerney 64; 18th Bruce Carter big 40;
21st Ben Loveland 16.



The  End