



BOOMERANG BULLETIN



FEBRUARY

1996

Boomerang Association of Australia

No. **89**



89

EDITORIAL

WHILE BEING THE WORLD'S OLDEST SPORT, BOOMERANG THROWING IS ONE OF THE BABY (OR BABE!) SPORTS AS REGARDS TO YEARS OF ORGANISED RUNNING. WE ARE ONLY JUST PAST OUR 25 YEARS CELEBRATION IN 1994. AND WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN A SHORT TIME. DUE TO THE UNREMITTING EFFORTS AND DEDICATION OF MORRIS MAXWELL WE HAVE ORGANISED OUR SPORT INTO WRITING, SO THAT IT MAY BE RUN ANYWHERE, IF PEOPLE CARE TO READ OUR RULES.

WHERE DID THESE RULES COME FROM? MOST OF THEM CAME FROM ABORIGINAL ORGANISATIONS WHO HAD BEEN RUNNING COMPS FOR YEARS. THE HAROLD BLAIR INSTITUTE WAS OUR DIRECT FORE-RUNNER. DURING OUR 27 YEARS WE HAVE DEVELOPED SOME OF THESE TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF OUR THROWERS, AND, NO DOUBT, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO MODIFY AND MOULD SOME RULES. BUT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IS THAT WHEN A RULE IS MADE, WE MUST STICK BY IT UNTIL IT IS FOUND TO BE WANTING AND THEN CHANGE IT. WHY HAVE A RULE IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO FOLLOW IT?

WHEN THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE TOOK PART IN 1981 THE USA DID NOT HAVE ANY RULES DOWN IN HARD WRITING. NOW THEY HAVE LAWYER-TIGHT REGULATIONS ON ALL EVENTS. WITH SO MANY PEOPLE OFTEN VIEING FOR INTERNATIONAL SELECTION THEY NEED TO KNOW THAT IF SOME THROWS 75 IN AUSSIE ROUND ON THE EAST COAST, THAT SOME WHO THROWS 75 ON THE WEST COAST DID SO UNDER THE SAME RULES. OTHERWISE HOW CAN YOU COMPARE RECORDS?

FROM 1969 TILL EARLY 1983 THERE USED TO BE ONLY 4 SCORING CIRCLES. THE MIDDLE CIRCLE WAS ONLY 1.5 M RADIUS (AND WORTH 8 POINTS). THE 3 OTHER CIRCLES GOING OUT FROM THAT WERE EACH ANOTHER 2 M RADIUS, SO THE OUTSIDE ONE WAS 7.5 M. A BULLSEYE THROW WAS PRETTY DIFFICULT THEN WITH ONLY 3 M TO MOVE AROUND. IN 1983 WE EXPANDED TO 5 CIRCLES AND THE INNER CIRCLE GREW TO 2 M RADIUS, PLUS 10 POINTS. WE NOW HAVE MORE ROOM TO SCORE IN AND TO THROW FROM. IN ALL EVENTS WE MUST THROW FROM INSIDE THE CENTRE CIRCLE. TO GO ON OR OVER THAT LINE IS TO LOSE ALL POINTS FROM THAT THROW. I KNOW SOME OF US HAVE BIG FEET (I TAKE 11 SIZE SHOE), BUT 4 METRES IS PLENTY OF ROOM TO DELIVER OUR THROW FROM. AND YET QUITE A FEW THROWERS TRY TO 'MILK' EVERY CENTIMETRE THEY CAN (FOR QUALIFYING DISTANCE SAKE) BY THROWING JUST INSIDE THE LINE INSTEAD OF 10 OR SO CENTIMETRES BACK. IF YOU PLAY WITH FIRE YOU GET BURNT. IF YOU THROW CLOSE TO THE LINE YOU ARE BOUND TO GO ON OR OVER IT SOME TIMES. IF SO, YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO PAY THE PENALTY. A SHORT THROW (LESS THAN 20M) EARNS YOU NO POINTS. GOING OVER THE LINE ALSO EARNS YOU NO POINTS.

NO ONE SHOULD BE GIVEN AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER OTHERS. IF YOU PLAY A SPORT YOU ABIDE BY ITS RULES. YOU EXPECT OTHERS TO DO THIS, AND THEY EXPECT YOU TO DO LIKEWISE. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT IT IS USUALLY VERY EMBARRASSING FOR A REFEREE TO HAVE TO 'CALL' SOMEONE FOR A NO-THROW. LET'S HOPE OUR TEAM AT THE WORLD CUP PLAY SAFE WITH THEIR FEET AND KILL THEM WITH THEIR THROWING...GO GET 'EM, BOYS!!

Gr. Pm. Thomas, Editor.

WORLD CUP '96

Aussies set for a boomerang

IT'S happy returns, hopefully, for Aussie boomerang champion Bruce Carter as he prepares for next year's world title in New Zealand.

The veteran thrower - who made his first world cup appearance at the inaugural championship in Barooga, NSW, in 1988 - is happy that Australia will field its best ever representative side.

The Aussies are yet to capture a world cup crown - the Americans have won all four titles held so far - and have even been placed behind teams from France and Germany.

Losers at their own game?

It's a sore point with Bruce who is still stung by the public reaction to Australia's 1988 2-1 belting by the powerful American combination.

At the time, Daryl Eastlake, the raucous Channel Nine sports caller, suggested on TV that the three-member team quit boomerang throwing and take up Japanese paper flying.

When a Sydney newspaper journalist, who phoned Bruce, opened an interview with: "Are you embarrassed?"

Defiant Bruce defends the Aussies' performance - and subsequent world cup defeats - with some questions of his own: "Should England always win Test matches because it invented cricket? Should Canada be world rowing champion because it pioneered kayaking?"

He added: "I was personally proud that Australia in 1988 finished second at our first attempt against strong international competition.

"Two of the three team members had never represented Australia before."

But not so at next year's world championships in Christchurch.

"Australia's 10 best throwers are on a par with the 10 best anywhere in the world," Bruce

COMEBACK!

said. "Australia will be very well represented."

Why are there are only three Aboriginal members of Australian boomerang clubs?

Bruce said: "Club membership involves competitive sport rather than hunting sport. Competition goes against the grain for many indigenous Australians."

The world title is a test of accuracy, relay, trick-catching, speed and endurance events. In Christchurch, next year, the stiffest competition will again come from the US team.

"There are about 2000 competitive throwers in America," said Bruce. "In Australia there are only about 120 competitive throwers. Immediately we begin at a disadvantage."

Earlier this year Bruce launched a campaign to increase the popularity of the sport in Australia.

Driving from town to town in his refitted mini-bus, the Boomerang Bus, he holds free boomerang throwing seminars at schools and, importantly, educates the public about how to select a quality boomerang from the inferior product.

"Eighty per cent of commercial boomerangs in Australia are junk," Bruce claimed.

"We want to show people that boomerangs do work if they are designed and made correctly. They must have a leading edge and a trailing edge like the wings of an aeroplane. They are worthless if the edges are flat."



Story: CAMDEN SMITH
Picture: ROB FOX

BRUCE CARTER ... another shot at the world titles.



Christchurch City Council - First Official Supporter

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Christchurch City Council is the first official supporter for the 1996 World Boomerang Championships and is right behind the event. Indeed you wouldn't be reading this publication if it were not for the Council's generous support.

As well as covering the costs for this newsletter the City Council has been extremely supportive and accommodating with respect to the use of Hagley park and has also been very generous with financial backing.

It is now up to us, the organisers and the competitors, to give the City Council value for its investment.

Having the World Championships here in Christchurch is going to give the sport of boomerang throwing in New Zealand exposure that would

be impossible to generate in any other way.

New Zealand has a long and colourful history of sporting competition with its nearest neighbour Australia, and it would be fair to say that the rivalry between the two nations is intense. The fact that boomerang throwing is seen to be an Australian sport and that none of the present World Champions are Australian, is already generating a lot of interest in the competition. Remember that we are looking towards the year 2000 and Olympic accreditation. Let's use these World Championships to take a step toward that goal

As Competition Director I am taking the opportunity to change some of the team events to involve more co-operation and fun for the competitors and more of a spectacle for the

onlooker. New rule changes will be out for comment by 1 August 1995.

Let's be prepared to try these new events and to be constructive – the sport has nothing to lose and lots to gain. As more will be expected of you, the competitor, I ask of you at all times to be fair, honest and supportive of your fellow competitors and officials. Most importantly of all, let's give the public a stunning display of what this amazing sport is all about and it goes without saying:-

Lets have fun! The game for the game's sake.

Catch you later.



Earl Tutty
Competition Director

The Logo

My real job back in the days before I lost the plot completely and made boomerangs my life, was that of a Graphic Designer, and for years I've wanted to design a logo for a boomerang competition. Now that it's all history, I can tell you that I had this logo designed before I went to Japan and put in the case for the 1996 WBC to be held here in New Zealand. In fact I've been playing with the idea since about 1992.

For a Graphic Designer like myself, getting the opportunity to design a logo that relates to something you are interested in is a very rare occurrence indeed and a huge bonus, so guess who got the job.

The logo is based on the Silver Fern leaf. The Silver Fern leaf is the

emblem that is associated with, among other things, the pinnacle of sporting achievement in New Zealand. It is an icon that has been worn proudly for almost a hundred years by New Zealand's sporting greats. Some of you may be familiar with the All Blacks, and just recently our America's Cup winner Black Magic. In both teams the Silver Fern is central to their corporate identity and their association with New Zealand.

A closer inspection of the logo will reveal that the fern shape is made up of eight boomerangs (7 two bladers and 1 tri blader).

The boomerangs are framed by a circle that also represents the flight path of a boomerang, and that

combination of images is centrally mounted on all the relevant information.

I'm sure some of you are wondering why I didn't use a Kiwi in the logo, after all the Kiwi is better known internationally and unlike the fern is truly unique to New Zealand. Well the problem with Kiwis (apart from the fact they live in holes in the ground, are quarrelsome, aren't very bright, only come out at night and can't fly) was that it was too hard!

Special thanks to John Burt of Working Ideas who put my design into the computer and tweaked it.

Earl Tutty



1996

AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS
HELD ON 4th & 5th MAY
AT
XAVIER COLLEGE,
FALLON STREET,
NORTH ALBURY.



These Championships are being held in honour of Arthur



Janetzki, who would have been 92 on May 6th. There are two Janetzki Perpetual Trophies to be won, plus Janetzki medals for a perfect 10 throw in Accuracy.

PROGRAM

SATURDAY, 4th May.

11 A.M. STARTFINISH 3 P.M.

AUSSIE ROUND

TRICK CATCHING (World Cup points system)

ENDURANCE



3.30 p.m.... ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, 5th May.

8 A.M. START... FINISH 12 NOON.

ACCURACY

FAST CATCH

MTA

TEAM RELAY



PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

BY MIKE EGAN, sponsor, LESTER & SON.

ENTRANCE FEE: \$10 (Entrants must be financial BAA members.)

Juniors: \$5. Junior events will be Aussie Round, Accuracy, Fast Catch, MTA.

ENQUIRIES: BR. BRIAN M. THOMAS,

131 BIRRELL ST.,

WAVERLEY NSW 2024

Phone: (02) 369 0675 or 369 0600



Special thanks to the Mulgoa Christian Brothers for the use of their grounds and facilities.

BLUE MOUNTAINS

12TH NOVEMBER
1995

<u>VETERANS:60+</u>	AUSSIE RD	ACCURACY	SAME BOOM.	FAST CATCH	MTA 100
KEITH ANDERSEN	62 / 1st	21	18	3 cts.	17.04
KEN ARTHUR	44	28	12	2 cts.	21.38
BETTY EASTON	DNC	12	DNC	DNC	DNC
BR.PORRES MC RAE	14	21	6	1 ct.	DNC
KEVIN MORAN	35	24	17	57.42	18.02
<hr/>					
<u>UNDER 60s</u>					
ADAM CARROLL	55	25	22	21.68/1st	29.29
RAY FREEBODY	42	13	22	57.34	49.62/1st
MARGARET PATTERSON	38	35/1st	23	DNC	DNC
TERRY PATTERSON	25	23	13	57.85	15.34
BR.BRIAN THOMAS	21	25	24	46.57	17.37
GUNTER WANDTKE	39	19	36/1st	52.08	23.34

JUNIORS: ACCURACY- WAYNE PATTERSON 35, MEGAN PATTERSON 17, MARK P.14, RYAN P.2
AUSSIE ROUND-MARK PATTERSON 24, WAYNE P.18, MEGAN P.8, RYAN P. 0.

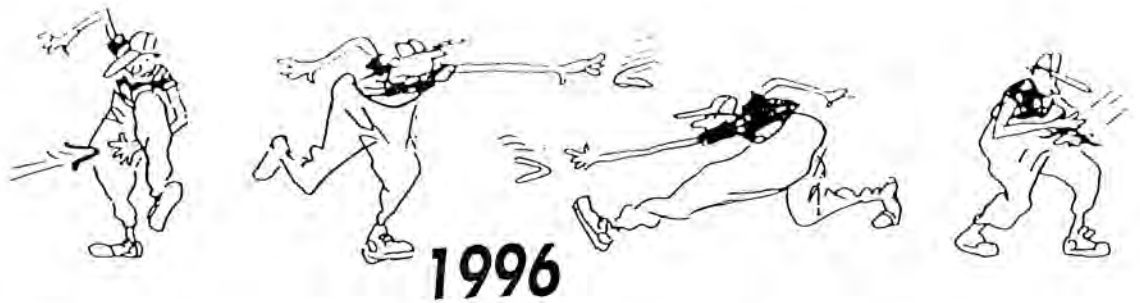
NEAREST THE PIN: KEN ARTHUR 422 MM. CATCH OF THE DAY: BR.PORRES McRAE.

LADIES' CHAMP: MARGARET PATTERSON. GIRLS' CHAMP: MEGAN PATTERSON.

PEGGY THOMAS MEMORIAL TROPHY (AUSSIE ROUND): KEITH ANDERSEN.

WINNERS OF ARTHUR JANETZKI PERFECT 10 THROW MEDALS : KEN ARTHUR, WAYNE PATTERSON, MARGARET PATTERSON, GUNTER WANDTKE.

TROPHIES WERE MADE BY BINGHI BOOMERANGS.



N.S.W. STATE TITLES HELD AT OXFORD FALLS ON SUNDAY, 4TH FEB. 1996

CONDITIONS: STARTED FAIRLY CALM, BUT BLEW INTO A GALE BY LUNCHTIME.
FINAL TWO EVENTS ABANDONED.

TROPHIES DONATED BY BONT SKATES.

COMPETITORS	ACCURACY	AUSSIE RD.	SAME BOOMERANG	OVER-ALL
KEN ARTHUR	31/37	40/34.5	0/31.25	102.75/4TH
HOLGA RAGOWSKI	30/35	60/40*	0/31.25	106.25/2ND
GUNTER WANDTKE	28/34	16/29	27/40*	103/ 3RD
TERRY PATTERSON	25/32	40/34.5	0/31.25	99.75/6TH
MARG. PATTERSON	18/28	31/31	8/32.5	91.5 /10TH
BR. BRIAN THOMAS	32/40*	38/32.5	10/34	106.5/1ST*
BETTY EASTON	22/30	DNC	DNC	30/11TH
INZE BONT	26/33	38/32.5	15/37	102.5/5TH
KEITH ANDERSEN	21/29	45/37	0/31.25	97.25/7TH
KEVIN MORAN	24/31	27/30	8/32.5	93.5/8TH
PATRICIA GRAY	6/27	9/28	12/35	93/9TH

NEAREST THE PIN (ARTHUR JANETZKI PERPETUAL TROPHY): HOLGA RAGOWSKI 485 MM.

FRED HOLLOW'S PERPETUAL TROPHY (AUSSIE ROUND): HOLGA RAGOWSKI

CATCH OF THE DAY: GUNTER WANDTKE.

LADIES' CHAMPION (AUSSIE ROUND): MARGARET PATTERSON.

NSW OVER-ALL CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. BR. BRIAN THOMAS.

2. HOLGA RAGOWSKI.

3. GUNTER WANDTKE.

OVER-ALL VETERANS CHAMPION: KEN ARTHUR.

WINNERS OF ARTHUR JANETZKI PERFECT 10 THROW AWARDS: KEN ARTHUR, HOLGA RAGOWSKI, GUNTER WANDTKE, TERRY PATTERSON, BR. BRIAN THOMAS, INZE BONT.

OUR THANKS TO ST. PIUS X COLLEGE FOR THE USE OF THEIR GROUNDS AND TO INZE & SARAH BONT FOR SPONSORING THE TROPHIES. SPECIAL THANKS TO AN INJURED EDDIE SILADI, WHO WAS CHIEF JUDGE THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE BTA WISHES A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO DAVE MARTIN, WHO HAS SUFFERED A REALLY ROUGH TROT WITH QUITE A FEW OPERATIONS. BEST WISHES FROM ALL, DAVE.

IN HONOUR OF THE LATE ARTHUR JANETZKI, A BTA PATRON, SPECIAL PRIZES ARE BEING PRESENTED FOR THE ACCURACY AND NEAREST THE PIN WINNERS AT ALL COMPETITIONS IN NSW DURING 1996. NEAREST THE PIN WINS A COMMÉMORATIVE PHOTO ALBUM OF 32 PHOTOS OF ARTHUR & FRIENDS, WHILE ACCURACY WINNERS WIN HAND-PAINTED AUSSIE ARTIFACTS.

Boomerang Championships

BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

4TH FEB. 1996

THE VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE SPONSORED AGAIN BY MRS. BEV REID OF SEAMIST. SHE DID A GREAT DEAL OF ADVERTISING OF THE EVENT, SO A GOOD CROWD TURNED OUT TO WATCH. AN ACCURACY COMP WAS HELD FOR 34 BEGINNERS BEFORE THE "PROFESSIONALS" PERFORMED. THEY STARTED AT 2 P.M.

CONGRATUALIONS TO QUEENSLANDER DAVID SCHUMMY, WHO SHOWED THE BENEFITS OF SEVERAL MONTHS TRAINING REGULARLY WITH OUTSTANDING THROWER BOB BURWELL. HE MANAGED TO PIP OUT ROB CROLL AND BRUCE CARTER ON THEIR HOME TURF...JUST.

CONDITIONS WERE FAIRLY WINDY MAKING HIGH SCORES RARE. YOUNG CRAIG CARTER CONTINUED TO AMAZE THROWERS WITH HIS FIRST ENDURANCE EFFORT OF 17 CATCHES FROM 19 THROWS IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. HIS DAD ONLY TOOK 24.

A FIVE THROW COMP WAS HELD FOR THE LADIES.

AND SO TO THE RESULTS:

TRICK CATCHING: R.CROLL 8, D.SCHUMMY 6, B.CARTER 5, J.WILSON & C.CARTER 3, S.KATTAN 2, T.CARTER 0, R.BARRAS DNC.

FAST CATCH: D.SCHUMMY 38.38, R.CROLL 44.29, B.CARTER 47.79, J.WILSON 4CT. C.CARTER 3 CT., S.KATTAN 2CT., T.CARTER 1CT., R.BARRAS DNC.

AUSSIE ROUND: B.CARTER 52, D.SCHUMMY 36, J.WILSON 35, R.CROLL 34, S.KATTAN 24, C.CARTER 18, T.CARTER 14, R.BARRAS 6,

LADIES: K.CARTER 9, J.BARRAS 3.

ACCURACY: D.SCHUMMY 22, J.WILSON 18, B.CARTER 16, R.CROLL 15, S.KATTAN 8, R.BARRAS 7, T.CARTER 4, C.CARTER 0. THIS WAS THE FINAL EVENT FOR THE LADIES-WITH ONE EVENT EACH, THIS WAS TO DECIDE THE LADIES CHAMPION... JANET BARRAS 12, KAY CARTER 11.

DOUBLING: D.SCHUMMY 5, B.CARTER 4, S.KATTAN & R.CROLL 3, C.CARTER 1, T.CARTER 0, R.BARRAS & J.WILSON DNC.

ENDURANCE: R.CROLL 36, J.WILSON 28, D.SCHUMMY 26, B.CARTER 24, C.CARTER 17, T.CARTER, S.KATTAN & R.BARRAS DNC.

MTA: R.CROLL 21.07, S.KATTAN 14.03, B.CARTER 11.41, NO OTHER COMPETITOR RECORDED A SCORE IN THE HIGH WINDS. 3 THROWS ONLY DUE TO LATE FINISH.

OVER-ALL POINTS: 1. DAVID SCHUMMY 50; 2. ROB CROLL 49.5; 3. BRUCE CARTER 46; 4. JOHN WILSON 32.5; 5. SADIR KATTAN 25; 6. CRAIG CARTER (& JUNIOR CHAMPION) 23; 7. TRENT CARTER 14; 8. RICHARD BARRAS 8.

DAVID WON A PERPETUAL TROPHY, PLUS A WEEKEND FOR 2 AT SEAMIST. JANET BARRAS & ROB CROLL BOTH WON MEALS AT A RESTAURANT, WHILE CRAIG AND TRENT WERE AWARDED SEAMIST JUMPERS, 2 HOUR HORSE RIDES AND OTHER GOODIES. ALL THROWERS WERE GIVEN LUNCH AND AN EVENING DINNER MEAL. THANKS TO SEAMIST!

Rivalry never keener

1996



1994 HERB SMITH WITH GRANDSON ALEXANDER & BR. BRIAN THOMAS AT SYDNEY AIRPORT.

This is a new series, which will hopefully run and run. Its' aim is to offer both biographical notes on figures within the sport and an insight into the many different answers given to the common question "Why boomerangs?". It is intended that the range of offerings is great and I hope members will feel free to contribute to this column without being asked. It may well be that more than one piece will be entered in future Journals.

BOOMERANGS BEGINNINGS.

No. 1. (by Herb Smith)

Ask anyone how they became interested in boomerang throwing and you will get a variety of answers and reasons.

My own interest in this most unusual and fascinating of sports, goes back to 1939, when as a 9 year old, in a little village school in Kent, I had a Geography lesson about Australia and the native Aborigines of that far off country.

I clearly remember my teacher talking about the

curved piece of wood which the Aborigines were able to throw and get to return to them again. This to me was pure Magic!

I also remember seeing in our Text Book a picture of a bare tree with the outline of a boomerang, marked in thick line, on one of its branches.

This lesson was so fascinating to me, that I believe I was the only boy in class to rush home and try to find a curved piece of wood, which would serve as a boomerang and of similar shape to that illustrated in the Text Book.

In my haste and excitement, I picked up a small Hazelwood bow which was idly leaning against the Forge wall, (Dad was the village Blacksmith) and which I had made a few months previous. The string of this bow had rotted so, consequently, the piece of wood had remained slightly bowed, or as an Archer would say, "Had followed the string". This then, I thought would be ideal for a boomerang. What matter if it wasn't exactly the same shape as the illustration? I grasped it by one end and gave it a throw across the garden. It fell amongst the cabbages. I retrieved it and gave another throw. The same thing happened on several successive throws, instead of returning, as

Thanks to the British Boomerang Journal for this article on Herb Smith.

The British Boomerang Society Journal

it was supposed to, it just spun away, turning over and over several times, landing again amongst the cabbages. The thing just would not come back? The thought crossed my young mind that perhaps there was something magical about the construction of a boomerang? or in the way it was thrown? Perhaps something like some of the baffling tricks I had seen performed on stage by a conjuror or magician. He has made things appear and disappear at will, had poured coloured water from an empty jug and pulled several large objects from a tall black hat? That was Magic! Perhaps some of the Aborigines were magicians also?

Trying to throw a curved piece of wood and get it to return to me remained a mystery? However, over the years, that school lesson stayed in my memory, (How I wish other lessons had also remained so unclouded in my young mind!) but how would I ever find out the secret of its magic?

Years went by and in 1951 my brother brought back from Australia a "real" boomerang, as a souvenir for Mum and Dad. This was made from a piece of dark, hard wood and in shape it resembled a small coat hanger. Its length was about 12" from tip to tip and was decorated with poker work kangaroos. I asked my brother if he had tried throwing it? He replied "No"! I then took it out to the garden and gave it a gentle throw. Shades of 1939 all over again! I couldn't get it to fly, just a spinning outward flight of about 60 feet, a sharp rise in the air and a dive to the ground. For cabbage patch read small lawn!

I eventually became a competitor archer, and forgot all about boomerangs, or so I thought.

Around the end of 1969, I happened to be looking through a volume of an Encyclopaedia when I spotted the word, Boomerang. On reading the description, I was pleasantly surprised to have confirmed the same facts that my Geography teacher had explained to the class those many, many years previous.

As I recall, it said "The boomerang is a thin, curved piece of wood used by the Australian Aborigines, and when thrown in a certain way will return accurately to the point from which it was thrown."

My interest in boomerangs was rekindled. I then spent the next few months making various enquiries of anyone who I thought might be able to help me. These were, in the main, friends with Australian connections. I also enquired of my local libraries. Alas! nobody could help or even suggest a possible source of information, except

one librarian who suggested I might possibly get the information I was seeking from an Australian museum or library.

My next step was to contact the librarian in Australia House in London and also write to the Sydney museum library. At the same time I wrote to the keeper of Ethnographical Studies in the British Museum, Dr Cranstone. Having remembered seeing, many years previous, a collection of boomerang like objects on display there. The results of all these enquiries was that I eventually received from my correspondents several photocopies of articles, written around the turn of the century relating to Hunting Sticks and Boomerangs.

From Dr. Cranstone, I received a kind invitation to view personally the many objects on display in his Department of Ethnology at the British Museum. It was most unfortunate that on the day arranged for my visit, Dr. Cranstone was called away on urgent business elsewhere. He had, however, collected from the Museum Library several books relating to boomerangs and other artifacts of the Australian aborigines, together with eyewitness accounts of their boomerang skills. He also made available to me his office, where I was able to spend the day studying these articles and taking many useful notes. I was also able, with a keener more interested spirit to study more closely the many boomerang like objects on display in the Museum.

This visit proved invaluable. I returned home a very happy man and couldn't wait to make my first boomerang! This I did on the following day, which by rule of thumb was similar to some I had viewed in the Museum show cases the previous day.

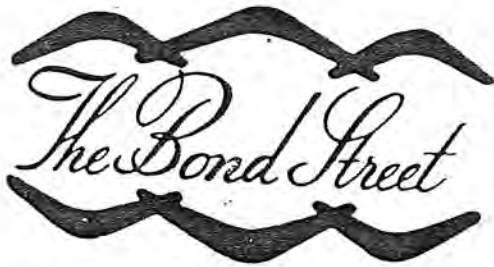
This boomerang was a brute of 24" span, made from 3/8" plywood. It measured 3" wide at the elbow, with the blades tapering to 1 3/4" at the tips. It weighed 8oz. and had a symmetrical convex aerofoil throughout. Its shape? Traditional.

By this time, I had also received from the Sydney Museum Library a copy of some basic throwing instructions (author unknown).

Armed with this information, I dashed off to my local sports club and commenced to throw my Monster Boomerang. Following the instructions faithfully, I stood amazed and unbelieving as I watched my boomerang spin away vertically for about 35 yards, start to rise and turn to the left and come spinning back on a horizontal plane, just a few feet above my head. I was ecstatic! After all these years, I has finally made a boomerang and

discovered the secrets of its magic return. I then spent several hours throwing and was most reluctant to leave the field until it became too dark and dangerous to continue in my new found sport! Since that time, I have made many hundreds of boomerangs in various different shapes and sizes, and in several types of material. I have also taught numerous people, both young and old, to throw successfully. Given demonstrations of throwing to schools, clubs and various organizations throughout the South of England, featured in several TV productions and written a small book on the making and throwing of boomerangs. (now out of print).

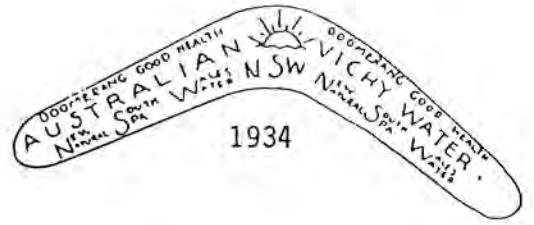
If I had time to spare I could mention my experiments in the realm of "Distance throwing". But, that is another story for another day.



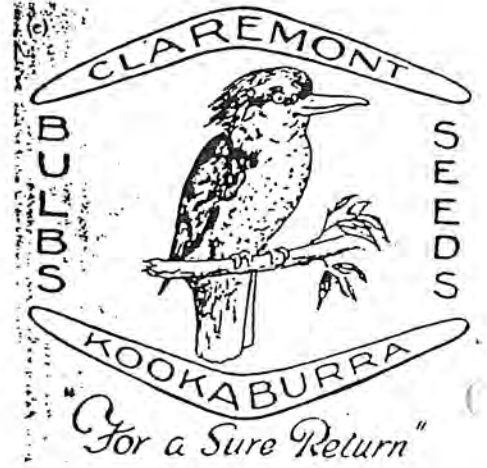
1935



1917



1934



1930



1950



1950



AUSTRALIA DAY

(Victoria)

On Australia day January 26, the BAA was invited to participate in a street march around the city streets.

The procession was a mixture of cars, groups, sporting bodies and celebrities - yes some crew from the television show NEIGHBOURS were there as was 'RONALD McDONALD.

The cavalcade stretched some 2 city blocks and the trek was around a 2 kilometre circuit of the main city streets.

In the middle of the procession was 'the boomerang bus' driven by Kay Carter (which was more than enough to frighten the boom throwers walking in front of the bus) her side kick was Tracey Croll and baby Amy was chief navigator.

Walking in front of the bus armed with big boomerangs, waving to the crowds were Craig, Trent & Sadir Kattan. To complete this motly crew were Bruce Carter, John Wilson and Rob Croll each holding a boomerang throwers must to their equipment pack - a trusty Darnell heavy foam AIR DANCER...

Over 30,000 people witnessed this parade and they were very impressed as we threw the boomerangs over their heads. For something completely different, we even had a few return and we managed a couple of catches.

John stole the show twice --first off an amazing throw that saw the boom, fly over his head along side the boomerang bus, and hover near the car carrying the Neighbours stars. Some how it did not wander off this course and did not venture into the crowd John ran in front of the spectators, jumped up and took a great one handed catch

Later on he tried to impress another part of the crowd but the boom stayed firmly entrenched in a tree....he was left to knock it down with a big boomerang, much to his embarrassment, while the procession kept marching on...

After the procession, it was on to Brighton a Melbourne suburb which was holding an Australia day celebration at a large park...Boomerang throwing was going to be on display as was making booms, painting them etc.

With Carter & Croll being there the organisers were guaranteed of a special display of boomerang throwing. trouble was the organisers did not know we required more than 15 metres of open space and that funny as it may seem, boomerangs do not fly in 30 knot winds, gusting to even stronger.....

Our 2 boomerang experts politely kept finding excuses for not demonstrating so up steps Craig...armed with a 3 blader, plastic, purchased from Carlos from Spain at the '92 world cup.

This little boomerang had a wind flap, would fly out 15 metres and come back - little smarty nearly even managed a foot catch....

And seeing as he did the demonstrations, he even demanded McDonalds for his evening meal....Black mail indeed !!!!!!!!

BRUCE CARTER.



It all comes back to Jeff



SOUTHPAW: Albury boomerang expert Jeff Lewry is making a living out of his hobby.

JEFF Lewry reckons boomerang throwing should be a national sport. What's more, he says everyone should own one.

And Mr Lewry's comments carry plenty of weight. He has spent most of his life making and throwing boomerangs and has won the world championship six times in a row.

"It's the only sport I know where people of all ages can compete on equal terms," he said.

"That doesn't happen in any other competition."

Mr Lewry, of Albury, believes only one in every 10,000 people have seen a boomerang thrown.

He describes the traditional Aboriginal hunting weapon as the world's first heavier-than-air flying machine but says mathematicians and experts have never been able to explain why boomerangs slow down and stop when they come back to the thrower.

"I've thought about it a lot. It's a fascinating subject. They actually hover just like a helicopter."

Mr Lewry's interest in boomerangs had a rocky

beginning. Just like Charlie Drake's song, *My Boomerang Won't Come Back*, he couldn't get them to return.

"I threw so many my arms nearly fell off but they just wouldn't come back and it was years later before I found out that left-handed people, like me, needed left-handed boomerangs.

"It's amazing the number of people who think you're pulling their leg when you tell them that but it's true.

"I was a butcher at the time and did a bit of wood-turning as a hobby so I made a left-handed one and it worked.

"I was determined to overcome the problems of going up to the local sportsground with my new creations and getting only one throw because they'd shatter when they hit the ground.

"When I had everything sorted out I saw the opportunity of selling the butcher shop and making boomerangs for a living instead.

"And that's what I did."

Summary of Regional and World Records; Compiled by Didier Bonin: October 1995

<u>Event</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>Australia/Pacific</u>	<u>Europe</u>
<u>Aussie Round</u>	John "Moleman" Anthony (95)	Br. Brian Thomas ¹ (90)	Fridolin Frost ³ (90)
<u>Accuracy</u>	Paul David & Dennis Joyce (48) Chet Snouffer & Will Gix (48) John Flynn & Larry Ruhf (48)	Dennis Maxwell ¹ (48) Adam Carroll ¹ (48)	Uwe Niederstraßer³ (49) Philippe Picgirard⁴ (49) Jurg Schedler⁵ (49)
<u>Fast Catch*</u>	Adam Ruhf (16.50)	Bruce Carter ¹ (18.88)	Gregory Bisiaux⁴ (15.03)
<u>Endurance</u>	Rob Parkins (75)	Rob Croll ¹ (58) Earl Tutty ² (58)	Yannick Charles⁴ (76)
<u>MTA₁₀₀*</u>	John "Moleman" Anthony (79.75)	John Gibney ¹ (64.50)	Fridolin Frost³ (84.67)
<u>MTA_{untl}*</u>	Dennis Joyce (179.94)	Rob Croll ¹ (153.18)	Philippe Picgirard ⁴ (98.88)
<u>Max. # Catches</u>	Michael Girvin (817)	Rob Croll ¹ (765)	Yannick Charles⁴ (1251)
<u>Juggling</u>	Chet Snouffer (502)	Bob Burwell ¹ (69)	Yannick Charles⁴ (555)
<u>Long Distance**</u>	Jim Youngblood (134.20)	Bob Burwell ¹ (113)	Michael DuFayard⁴ (149.12)

Bold = World Record; * = seconds; ** = metres; 1 - Australia; 2 - NZ; 3 - Germany; 4 - France; 5 - Swiss

JANETZKI DONATIONS

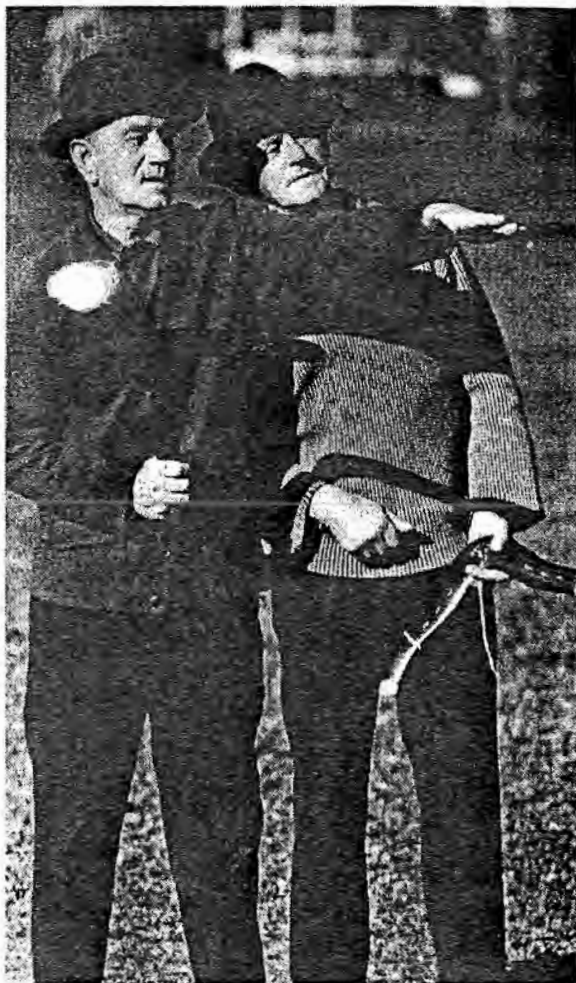
TED BAILEY, USA. \$66
 JACQUES THOMAS, FRANCE. \$47
 ED RUSSELL \$20
 SPIKE & ANNE SMITH .. \$50
 BR. ROD SHOEBRIDGE ... \$5
 DENNIS MAXWELL... \$100 FIJIAN(\$45.59 AUS.)

**ANZ BANK NAUSORI, FIJI, MADE BANK CHARGES ON DENNIS'S \$100 OF \$46!! POSTAGE BACK WAS \$5 TOO! MAYBE NED KELLY WAS BORN IN FIJI!

THANKS TO ALL DONORS, GREAT AND SMALL. WE NOW HAVE 4 PERPETUAL TROPHIES AND 50 JANETZKI MEDALLIONS TO PRESENT.

OUR CARE AND SYMPATHY GO TO ROB CROLL ON THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, ROBERT.

BOTH DAVE MARTIN AND BRIAN KEMP (SINGAPORE) HAVE HAD BIG OPERATIONS. WE WISH THEM SPEEDY RECOVERIES AND HOPE TO SEE THEM THROWING AGAIN SOON.



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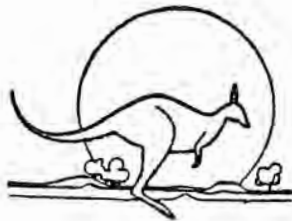
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another cartoon by Olivier Vouktshevitsh



*Greetings
from Australia*

- No going back, Hulk, a bet's a bet!

BOOMERANG NEWS

Issue #21

COMING EVENTS

WORLD CUP IN NEW ZEALAND. 1996. 25TH MARCH FOR A WEEK. CHRISTCHURCH.

CONTACT: EARL TUTTY, 17 TRUSCOTTS RD., CHRISTCHURCH

1996 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ALBURY ON 4TH & 5TH MAY AT XAVIER COLLEGE.

CONTACT: BR. BRIAN THOMAS 02 369 0675 OR 369 0600

1996 EASTERN SUBURBS, N.S.W. AT WAVERLEY. 10 A.M. 14TH APRIL.

CONTACT: BR. BRIAN THOMAS 02 369 0675 OR 369 0600

1996 BLUE MOUNTAINS COMP. AT MULGOA. 10 A.M. START. 10TH NOVEMBER.

CONTACT: BR. BRIAN THOMAS 02 369 0675 OR 369 0600

**THE BTA OF NSW HOLD MONTHLY THROWS AT 10.30-12.00 ON THE LAST SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH (EXCEPT DEC. & JAN.) AT BLACKMANS PARK, LLOYD REES DRIVE, LANE
COVE. FREE LESSONS ARE GIVEN TO ANY ONE WHO COMES ALONG.

1996 CENTRAL COAST COMP. AT GOSFORD. 10 A.M. START. 3RD MARCH.

CONTACT: BR. BRIAN THOMAS 02 369 0675 OR 369 0600