

Boomerang Bulletin

BAA – Issue 130 Feb 2015
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Editor: Matthew Barker



New BAA t/shirts. Member choice of red, white, green and blue when you join the BAA this year. Sporting the new t/shirts clockwise from left are: Nick Pritchard (BAA President), Grant Perry (Australian Champion), Matt Barker (BAA Editor) and Roger Perry (BAA Vice President).

Features

- *Australian Nationals 2015*
- *News from Paul Craft in Queensland*
- *Simon Bollen at the 2014 USA Nationals*
- *Roger Perry's Third Visit to Indonesia*
- *2015 European Championships*
- *The Best Way to Lose an MTA*
- *In Search of Authentic Boomerangs*



Night Show to promote BAA

During the 1990's, Roger Perry, former Australian Champion, held night shows at schools throughout Australia and overseas. It has been 10 years since the last show but the team will get together to hold a show for friends and especially their children during this summer. The idea is to promote the BAA and make a fun night for all friends of the West Australian BAA members. The Night show will include a sausage sizzle and is being planned for mid-April. We urge all members in other states to try to organise a fun event to promote the association.



Paul Craft and Deadly Returns with boomerangs from USA



Queensland thrower tries a new boomerang.

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BAA Official new Logo

From the BAA President

I would sincerely like to thank my committee for their hard work with regards to the continuing work on the BAA website and bulletin. It has been many years since such a professional production of our periodic bulletin has been presented, not only to members of the BAA, but also the world. Well done everyone.

Now a few words about the BAA...

- 1) The BAA has had a wonderful new design created for the new BAA t/shirts. This was organized by Roger Perry with artwork from Sam Blight, what a great job they have done! I am pleased to see Roger recovering from his recent knee operation. His recovery has been nothing short of miraculous and we wish him well for the future.
- 2) To our editor, Matt Barker - your work and patience with regards to the new BAA bulletin was a huge leap forward for the BAA and everyone really appreciates your great work. Huge thanks from the President.
- 3) Grant Perry's dedication to the sport really paid off, as he organised and ran a Fund Raiser sausage sizzle outside Bunnings Melville one Saturday, selling 600 snags in a day. What a

tremendous effort by him and his helpers! The Funds raised are going to help get Grant to compete in Spain this year at the 2015 European championships, and I am sure he will do very well. We all wish him all the very best in Spain.

I have really enjoyed the commitment of our committee members, who have injected new energy into rejuvenating the BAA by enhancing the bulletin and refreshing the website content. This new initiative will no doubt improve our communication, spread the word about boomerangs, and about what we are and what we do, in the hope that new people of any age will be encouraged to join.

For me, the year meant working through some financial issues, but Vice-President Roger Perry assisted me greatly and the road ahead appears to be full of bright anticipation for another successful year of developments.

I wish all members a safe and happy year and hope you enjoy the new BAA initiatives.

Nick Pritchard
(BAA President)

BAA Principal Committee Members 2014-2015

Role	Name
President	Nick Pritchard
Vice-President	Roger Perry
Treasurer	Christene Metzakis
Secretary	Rob Croll
Editor	Matt Barker
National Coach	Bruce Carter

From the BAA Editor

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the new look BAA Bulletin, whose aim is to bring readers up to date with recent boomerang events and developments.

Work is in progress to update the BAA website with new photos and articles. This will be carried out over a period of time, as some work will be required to create a bulletin archive page, new membership form, and a refresh of old pages with new articles and photos. So work is in progress on the BAA editing front!

I hope you find the articles in this bulletin enjoyable. Once again, thanks must go to Angie and Roger Perry for their continued effort in proof reading and finalizing the BAA issues.

Check the website of the West Aussies in their new t/shirts. Sit down somewhere and enjoy another good read, and I hope that you find the new articles informative, whacky, eccentric and interesting!

Matt Barker
(BAA Editor)

Local News

Australian Nationals 2015

Unfortunately, Queensland State Representative, Paul Craft, found it very difficult to find an available and suitable field to run the event in Queensland this year. So Rob Croll has now offered to host the event near his home.

The venue has been officially announced. The competition will be held at **Lewis Park, Knox, Victoria** on the weekend of **21-22nd March**. Rob has found a field large enough to accommodate the Long Distance event.

More details about the event can be found on the BAA website Home Page at www.boomerang.org.au. Keep watching the website for more news and developments regarding this exciting annual event.

BAA Membership 2015

Hello everyone!

Membership to the BAA is now due and I urge you to sign up.

The association is now on track with regular bulletins and we are working on updates to our website and a Facebook page.

To encourage you to join and attract new members, we are offering a **BAA t/shirt**, which includes free delivery to your address. It is our way of saying thanks for being a member and we look forward to your continued active membership.

Overseas Members

To encourage overseas throwers to join our association, we have reduced overseas membership to \$15 per year to receive the electronic bulletin only. We also offer a BAA t-shirt for \$48, which includes free postage to anywhere in the world.

The t/shirt colour selection and size will be on a first come, first serve basis and we cannot guarantee that we will have your size and colour, as most of the first print run was with the white shirts so please provide your options.

Membership Form

Please complete your membership form and include your t/shirt information with preferences. Details of the payment options are now available on the BAA website at www.boomerang.org.au/wp/join. All payment details are on the downloadable pdf form and when submitted to the email address, a receipt will be sent to you with your t/shirt.

We appreciate your continued support of the BAA and welcome new members to the Association.

Roger Perry
(BAA Vice President)



Another look at the new BAA t/shirts

News from Queensland – Paul Craft

Dear BAA Family

Well, what a task trying to secure a field for the **Nationals**, get permission and then wait for a response about whether or not it is available- unreal!

I have been very busy with my cultural and AMS health clinic work and have not done much throwing lately. The Deadly Returns Aboriginal boomerang team have had just 7 training sessions since I got back from WBC Perth. Most of my time is taken up teaching the basics to the new kids and getting them set up with the rudiments of throwing. I have had a number of new kids and adults come along to Sunday afternoon sessions in Mudgeeraba and they have showed interest in learning more.

I have some great news about a **donation** of boomerangs from the USA. My friend **David Hirsch** put together a competition boomerang kit with boomerangs from various people all over the USA for the 'Deadly Returns Aboriginal Boomerang Team'. I

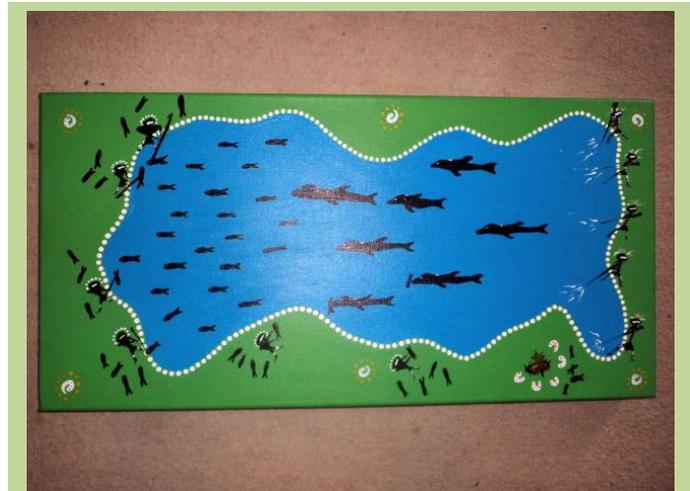
Local News

want to make it very clear how much I think of David. He has helped us out in a huge way, as it will be great for the team to have boomerangs that are of competition grade. Unfortunately David has severe back problems at the moment and needs urgent surgery. From all of us "ozzy mob", we send our love to him, are thinking of him and wish him well for a quality operation and speedy recovery.

I owe great thanks to my "brother" in France, **Rancoule Benoit**, who gave me a carbon fibre "fuzzy", in exchange for canvas art I did of **Gowonda story**, which illustrates how our old people worked with dolphins to assist in and maximise the catch and then share the mullet fish. I have never thrown a boomerang that flies with as much precision as Benoit's fuzzy! The first few throws were not so great, but after adjusting power, I did not miss a return catch! Thank you so much Benoit!

Thanks also to **David Richardson** for the 2 sets of Trick Catch Doubling boomerangs. I need to be shown how to throw them properly!

Paul Craft
(Queensland State Representative)



Gowonda Story – gift to Rancoule Benoit of the France 1 boomerang team in exchange for a carbon fibre "fuzzy" boomerang – Paul Craft



Annual Family and Friends Camp – Paul Craft



Carbon Fibre "Fuzzy" by Rancoule Benoit Team France – "it flies with so much precision!" Paul Craft



Deadly Returns with boomerangs from USA donated by David Hirsch.



Paul Craft demonstrates boomerang throwing with the USA models.

Simon Bollen at the USA Nationals

The idea that I would be attending the USA Nationals started out as a joke but became a reality, when on 28th July 2014, my wife and I left for the USA.

We started with a visit to Toronto Canada, where we went shopping, site seeing and eating at local restaurants, and we were able to stumble upon some wildlife – the ground hog and the squirrel.

The next point of call was driving to Niagara Falls. Highway driving on the right side was fine, except for the occasional lane change when we started the windscreen wipers instead of the indicators!

From Canada our next visit was across the border and we headed for Cleveland, where we would be staying with the legendary **Kenny Barr**.

Upon arriving at Kenny's, we headed off to see the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with Dan Bower and Logan Broadbent, who had been patiently waiting for us- cheers guys! Afterwards, I got a tour of Kenny's top secret **Boomerang Laboratory**. I especially like some of Kenny's **lap joint** boomerangs, one of which I had won in Brazil.

The next day, we went to see a **Gary Broadbent** Demo and became part of it. Fun was had by all. I tried my best to lose an MTA in some tricky medium winds. The highlight was Gary throwing his large boomerang and making the catch. There was only one catch by Eli, who is one of the young rising Boomerang throwers and who will become part of the USA Team.

The Drive to Delaware, Ohio, was a short one. After arriving at the field, I got to meet some old and new friends, which was followed by a few Long Distance practice throws in hot and humid conditions.

Day 1 of the USA Nationals started with rain and as we were walking off the field, the **tornado warning siren** went off. This was followed by lightning, which put a major delay on the day but gave me time to catch up with throwers who had come in late Friday night.

Eventually Trick Catch got under way. I managed a fair score so was happy at the start. MTA (Maximum Time Aloft) was quite enjoyable and I had two 40+ second flights but outside the 50m circle. Unfortunately David Hirsch landed on his shoulder and was unable to throw for the rest of the competition.

Aussie Round and Accuracy event was a mess, with both events being thrown in tandem. My Aussie Round score was much better, though I found myself throwing left of where it needed to be thrown. The day ended with a group shot for Sport Illustrated and a fun shot filmed by a drone, with everyone throwing out from the Aussie Round circle.

Day 2 of the USA Nationals started out with me looking for a **toilet** and I was busting! I jumped into the car and looked for the nearest rest rooms. I may or may not have been travelling faster than the posted speed limit but I was pulled over by Police. I told them in an Aussie accent I have to go to the toilet dance quickly, then found a rest room and got back just in time for the Fast Catch round. I achieved a good time, considering I had one drop. My second round of Fast Catch was not as good with tricky winds. Endurance was tough, having watched **Will Gix** and the **"Moleman"** throw in nearly every direction possible to get their scores. I too found the wind conditions very tough with almost one throw needing 90 degrees in a different direction to the next. It almost felt like throwing in the centre of a thermal.

After the medals and trophies were handed out, I won Best Natural Elbow and Best Hunting Stick awards. I had drinks with Kenny, Juice and Roger Armstrong jnr, before heading out to throw some Hunting Sticks. With a rather small target, hits were few and far between, but with their first throws at 40m, **Stephen Taylor** hit the target on the bounce and Roger Armstrong jnr absolutely nailed the target. This was followed by a bit of fun with the golf beak nosed Kyles.

I watched Richard Bower test some of David Hirsch's latest MTA's, which took him very little time to catch a thermal and send the MTA off into the distance. This was followed by George Essig testing a solid carbon fibre Snake MTA I had made for him. The third throw was about 3 minutes into the flight before leaving the field and seemed only to be getting higher.

After spending some time at the YMCA with David Hirsch, I drove to Gregg Snouffer's house, where food and drinks were the go. **Adam Stankiewicz** now has an air pressurised Pogo Stick. I am certain Pogo Sticking in Delaware is going to require some topping in Cologne, Germany.

Despite the GPS not having any charge and the car accessories not working, we made our way to the remote town of Canton Ohio. I knew we were close to Gary Broadbent's house because there were road



Simon with his Best Hunting Stick and Best Natural Elbow Awards.

Local News

signs that were covered up, revealing the top reflective part that looked like a Boomerang.

Gary took a look at my Natural Elbow boomerangs to help me understand how I could make them fly better. Learning about weight and balance and air foiling so I could change the tuning by bending the Australian hardwood is quite tough.

I snuck out with Tom for a quick game of Kylie Golf. My first experience at the very first tee had Tom lose his high up in a tree. I started off well, even scoring a few birdies. I lost my kylie in a swampy area. The overall course was fun and challenging and wish we had some Frisbee/Disc Golf course nearby for some Kylie golf Down Under.

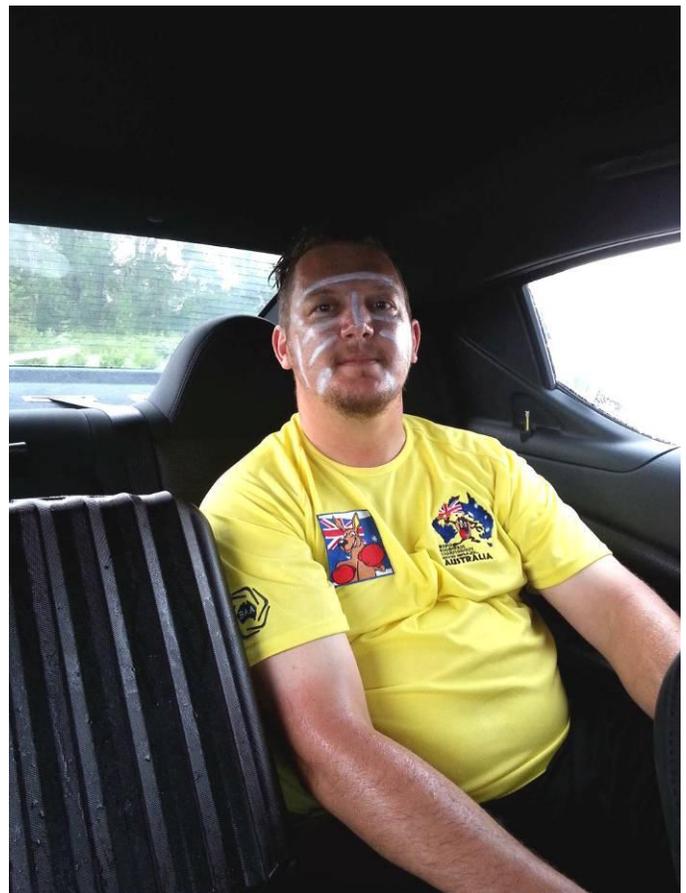
After a world famous breakfast made by Gary, we departed for St Louis and stayed with George Essig, and with George and Sophia, most evenings ended with top secret boomerang testing at George's favourite fields.

My trip ended with a visit to Nashville to see a Grid Iron game and then it was finally the long flight home. This Trip was amazing. Special thanks to Kenny Barr and family, Gregg Snouffer, Gary Broadbent and George and family for letting us stay with you, Logan and Dan for the tour of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Neethi and Jill for "hanging" with Sherryn, Juice for the Beers and the tailgating Friends, Tom for the Kylie golf and wood working fun, David Hirsch for the Carbon, the throwing and the hats, and more generally, to all the US throwers who made us feel so welcome!

Simon Bollen
(Australian Boomerang Thrower and BAA South Australian Representative)



A drone's aerial view of the USA Nationals 2014 participants.



Simon Bollen on the first day of the USA Nationals



Simon with wife Sherryn at the USA 2014 Nationals in Delaware, Ohio, organized by Chet Snouffer.

Local News

Indonesian National Competition

Roger Perry will be meeting up with boomerang legend **Eckhard Mawick** and his wife Thekla of Germany and will travel to Semarang, which is on the coast of Java.

This will be Roger's 3rd visit for their national competition and on this trip Eckhard will be holding a natural wood boomerang making workshop. Together Roger and Eckhard will also hold a competition making and tuning workshop for the Indonesian throwers.

Their nationals, known as **Tunasbumi 6**, will be held 25-26th April, with many throwers from all over Java. They have some really good throwers and have improved out of sight in the last few years. Many of them are now making top competition boomerangs and the amazing thing is that many of the right hand throwers use left hand boomerangs and also the lefties using right hand boomerangs and throw across their bodies.

The Indonesians are also forming their own official club and working towards becoming a part of the IFBA. Below is a photo of Indonesian number 1 thrower **Sigit Gaara Pamungkas**.



Indonesian Number 1 thrower Sigit Gaara Pamungkas

European Boomerang Championships

After the World Championships in Perth 2014, Australian Champion Grant Perry talked to his father, Roger Perry, about going to the European Championships in **Mallorca, Spain 2015** with his girlfriend, Kelly Sumich.

Roger, who has recently had a final operation to repair his knee, volunteered to go over and support him as **coach**. The plan is to first visit Barcelona for 4 days before heading to the Island of Mallorca. They will arrive 3 days before the competitions start on May 29, which will be held at **Binnasalem** in the red wine growing district – mmm...! I think there might be another reason for Roger wanting to go to this event! The European championships is a really big competition that is just as

hard to win as a World Championship, as normally there are even more competitive throwers attending.

After the competition, they will drive around the island (Oh dear! I hope they have a GPS as we know Roger has been lost many times in his European travels (new adventure!)).

For those that are interested, you can see the below link with information on this competition.

<http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bumerangclubvirazon.com%2FEBC15%2F&h=iAQG2mMQH>



Australian Champion Grant Perry on a past European World Cup trip



"Big Boy" Gary Mitchell married!

The BAA sends congratulations to Gary, who married Joanne in October last year. From the above photo, I think we should all agree that she is just gorgeous!

Local News

In Search of Authentic Boomerangs

During the 2014 World Cup, which was held in Guildford WA, German champion Gunter Moeller, now IFBA (International Federation of Boomerang Associations) President, Simon Bollen of South Australia and Rob Croll of Victoria, took a trip with me into the Kalamunda hills in search of what I thought would be the superb centre for tribal arts and crafts.

I imagined a beautiful agglomeration of shops, one after the other, shaded by large gum trees, over-stocked with tribal antiques, which could barely be contained within the shops themselves and would overflow from the front door onto the pavement. When we arrived however, there was nothing and Gunter and Rob became a little impatient. "Where are the shops? There's nothing here?". I realized I had relied on an old memory. Kalamunda had changed and become a commercial town centre. The old shops had moved away. The question was where? At least there was a bookshop that distracted my 3 disappointed passengers for a while.

I didn't give up and continued to search for anything interesting online from my smartphone. Hmm? I found an address for a Tribal and Oriental Art and Antiques shop (or house?) not too far down in Lesmurdie, a neighbouring suburb. I imagined a house with an eccentric collector, bearded, bespectacled, who had perhaps a small, nondescript collection, and among the collection, maybe he had just a few boomerangs to look at? Well at least it was something. We headed off. "Gee, hope we're going to be seeing something. We've spent some time already and seen nothing yet", said the disgruntled Croll. "Take it easy Rob", I said. Simon gave one of his "he-he" laughs.

We arrived at a corner house with a large side garden and rear yard, littered in a charming way with various bits and pieces and old vehicle parts. It looked very inviting. "You know, this guy might have bucket loads". "Hmm, ok, well who is going to ask if we can have a look?", shrugged an indifferent Gunter. "I will". I said. I knocked on the front door and waited. No answer? I thought, "Oh dear, I have brought the boys to another nothing?" I gave up and started walking back to the car, and then the door opened. It was a wire haired but forthright lady, presumably the collector's wife. "Yes, hello, are you here to look at some things?". "Yes", I said. "Unfortunately my husband is out and he doesn't usually like people in the house when he's not here." "Does he have a boomerang collection". "Oh yes, he has quite a large collection." I waved to the boys to get out of the car. "Do you think we could see them. I have people from overseas and interstate who would really like to see some authentic boomerangs". "Ok, look, I will bring some out for you to look at but will call my husband first". Rob Croll suddenly enquired, "I'm a collector too from Victoria and I may know your husband. What's his name?". "Sean O'Doherty", she said. "My name is Rob Croll", Rob said with a wry smile. "Tell your husband I know him." A few moments later, the wife of Sean O'Doherty invited us into a room, which was a treasure trove of tribal antiques, mostly from the Kimberley

region, including oriental work from Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

The faces of my passengers turned to sheer delight and Gunter became quiet in his heavy Germanic way and deeply curious. I felt a wave of relief. I've found a place at last, and it couldn't have been more wonderful. Sean's collection was greater than anything a West Australian museum could chalk up! There were boomerangs stacked high in old chests, some of which were very rare, very old and valuable. The following pictures will show the items we pulled from old chests of Sean's incredible collection, which shows the occasion we were invited back to the collection when husband Sean was present.

Matt Barker
(BAA Editor)



Gunter Moeller taking a picture of the Coolamons. Rob Croll, Sean O'Doherty background.



More Coolamons and examples of Sean's Boomerangs and decorative spears.

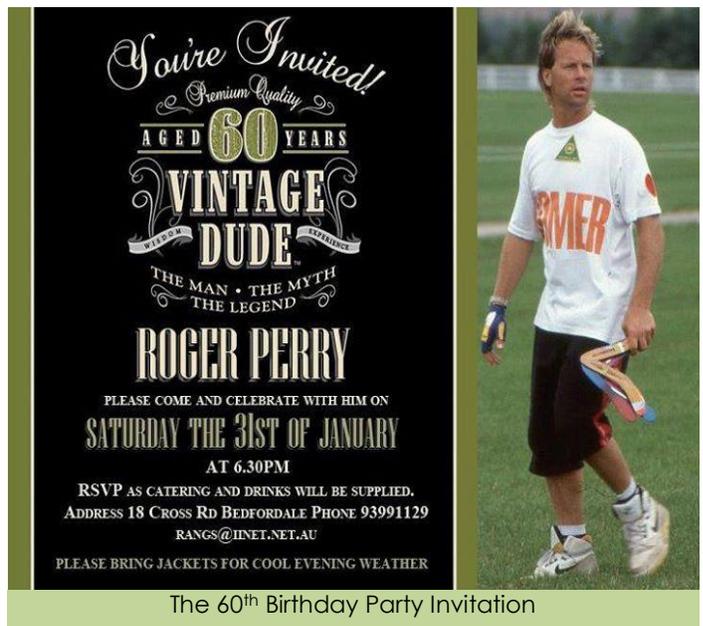
Local News

Roger Perry's turns 60!

"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter" – Jack Benny

Roger Perry, the dynamo of boomerangs, turned 60 and celebrated his birthday at his "home in the hills" in Bedforddale last week. It was a raucous and fun filled night, illuminated by electro swing music and the charms of a professional magician who captivated his audience, and a croupier who drew crowds to a roulette wheel. All this happened in the open underneath a canopy of stars surrounded by native Australian bush. Sam Blight, the former owner of Rangs Boomerangs, played two immaculate pieces of original composition on his guitar shortly after the dinner, which made every listener fall silent, then the party really began and I was told that the last people standing finished around 5am! The highlight of the evening was seeing Roger being presented with his birthday cake, shaped from a mould of the famous red bottle of shiraz wine from Henschke named "Hill of Grace" with its very own label, of the year he was born, with his name and all his birth details. This cake was superbly created by daughter in law Kirsty, who also included a sculpture of Roger with boomerang in hand, his dog Curly and his chickens and tiny crafted eggs. There were also individual cupcakes decorated with Roger Perry design boomerangs. He nearly collapsed for a moment because he thought it was the real \$600 bottle of heavenly shiraz. However, soon after the cake was presented, a joint birthday present from friends and family came out. When opened, it was the actual real thing, the famous Henschke wine! "Oh my God", Roger said in disbelief, nothing could delight Roger more than the famous bottle of liquid gold.

The BAA and the boomerang fraternity around the world send congratulations to Roger Perry for reaching the wonderful age of 60. And as far as boomeranging goes, Roger said, "There are plenty more great days of boomeranging to come!" And to his wonderful wife Angie, he said touchingly, "Thanks for putting up with me!".



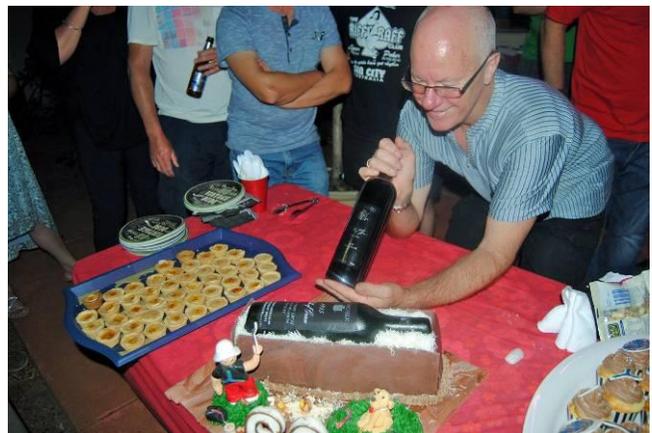
The 60th Birthday Party Invitation



Back to the mullet hairdo when Roger had hair!



Big Surprise for his birthday. The famous Hill of Grace!



Roger and the famous wine matched with the birthday cake replica made by Kirsty Ryan

Around the World

USA National Championships 2014

Australia's Simon Bollen made the championship event in Delaware, Ohio, home of former world champion and boomerang legend, Chet Snouffer, who organized the event. Simon offers an amusing account of his experience in this bulletin in the Local News section. Simon won awards in the Best Hunting Stick and Natural Elbow. 1st place went to Daniel Bower. Here are the event results in summary:

Aussie Round – Takeshi Honda
Accuracy: Will Gix
MTA: Dan Bower
Trick Catch: Dan Bower
Fast Catch: Takeshi Honda
Endurance: Dan Bower
Long Distance: Logan Broadbent



Daniel Bower, winner of the USA Nationals, takes a Behind the Back catch in Trick Catch, which he also won.

Chicago National Championships 2015

The next National Boomerang championships in USA will be held at Cornerstone Lakes Park West Chicago on the weekend of 11-13 September. The weekend will include Long Distance Friday and the standard 6 events on the Saturday and Sunday will be the Gel/Fun day.

German International Boomerang Championship

The next international German Boomerang Championship will be held between 15-17 May in Cologne on the well known "Jahnwiesen".

German World Boomerang Cup Dates

The dates have not as yet been officially announced, but the German organisation is trying to hold the Cologne event between 22 July and 7th August 2016. A definite answer on the dates of the competition is dependent on hearing from the Sports Department of Cologne.

European Championships 2015

The BAA wishes Grant Perry all the best success at the forthcoming European championships in Mallorca, Spain, which will be held between 29th and 31st May. Some of the greatest throwers from around the world will be attending. The European Championships are a very popular event with the number of participants often exceeding World Cups. Grant is doing all he can to muscle up and prepare for what will most certainly be a very tough competition.

35th Anniversary of the First International Boomerang Competition held in Australia 1981

This is an interesting event that Rob Croll brought to the attention of the BAA editorial, made more so because the event will be held in Hawaii. It will bring back memories of the first ever World Cup held in Australia.

All throwers and friends can attend any of the three tests. Throwers and friends from the 1984 competition in USA and the First World Cup held in Barooga are welcome to come. Organisers will be arranging group travel and accommodation to help with costs. All details will be sent to anyone wishing to register for this great event. Organisers are Rob Croll Australia and Peter Ruhf U.S.A

And that's a wrap!