

Boomerang Bulletin

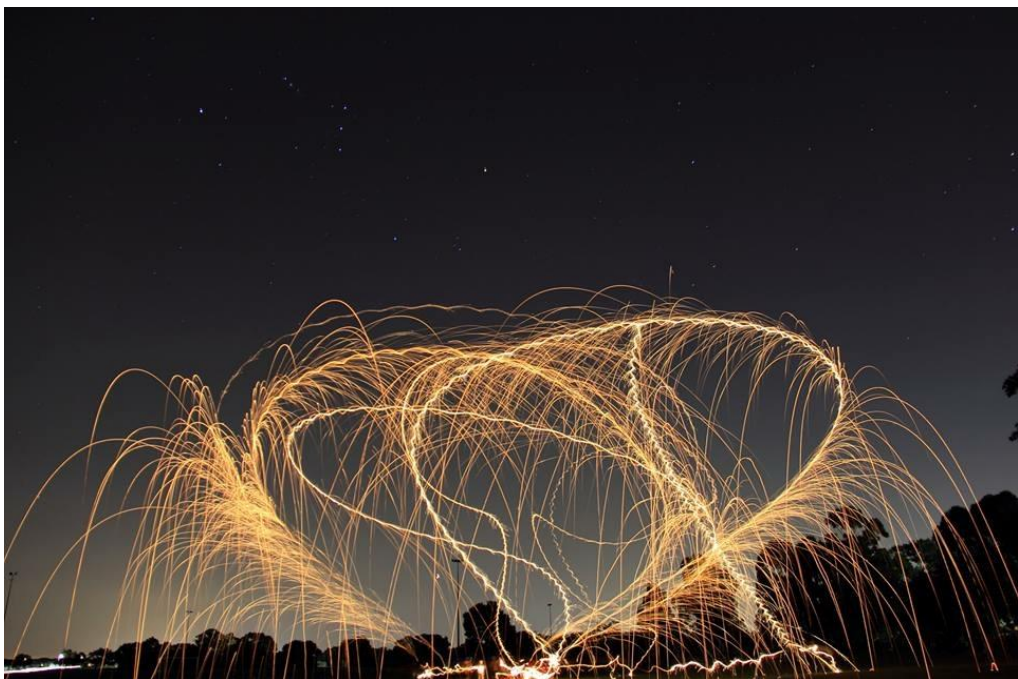
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Australian Nationals 2015 Participants (from left) – Nick Pritchard, Rob Croll, Leonie Metzakis, Roger Perry, Angie Perry, Matt Barker, David Richardson (winner), Bruce Carter and Morris Maxwell.

Features

- Australian Championship 2015 Results
- West Australian State Championship 2015 Results
- 2015 European Championship Results
- David Richardson's Australian Win
- Simon Bollen's Lapjoints
- Barry Forsyth in Memoriam
- And more...



A boomerang with attached sparkler caught in flight in the night sky – Perth Night Show April, organized by Roger and Angie Perry. Photo: Janelle Smith



Australian champion Grant Perry finishes in 8th place at the European Championships held in Mallorca, Spain.

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From the President

I would like to first of all thank the outgoing committee, which did such a great job for 2014/15. Much was achieved, thanks to their efforts.

The 2015/16 year has started well with a **rise in membership** and a positive outlook for the future of our association. The AGM at the Nationals saw a reshuffle of the committee with Nick Pritchard taking on Treasurer and Simon Bollen as Vice President. Rob Croll remains Secretary and Matt Barker as Editor.

My thanks goes out to our newly joined members - welcome to the BAA! Also big thanks to all of our existing members who have again joined the association and provide continued assistance.

Last year the BAA offered a free t/shirt to financial members to encourage and thank them for their long term support. This year the committee is looking at options to encourage and keep more members by offering BAA hats or jackets.

The BAA Facebook page and website continues to be a work in progress and we will make every effort to improve over the next year. I would personally like to thank Matt Barker who has done a great job on the Facebook page and website. Matt has also put in many long hours to present a fantastic electronic bulletin. We have decided to do two bulletins per year, with lots of information and photos. I urge all members to please send in photos and stories. There has been one complaint in that there has been too much focus on the Perry family in previous bulletin issues and the committee accepts this observation might be true. However, if we do not get more input from members, then we can only use what we have, so please do make an effort to submit your articles and photos to the BAA Editor.

It was great to see **Dave Richardson** win his first

Australian Championships and Grant Perry's 8th place in the European Championships. Excellent work from the both of them and I hope they keep up the practice and make all of us proud next year at the Australian and World Championships.

I was very sad to hear the passing of **Barrie Forsyth**, who was a long serving BAA member and a passionate man of the boomerang sport. He will be sorely missed by us all. Condolences to the Forsyth family.

I wish all members and their families a great year ahead.

Roger Perry
President of BAA

BAA Principal Committee Members 2015-2016

Role	Name
President	Roger Perry
Vice-President	Simon Bollen
Treasurer	Nick Pritchard
Secretary	Rob Croll
Editor	Matt Barker

From the BAA Editor

Enjoy the 3rd edition of the new format Boomerang Bulletin. Once again, we have attempted to bring together the most important events in Australia into one free magazine style publication.

We hope that you find the articles sufficiently interesting to make you get out of your chair, prepare a bag of boomerangs and go to your nearest field to enjoy the fresh air and a good throw.

Sit down somewhere first and enjoy another good read.

Matt Barker
Editor



One of Simon Bollen's "lap joint" boomerangs. If you look closely at the above boomerang, you will be able to see where the boomerang arms have been neatly joined. You will see more of Simon's boomerangs later in the pages that follow.

Local News

Australian Nationals 2015

The event was held at a coarse and rugged field at Lewis Park, Knox, Victoria Saturday 21st March, which was not without some loose patches of gravel and here and there were some potholes to avoid. The wind applied a consistent force throughout the day and gathered 13+ knots strength during the afternoon events.

Without the previous Australian Champion Grant Perry, it was very much an open contest and there was a certain thrill of anticipation in contemplating who would win?

It was a very pleasant surprise that **the day was won by David Richardson of Victoria**. For David, it was his first ever Nationals victory. He fought consistently well in very changeable wind conditions. Despite a difficult start in Accuracy, he came 1st in Trick Catch and Fast Catch, and 2nd in Aussie Round and MTA. Roger Perry, regardless of the fact that he can no longer run due to knee reconstruction, came 2nd overall, with competent placings in Trick Catch, Fast Catch, and a remarkable 1st place in MTA, achieving 30+ seconds with a superbly weighted MTA that survived the hellish wind and stayed inside the 50m circle. Nick Pritchard threw competently throughout the day, and despite a disappointing result in MTA, came 1st in Endurance, in front of Matt Barker, who was suffering hellish pain throughout the day after an introductory soccer match with people half his age the week before threw his leg muscles into shock. Rob Croll achieved 1st place in Accuracy and Aussie Round, the two events in which Rob has proved himself to be master in previous competition battles. It was a difficult day for wind, but thankfully the day finished without injury. Many thanks to Rob Croll for organizing the day and for creating the eccentric trophies, and to Leonie Metzakis and Angie Perry, who patiently recorded the results.

Results in Summary:

Place	Name of Competitor	Points
1 st	Dave Richardson	13.5
2 nd	Roger Perry	18
3 rd	Nick Pritchard	19
4 th	Robert Croll	19.5
5 th	Matt Barker	20
6 th	Angie Perry	30



The Flying Angel Trophy presented to Dave Richardson, winner of Australian Nationals 2015



Top 3 Winners (from left) – Nick Pritchard (3rd), Dave Richardson (1st), Roger Perry (2nd).

David Richardson on the Nationals

I went to my first Australian National Boomerang Championship in 1999, less than a month after attending my first competition. In the years since, I've travelled to Albury, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide for subsequent Nationals. And I haven't missed any since the first. I'm not sure if that's a record or not — I suspect Brother Thomas might have me covered. But this year, the seventeenth appearance was different. **This time, I actually won the thing.**

I've won individual events at Nationals before, of course. The most notable of them was in Albury, when I broke Roger Perry's long-standing Trick Catch record. However, I usually need time to **"get into a groove"**, and so it's rare I string together a consistent effort through an entire competition.

The lead-up to this National wasn't a good one for me. I strained a hamstring at the 2014 World Cup, and calf and back problems plagued me afterwards. I hadn't thrown for almost six months prior to these Nationals. I went out for a short session beforehand, to establish if my back would stand up. My guess was no, but that unbroken streak of appearances was absolutely a motivation to make it happen regardless.

The back survived that test, and so I was ready to go come Saturday 21 March, returning to play again at Lewis Reserve in Wantirna East, Melbourne. A very small number of Victorians and Western Australians were competing — but all had substantial World Cup experience, including the cup held in Perth last year.

We started off with **Accuracy**. The wind was light but swirly. Given that, the eventual winner would not be a

Local News – Dave Richardson on the Nationals

surprise: the nous of Rob Croll made him a fairly comfortable winner on 68 points. Matt Barker was second on 60, while I took 50 points and third place.



Dave Richardson in action at the Australian Nationals

We went straight into **Fast Catch**. The wind was still swirling, and the gusts were becoming a fair bit nastier. I threw first and my choice of rang was a heavy Accuracy tri-blader I'd made in the lead-up to last year's World Cup. It goes out high but basically falls out of the sky in a straight line at the end. It was slow through the air but accurate and it took me 41.22 seconds to make five safe catches.

The second round was much the same story and to my surprise, I had somehow won my worst event. Roger held second while Nick Pritchard claimed third on 55.84 seconds. Rob had a shocker, unable to get more than three catches. This would be the first hint of the wildly varying results that would make it so difficult to pick who might be the overall leader.

Next it was **Endurance**. Nick showed signs of a good win, scoring 25 catches. Rob and myself suffered cruelly in the wind, sharing fourth spot with a measly 13. Roger was third with a frustrating 16, while Matt took second, enjoying a sustained period of groove, finishing on 22.

After that rather deflating event, the wind decided that while it would still blow at a steady pace it would do so from one direction. This meant that **Trick Catch/Doubling** was easily possible. I managed to squeak out the win with 45 points, pipping Roger on 44 and Nick on 39. It wasn't actually that close through the event, but I fumbled foot catches and for others, caught at least one of them.

We took our lunch break, and as these things tend to go the wind promptly calmed down. It stayed pretty calm all the way through to the next event (**MTA**), but resumed its early-morning trait of swirling around. There were some thermals available during practice (we had

a few near fly-offs!).

However, what followed was some pretty poor reading of that wind – some decent throwing drifted beyond the 100m circle. My first throw was up for 28.34 seconds, my best time from five catches. Roger was getting some great hover but his MTA drifted outside the circle. On his final throw, however, he literally got to jump back into the 100 metre circle, claiming the win on 30.86 seconds.

Robby claimed third on 23.5 seconds but a notable story out of this event was Matt's surprisingly woeful work with a Manu Schütz two-armed. He made Robby look like a powerhouse! On his last throw, he finally got a catch and a time, putting him just barely in front of Nick.

We would finish with the **event of champions - Aussie Round**. Conditions were reasonable, with the wind largely behaving itself. Roger and Matt had shockers, finishing on 51 and 66 points respectively, but the race for positions at the top was competitive. I collected 70 points from my first five throws, which was a strong buffer at the half-way mark.

I stayed with the same boomerang, but had a rotten four throws and scored only 14 from them, including one where I was victim of the too-close-to-the-middle **artificial cricket pitch**. Running back to make what should have been a safe catch, the pitch caught me off guard, and I did a credible impression of having been shot, involuntarily falling over and **flopping around like a fish stranded on dry land**. To rub it in, the boomerang then landed a few centimetres away, just outside the circle!

To finish a contrary day, I made a perfect 20 throw that also earned me a silly but awesome Catch of the Day trophy. The toes stayed just inside the centre circle, but the body was horizontal and the catching hands were near the seven-point line!

It wouldn't be enough. It left me on 104, but Robby had rushed home to win on 106 and Nick was third on 100.

So we were done; but no one had a real fix on the overall result. I thought I was in with a chance, but my horrid Endurance result battered my confidence. The fact was that everyone else had stuffed up at least two events, and in the end that meant a comfortable, overall win for myself. And to think I was contemplating that I would not compete!

I finished on 13.5 points, with two firsts, two seconds, and a third. The other placings were a virtual tie - Roger 18, Nick 19, Rob 19.5, and Matt 20.

The lesson to be learnt is if you don't succeed the first time, **try another sixteen times and you might eventually get lucky**.

David J Richardson

Local News

West Australian Championship 2015 – Roger Perry wins again!

The weather conditions for the competition this year was ideal, hence the high scores in nearly all of the events, save for Aussie Round, when the wind picked up speed and sent unpredictable swirls across the field.

The most surprising outcome of the event was to see the veteran sexagenarian Roger Perry fighting his way through the 6hr day to establish a clear lead, in front of his champion son Grant Perry, after months recovering from extensive knee surgery, which made everybody in the sport believe that he may never compete professionally again. In a Facebook Post, Roger said his astonishing Endurance Round of **62 catches** was achieved by throwing continually without moving for 4.5 minutes, losing only one catch, presumably through fatigue. Roger scored his best with 90 points in Trick Catch and Doubling, 84 in Accuracy and 36.39 secs in MTA. Grant followed his Dad in 2nd place, scoring his best with 96 in Aussie Round and 26.93 secs in Fast Catch. Matt overcame muscle pain, which he suffered during the Nationals event the week before, coming 2nd and 3rd place in nearly all of the events besides Endurance. It was a great day, which welcomed newcomers "Toby" and Tim Chadwick, who achieved competition level results in some of the events. Mike Bryant found the day rather long, but continued nevertheless to see the day end, achieving his best score of 40 in Endurance, equal with Matt Barker. Nick Pritchard lost his campaign to beat the invincible Perry's, but scored competent results in each of the events, finishing behind Matt Barker.

Congratulations to the seasoned master **Roger Perry** for becoming the **2015 WA State Boomerang Champion!** It was truly an astonishing effort. And thanks must go to Angie Perry who provided fruit and beverages, and for Kelly Sumich's tireless patience in carefully preparing and recording the scores.



West Australian State Boomerang Championship 2015 Competitors (from left): "Toby", Grant Perry, Mike Bryant, Roger Perry (winner), Angie Perry, Matt Barker, Nick Pritchard, Tim Chadwick.

Simon Bollen's Lap Joint Boomerangs

Simon Bollen, Vice-President of the BAA, has had what many Australian's would call "a bit of a rough trot". Last year, his doctor found a tumour in his eye which needed treatment and this year, he had knee surgery, which developed complications after chemotherapy. He overcame the infection and is now thankfully recovering, but not before spending weeks in hospital, which for Simon at times, seemed to be without end.

All the throwers from home and abroad wish Simon a full recovery and hope to see him on the field soon throwing in competitive sport.

While Simon has been out of the boomerang sporting arena, he has had time to focus exclusively on his boomerang making, some of which are lap joints, a term used to refer to a boomerang which has been made from joining two pieces of boomerang together by overlapping them. The two separate pieces can be made of different wood.

The following pictures illustrate just how good Simon is at achieving a beautiful finish for his boomerangs, and the lapjoint section has been superbly paired to create the illusion of a seamless join.





The Mount Waverley Boomerang Museum owned and run by Rob Croll

Rob Croll's Boomerang Museum

Note: This article is based on an interview Rob had with ABC Australia television in 2011. It is reprinted here in part to give it wider exposure to the boomerang community.

The name Robert Croll is widely known in Australia to be synonymous with boomerangs. Rob is a maker, thrower, international competitor, former world boomerang champion and a serious boomerang collector. In an ABC interview he said "the worse a boomerang looks, often the better it flies".

Robert's museums are located in Mt Waverley and Canterbury and visits to the museums are by appointment only.

He has a great many authentic, souvenir and sports boomerangs in his collection and believes he may actually have more boomerangs than the well-known American collector **Gary Broadbent**. He knows boomerang collectors everywhere, including Sean Doherty, whose collection of boomerangs sourced from the Kimberley region of Western Australia appeared in an article in the previous Boomerang Bulletin.

Over the years, he has developed a strong instinct for knowing what type of boomerangs serious collectors wish to find. He believes they only want boomerangs heavily decorated with tribal emblems and carvings. However, Rob finds the boomerang souvenirs which appeared in souvenir shops from the 1950's curiously more interesting, as they show the name of the mission station or the place where they were to be sold. "Most of these boomerangs were very well made and flew well".



Rob Croll and Angie Perry with the boomerang Plate – Australian Nationals

In his collection, Rob has some beautiful goose neck or emu head boomerangs, which were used by the aborigines to imitate the behaviour of an emu, drawing up close to them while they remained unaware until the hunter was close enough to strike his prey down.

Rob has many boomerangs made by famous aboriginal boomerang makers, including Bill Onus, who was from the Cummeragunja community near Echuca and was one of the first indigenous entrepreneurs to set up business. Bill, an opportunist at heart, seized the chance to give each of the **Beatles** a boomerang on their first visit to Australia. Through his work, he promoted aboriginal culture to everyone.

Just like his fellow boomerang throwers, Robert shares the magical experience of having a boomerang, considerably heavier than air, return to him. "I'm always amazed that something so heavy can make its way back".

Local News

Origins of the Boomerang

Matt Barker, Editor of the BAA, was invited again by NAIDOC (National and Islander Day Observance Committee) to demonstrate the Accuracy event at Langley Park on 7th July, organized by officers of the Department of Housing Perth. However, the event was cancelled due to rain and Matt was invited back to the departments foyer to talk about boomerangs and on their likely origins, he said the following:

"... The origins of the boomerangs provide anybody interested in anthropology with a fascinating history about the origins of artefacts and tools. In fact, the boomerang is a universal phenomenon that a tribal society eventually discovers, either by accident or intentional design, after making improvements to the originally discovered shape. Boomerang artefacts have been found among tribes in Africa and the Egyptians were throwing boomerangs way back in 5000bc, and evidence of Egyptians throwing a returning boomerang shape have been depicted in their mosaics. However, it has been widely accepted by people schooled in aboriginal history that it was the Australian aboriginals who were the first boomerang makers."

"... It is fascinating finding that a primitive society located on a different continent than another society, which have had no prior contact with each other, eventually discover a tool that through further refinement, appears identical in design to the one developed by the other tribe. Taking a much larger perspective, I'm sure intelligent races like our own elsewhere in the universe discovered the wheel at some point throughout the course of their evolutionary tool/weapon development, either well before or after we did, and like us, at some point, they would have made a boomerang."

Boomerang Fireworks Night

Saturday 18th April at Southern River fields in Gosnells saw a spectacular night of boomerang throwing, which lit the star filled sky with streaks of fiery light in front of approximately 50-80 people who came to witness the event with their children. A group of experienced throwers in a coordinated pattern threw specially equipped boomerangs on which sparklers were attached. Onlookers believed it was exhilarating to watch and "better than expected" was the most often heard response.

Roger and Angie Perry organized the evening entertainment, providing a sausage sizzle and drinks, with assistance from family members and the West Australian boomerang throwing community.

Roger said it was a successful night with many children wanting to stay longer to see more. Roger commented on the night, "It was great and just what we had hoped and next year we will hold the event again in front of hopefully an even bigger crowd."



Fireworks Night – Photo by Janelle Smith



A spectacular "loop" on Fireworks Night – Photo by Janelle Smith

Local News

Barry Forsyth in Memoriam – Bruce Carter

I met Barry Forsyth several times during the boomerang journey and we corresponded for many years until his death.

He visited the house and stayed overnight and I introduced him to specially equipped boomerangs with night lights.

How many years ago I'm unsure, but I took the family on tour and dropped in at Whyall where Barry was. As you would expect, the hospitality was first class. After the usual hellos and pleasantries, "Bazza" and I had things to do, chuck some sticks around and share stories of the golden days.



Barry organised a night throw at a local sports oval. Memories fade as to the exact location, but there was a good crowd to witness the local star, and of course, my lighted boomerangs have to be thrown a little different with the added weight. So on the night we were travelling ok, taking a catch or two, both of my young sons were doing well, but Bazza was like a floundering young puppy. He knew what he wanted to happen, though everything fell apart. We were both left

handed throwers, but Barry's boomerang flew in the other direction. I threw the good boomerang. Barry threw the not so good boomerang and it may have possibly ended up in Barry's hands – well once – because they never returned.

I gave Barry a sparkler boomerang with a low flying 30m range. Barry threw out and it went whoosh with that strong arm he had, then hit the ground and ran over the hump where people were sitting. It did not look like stopping, doing continuous cart wheel rotations, facilitated by a hook shape, which kept up a strong momentum. "It's rounding them up, that'll stop them from leaving, which is the only decent thing I've done with a boomerang all night!", Barry said. How were we going to get his rang back? "Sorry Barry, I have to keep performing", I said. "If I go into the crowd to reclaim my boomerang, they will recognize me and I'm not having that!", Barry said. The show went on, Barry may have got a catch or two, but the hook with the sparkler was never seen again.

We shared this story many times over the years. His family has lost a great man. Boomerangs have lost a great competitor. Our sport has lost a great Ambassador. I have lost a great mate.

With a heavy heart I say farewell Barry Forsyth. Throw in peace and say hi to Bunny, Brother Thomas, Arty and Jack and our other 'boom chucker' pals.

Bruce Carter (BAA National Coach)

Dates for the 2016 Australian Championships

The Australian Boomerang Championships will be held in Perth Saturday the 9th of April with AGM in the evening. Sunday 10th will be rain day or team training for the upcoming World Cup.

More information about the venue will appear in the next BAA Bulletin around Christmas time.

Billeting as usual will be available for all interstate throwers and we look forward to welcoming you all in 2016. Organiser will be Roger Perry. Contact him at rangs@iinet.net.au should you require more information.

Local Pictures from the Vault



Cut up boards from native Australian Wood
Simon Bollen's studio South Australia



Roger Perry's recent acquisitions – aboriginal artefacts from the 60s and 70s.

Around the World

Mallorca European Championships 2015 by Grant Perry

This was the first European championship I had ever been to, so my nerves were high on the build up to this tournament, after doing well by coming 10th at the world Individuals Championship in Perth last year. I had something to prove to myself and to other top throwers that I wasn't just a one hit wonder. I had been working out with a personal trainer twice a week and throwing boomerangs at training 3 times a week. I wanted to push myself to do even better than 10th place. When I and partner Kelly first arrived in Spain, the first stop was Barcelona. It was a lovely city with plenty of things to do and see. We stayed for 3 days before leaving for Mallorca, one of the smaller islands of Spain. It was absolutely breathtaking and picturesque, with beautiful blue waters and lovely cafes overlooking the ocean, which gave it a relaxed feel. We stayed with all the other throwers in a town called Can Pastilla. We went into the town of Palma a couple of times with Japanese champion **Takeshi Honda and Matthias Giesenschlag** and partner **Inken**. We had a good look around, took some nice photos and went for some lunch at one of the cafes, then another time we rode bikes into Palma, which took about 45 minutes, but was a lovely scenic spot where the paths allowed us to ride right beside the water. We spent a little more time there and booked a romantic horse and carriage ride, which sent us through the square.

We went to the field with Takeshi and my father **Roger Perry** to test the field and to see what weather we were up against. The winds were light but quite shifty, which would make it challenging at the best of times. When the wind picked up, I had to put a substantial amount of weight on my boomerangs to handle the stronger conditions.

Day 1

Day 1 started with Accuracy. I finished with a score of 65, which found me in 11th place. I made a few errors judging the wind. However, most throwers also found it difficult, but I was happy with that event as it's not after all my strongest. Next was Fast Catch where I was placed 19th with 36.34 seconds. A drop in each round costed some time, where if caught, would have bumped me up a few more places. The final event of Day 1 was Aussie Round where I finished up with 55/100 points, coming 14th with 1 drop, which again would have bumped me up a few more spots. All in all, for me, it wasn't a completely disastrous day.

Day 2

I felt more confident as the last 3 events are my best! First up was Endurance. It was a very exhausting round as the boomerang I had rigged with 3 extra coins for powering through the wind had to be thrown with every ounce of my power, which was a huge challenge for a solid 5

minutes of throwing, but I managed a pleasing 42 catches to finish, which placed me comfortably in 10th position.

Sometimes Risk rewards you...

The next event was MTA (Maximum Time Aloft). I had a little more confidence in this event, as my rangs were designed to handle good wind. I played it safe to start with, and by throwing the "Palm" design, I managed to get a decent time of just over 20 seconds to secure a half-way up the scoreboard rank, but come the fifth throw, I decided to take a risk by using the **Manuel Schutz 3 blade carbon fibre design**. I was worried it would land outside the 50m radius circle, as many throwers exceeded it, but I gave it a shot anyhow. The risk payed off! I finished in 2nd place, only **1 second behind 1st place winner Fridolin Frost**, so I was overjoyed.

The last event to finish the tournament was Trick Catch. Because of the wind being very changeable, the judges decided to do only the single Trick Catch event, which meant the paired Doubling event, where two boomerangs are thrown at the same time from the same hand and caught, was out. Without Doubling, it really put the pressure on. I had finished with a round of 30/50 points. I was deeply concerned it would knock me out of the top 10 in the overall results, but to my surprise I came 16th.

At the awards presentation, I was expecting my name to be called just before the top 10 was announced, but a few more names were called first. To my astonishment, I ended up in 8th place! All of those hours training had really payed off. Even better was receiving a trophy for 2nd place in MTA. I also owe **Alejo Palacio** for giving me one of his boomerangs he made. I tried it out at the beach and did amazing Accuracy with it. He said if I come 3rd overall in the tournament, he would give it to me for free, but at the end, after he had seen me come 8th, he gave it to me anyway, something for which I am very grateful, as I know it should help my Accuracy enormously.

I have proven that I am not a one hit wonder! I feel I have earned respect from the world's best throwers, which means a great deal to me. After the presentations were finished, most of the throwers celebrated to the early hours of the morning. Everybody had a blast. It's always a good way to finish after a tournament!

Mallorca is now my favorite place. It was very relaxing, especially after the competitions. Kelly and me, **Patrice Castel** and my father Roger, went to a different part of the island, where we stayed at one of the apartments overlooking the water, within walking distance of the beautiful beach's and cafe's. It was a great place for winding down and catching up with

Around the World

other throwers before we left with Matthias, Inken and **Maurizio Saba**. We spent our last day back in Can Pastilla, where we caught up with the remainder of the throwers for the last time at a restaurant we had already enjoyed on a few occasions. I had a lovely 450g T-bone, which most people ordered, and then went to the flip flop bar, which was the bar of choice for most of the throwers. It was great to catch up with all the throwers and for me to have such a good tournament. I would definitely return for another tournament here, as I believe it is a paradise.

Grant Perry



Grant Perry and Kelly Sumich - Mallorca

Roger Perry on European Championship and son Grant Perry's Win

On May 22nd, Kelly Sumich, Grant Perry and myself headed to Spain for the European Championships. First stop was Barcelona and we had a wonderful time in this fabulous city. Our apartment was perfectly located for restaurants and an area called Las Ramblas, which is a huge walking street that leads to the Old Gothic area. We walked the entire city covering well over 70Kms in our 4 days there and visited famous Gaudi Buildings, Cathedrals, and Parks. We also had the opportunity to throw on the beach with all the Barcelona throwers it was a still, warm day and was a fun time.

On the 26th, we headed to the Island of Mallorca and on arrival we hired a car, but unfortunately the Sat Nav wasn't working and what should have been a 10 minute trip turned into 2 hours of being totally lost - a few choice words were used before getting to the hotel!

Like Barcelona there were many choice restaurants and places to see, the first day we went to the field with Takeshi Honda and found it very tricky with what I called Perth winds. After the throw, we had lunch and visited one of the great wineries of this area. The next day Grant and Kelly went on a bike

ride and I took Gunter Moller, Mathias and Inken on a drive to Sollier, which was a fantastic scenic drive. Unfortunately I picked up an expensive parking fine and later Mathias had his wallet, credit cards, and passport stolen from his back pack which put a real dampener on the day. After a discussion we continued and the trip to the high mountains with breathtaking views with sheer ocean drops everyone was very nervous I would drive us over the edge as it was very narrow.

The competitions had just over 60 throwers mostly European but also current World Champion Andre Caixa and other Brazilian champion Edurda Mistico Stevie Kavanaugh from the USA and Takeshi from Japan.



Grant Perry leaping up to collect a high catch in Aussie Round – European Championships

Day 1

There were 3 events, with **Accuracy** up first and Grant did well, as this is not his favourite event. Next was Fast Catch and though not windy, it was a very tricky time for all throwers as indicated by the results. The last event was **Aussie Round** and again, the winds were very tricky and high scores were rare, an event in which only Steve

Around the World

Kavanagh of USA did very well in. Grant continued a good day with a hard fought 51, finishing in the Top 10. I personally had a bad day, being called short twice in accuracy and once in Fast Catch, didn't help my cause!

Day 2

Endurance began the day and once again, winds were light but gusty and changing direction. I scored **39**, which was the highlight of my competition, but was truly exhausted by the end of my 5 minute marathon, Grant was again



Roger Perry after the Endurance event (with Inken Kirsten of Germany)



Roger Perry during Endurance

consistent with a 35. I watched on my circle as **Manuel Shutz** blitzed the field with 52 catches.

Next event MTA saw the winds increase with many throwers having their MTAS blow out of the circle I in fact had 4 of the 5 throws blow out, luckily Grant had a very good result which kept him in the hunt for a top 10 finish. The last event was Trick Catch and because of the wind the doubling was dropped so only 1 round of Trick Catch, I had fun throwing and running in all directions just trying to get a catch. After the Trick Catch Grant was sure he didn't make the top 10 and was a little disappointed. We were over the moon when Grant in fact finished in 8th position overall, which was fantastic considering the difficult conditions and the level of competition he went up against.

Manuel Schutz was overall champ with a great performance with Fridolin Frist 2nd and a very good effort by Steve Kavanagh of the USA.

Roger Perry

Roger Perry Recollects Indonesian Championship

The first part of my trip was spent in Bali as there were no connecting flights to Semarang. I stayed 3 days and met Adhitya, Mas and the Bali boomerangers. We spent early mornings throwing on the beach and had a day checking out a future **potential World Cup field** near **Sanur**.

After Bali, I headed to Semarang where the Tunasbumi 5 would be held and was met by Haryo and tournament organiser Fadjar Hadijat. Later that night, I met **Eckhard Mawick** and his wife Theckla from Germany. Eckhard makes wonderful natural elbow boomerangs and is the **grandfather of boomerangs** in Germany.

The following day, we had the opportunity to throw on the competition field with the local Semarang throwers. I was particularly impressed with a young thrower named Denis, just 16, who had only been throwing for 8 months and yet to enter a competition. We saw him do a round of endurance and get 51 in practice – he made it look so easy.

The next day, the Aussie and Germans hired a car and drove to a seaside resort. We figured it would take 1hr to do the 52km journey, but due to crazy roads, it took us 2.5hrs. When we arrived, strong winds and swell stopped us swimming, so we decided for a big afternoon meal and luckily, we all had a great lunch. We believed it would be easier going home, so we took another route, which would not have all the roadworks. We were wrong as it took 3 hours to return.

The day before, the competition was spent in the mountains where we threw some boomerangs and Oke Rosgana used his drone and go pro to get some

Around the World

fantastic footage of the mountain and surrounds. Suddenly in the mountains, the weather changed and it rained non-stop for hours, forcing us to take shelter for an hour in a fruit market.

I was anxious that it might rain for the 1st day of the tournament, but it was sunny with light but shifting winds. There were 36 throwers with many new faces from my last trip in 2014.

The competition started 9.30am, with an opening ceremony for the town officials who threw the first boomerang of the day. The first event was Accuracy and the best score was a great 48 by Akhmad Rafa, a new **Indonesian record**. We then went straight into Fast Catch, which I won with 21.75, but was lucky as the boomerang broke on my final catch, but with half the boomerang in my hand. Similar to Australian tournaments, we followed Fast Catch into Endurance and Arik Yustita amazed us all with **another Indonesian record** of 61 catches with Sigit and Ahmad Rafa with 53 catches.

Following lunch, we had MTA and Muhammed Haikal won the event with 34.88, which was followed by 2 rounds of Individual Trick Catch with 3 time Indonesian champion Sigit winning with 93 points. The last event was Aussie Round and we divided the field in half and whilst the first group did Aussie, the other half of the field was treated to an Eckhard Mawick natural wood elbow workshop and then we changed over the groups. The popular winner was tournament organiser Fadjar Hadijat with 68 points.

The level of the throwing in Indonesia has improved out of sight and they really are an **emerging nation** in boomerangs. The throwers in Indonesia are like 1 big family and really love boomerangs.

The next day I held a boomerang tuning and coaching clinic for 3 hours until the rain finally came and turned the field into a lake, I have never seen so much rain. With the tournament over I headed back to Bali for a few days before the flight home. It was a wonderful trip and such a pleasure to throw with them again.



Roger Perry and Eckhard Mawick of Germany with the Indonesian throwers



Nicolas Rouland of France

France mourns the loss of Nicolas Rouland

In the name of the Kookaburra Boomerang Association, it is with great emotion that we inform you of sad news. Due to a heart attack, our friend "Niko" (Nicolas Rouland) left us far too early. The many common memories will remain intact, including his kindness, his courage in the face of adversity, his heart warming gaze and his involvement without flaw in everything he undertook.

We extend our deepest thoughts and condolences to his family, to Mary (his girlfriend), and to all those who have had the great chance to get to know him.

We lack already.

Loofy Boiteux
(Member of the French Team and Kookaburra Boomerang Association of France)

The BAA sends condolences and thoughts across the oceans to the French team who have lost Nicolas at too young an age.

Other News in Brief

Manuel Schutz wins the French Championship with record scores - Fast Catch 14.84 secs, 94 Accuracy and 114 Trick Catch/Doubling. **Marie Appriou**, 18 yrs old, is showing great promise as a woman champion, scoring 85 points in Accuracy and consistently good scores in the other events. 2nd was Olivier Chelmas and 3rd Arnaud Tribbillon.

Top 5 in the **German Nationals** was Fridolin Frost, Tobias Giessenschlag, Klaus Habe, Gunter Moeller, with a surprising 5th place for Matthius Giessenschlag.

USA Nationals begins 11th September at Cornerstone Lakes Park, West Chicago. Good luck to all!

And that's a wrap!