



MAY 1994

NUMBER 82

BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
 * NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS *
 SYDNEY 1994



B.A.A. Silver Jubilee

MAY 6th ARTHUR JANETZKI 90 YEARS OLD



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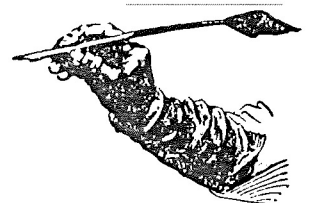
EDITORIAL

At last! Our first great milestone.. our Silver Jubilee. Twenty five years of boomerang achievement. When we think back on those twenty five years names pop to mind, names of those who made it all happen. And there have been many involved during the last quarter of a century, some well known and others lesser known, but they have all been part of the magic formula which has made the Boomerang Association of Australia (B.A.A.) reach the position it is in today.

The B.A.A. of today has changed from its 1969 foundation. The rules have been moulded through the years by much discussion and anguish and often dissent. Through it all the democratic process has worked. The history of this development, written by Tony Butz, will be published in the Bulletin in the next few issues.

Academy Awards are well known in the film world. If I were asked to nominate the Number One Person responsible for putting the B.A.A. where it is today, I would have no hesitation in naming MORRIS MAXWELL, whose work during the first dozen years or so was massive. As well as producing the Bulletin for most of that time, Morris put down rules in writing, so that we had something to talk about, discuss and guide us. Many people, if they were asked to nominate the B.A.A.'s most important people, would automatically think of the high achievers in competition results. These people do not make an organisation. They are merely the icing on the cake. The truly "greats" are the organisers who do all the hard work. Clubs are only as good as their organisers. So I give a BIG pat on the back to Morris and all those others who have given so many years of their lives helping to build up the Boomerang Association of Australia to its Silver Jubilee.

Br Brian M Thomas



1994 AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITOR	ACCURACY	C.C.W.I.D	ENDURANCE	FAST CATCH	M.T.A.C.100	AUSSIE	RD	OVER ALL
B. BURWELL	23/e10	6/e8	25/9	30.55/10	30.06/3rd	65/5		139.5/7
M. PATTERSON	10/e17	0/18	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	16/e18		25.5/e20
A. CARROLL	33/2nd	7/e6	14/e13	22.50/4	24.73/5	76/1st		154/4
C. FOLEY	30/6	8/5	14/e13	29.54/9	20.77/10	23/17		125.5/11
T. PATTERSON	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	17/20		11/22
M. WEBER	33/3rd	8/2nd	50/1st	18.51/1st rec	26.07/4	46/e10		164/2nd
K. ARTHUR	10/e17	2/e14	D.N.C.	60/e16	13.68/15	46/e10		79/16
D. MARTIN	28/7	5/e10	22/11	32.42/11	19.26/11	53/e6		129/10
K. MORAN	27/8	3/13	24/10	34.27/13	17.15/13	48/e8		120.5/12
M. COLLINA	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	60/e16	13.35/16	16/e18		41/19
G. WANDTKE	23/e10	6/e8	33/6	28.96/8	22.11/8	38/15		129.5/9
B. WALTER	19/14	1/17	7/15	60.00/e16	10.58/17	30/16		90/15
E. SILADI	18/e15	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	0/21		25.5/e20
I. BONT	24/9	2/e14	28/8	40.26/14	15.71/14	48/e8		114.5/13
E. TUTTY	31/5	15/1st rec	48/3rd	23.94/5	23.34/6	67/3rd		163/3rd
BR B. THOMAS	32/4	4/12	30/7	27.13/6	22.01/9	46/e10		137.5/8
R. CROLL	34/1st	8/3rd	48/2nd	21.77/3rd	32.77/2nd	66/4		171/1st
R. FREEBODY	20/13	5/e10	19/12	32.52/12	10.47/18	13/21		99/14
B. CARTER	23/e10	7/e6	42/5	21.06/2nd	22.35/7	53/e6		148/6
K. ANDERSEN	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	48.42/15	18.56/12	39/4		52/17
I. SPROUL	18/e15	8/4	43/4	27.54/7	35.95/1st	69/2nd		152.5/5
N. GOTTSCHALK	10/e17	2/e14	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	D.N.C.	43/13		47/18

LADIES' CHAMPION: BIRGIT WALTER. CATCH OF THE DAY: KEVIN MORAN
NEAREST THE PIN: INZE BONT. 505 mm.

REFEREES: ROSS LINTON & BR. B. THOMAS. CAMERAMAN: TONY BUTZ.

WEATHER: FROM DEAD CALM TO LIGHT BREEZES.

VENUE: MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY PLAYING FIELDS, SYDNEY.

DATE: 19th & 20th MARCH, 1994.

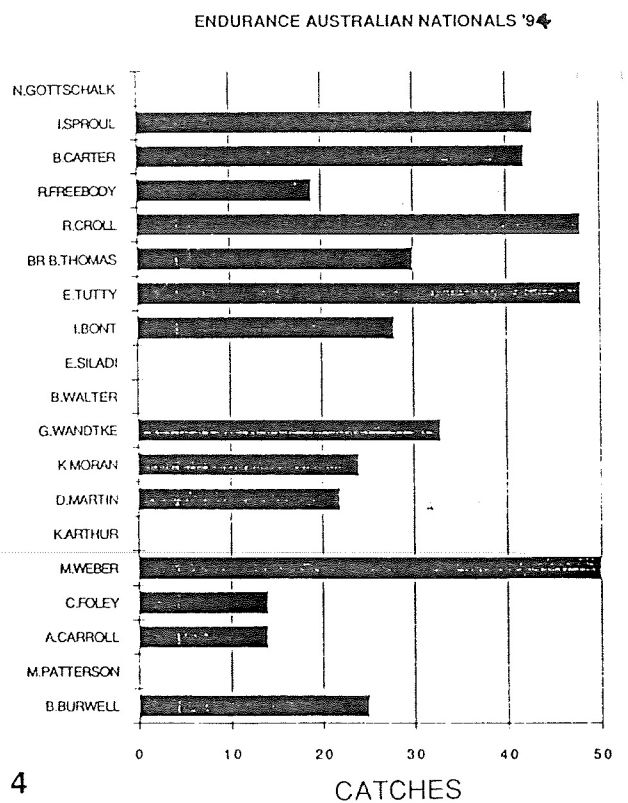
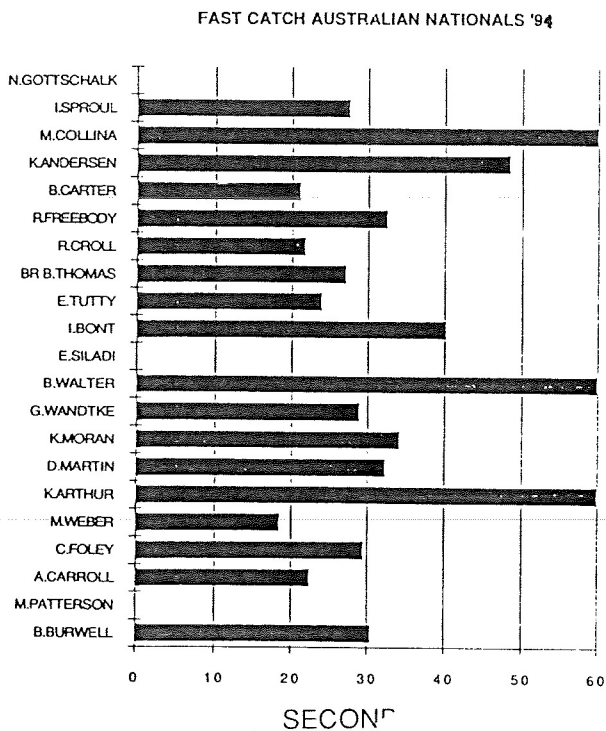
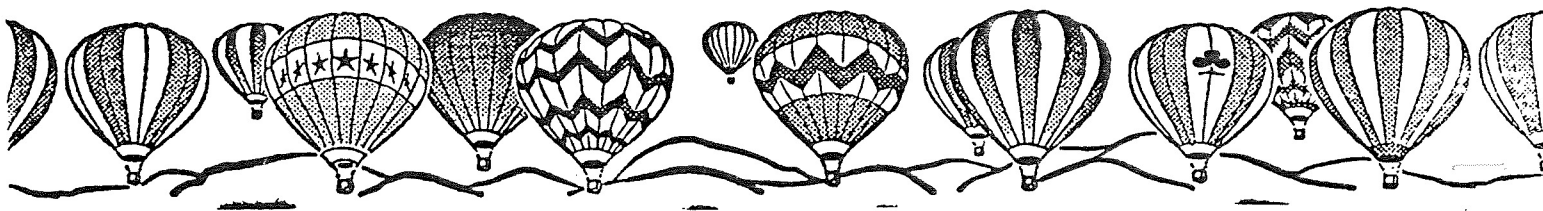
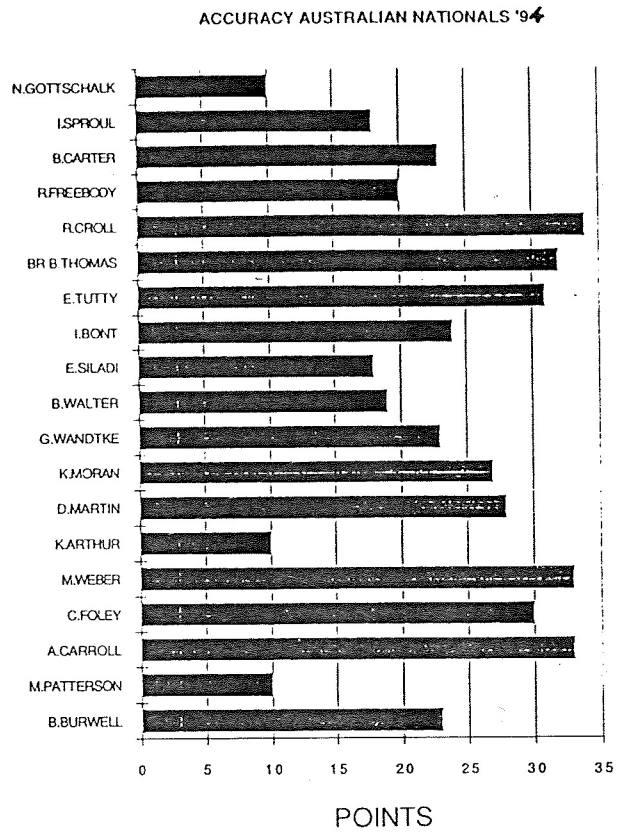
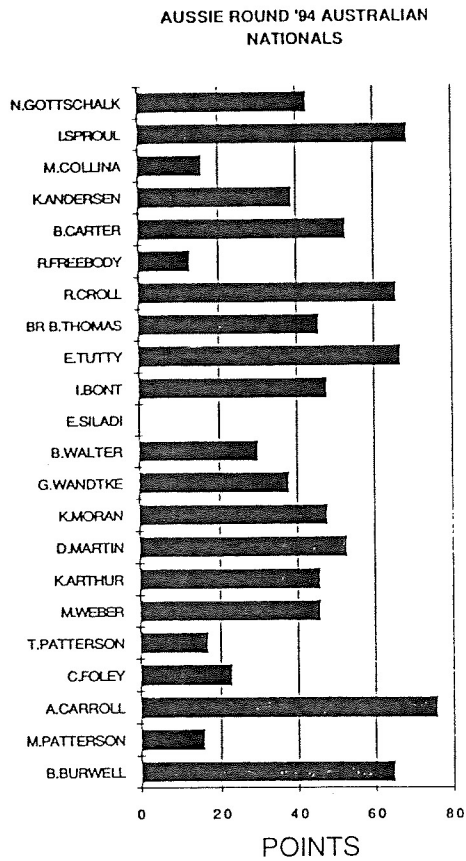
OVERSEAS THROWERS: MATTHIEU WEBER (SWITZERLAND) & EARL TUTTY (N. ZEALAND).
MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED TOWARDS THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: ROSS LINTON,
DAVE MARTIN, RUSSELL MOBBS, KEVIN MORAN, GUNTER WANDTKE, RAY BOTTRELL,
BR. THOMAS & ROB CROLL.

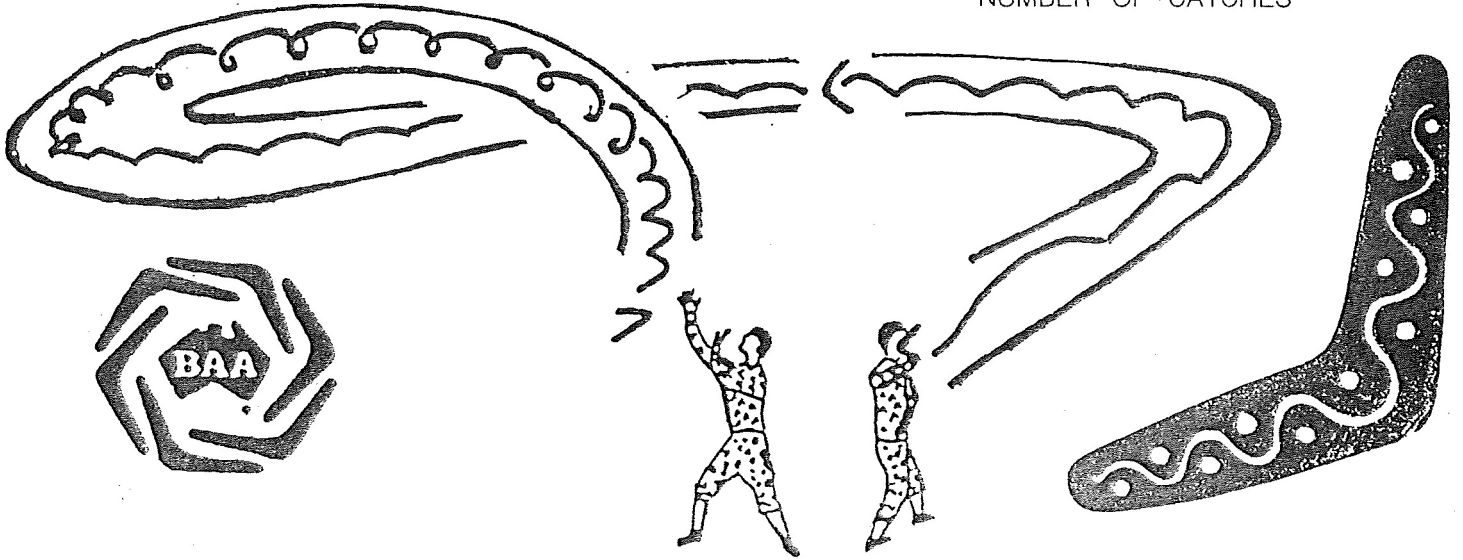
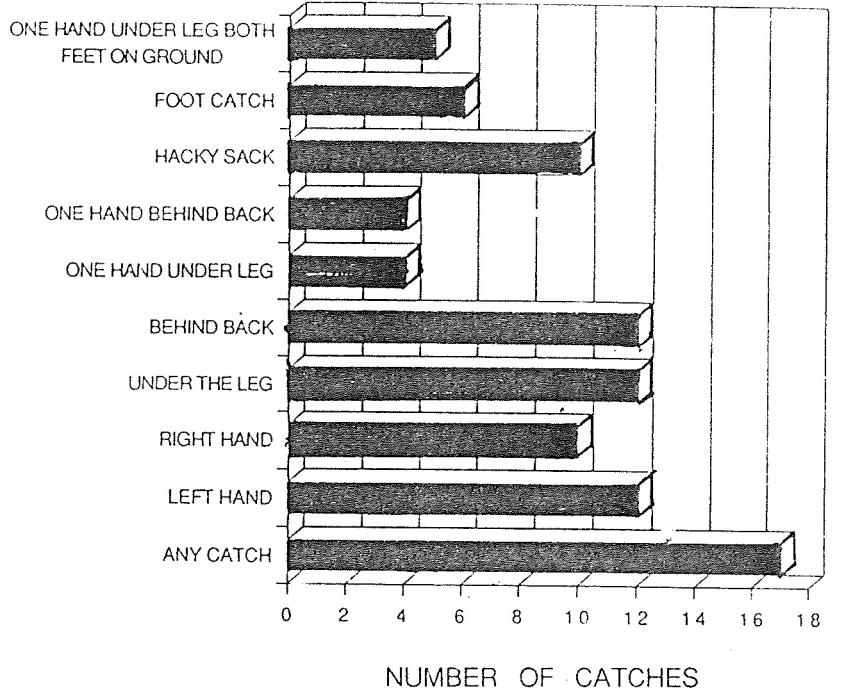
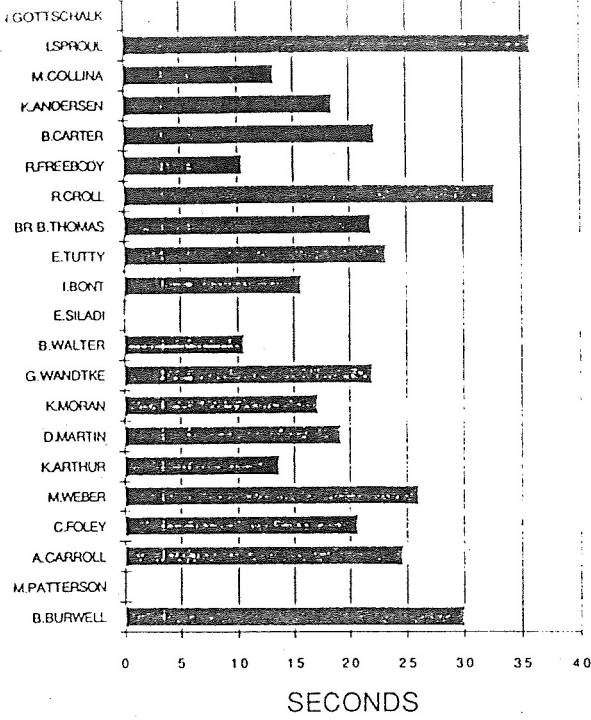
A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO
OUR MAJOR SPONSOR:
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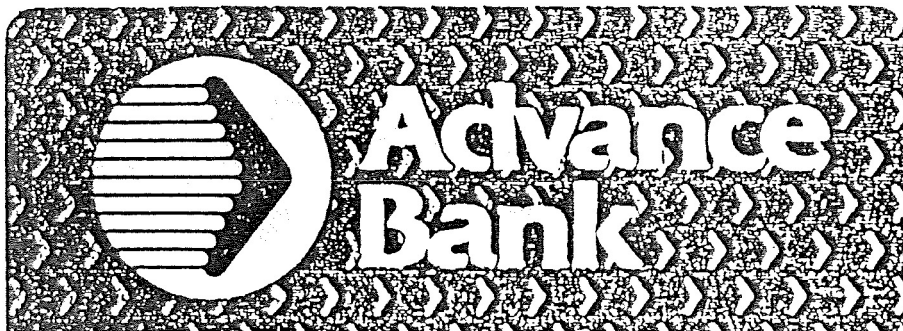
 Advance Bank

AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG GRAPH RESULTS





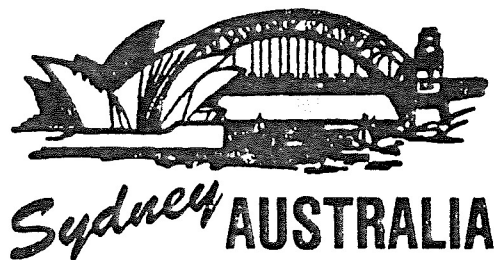
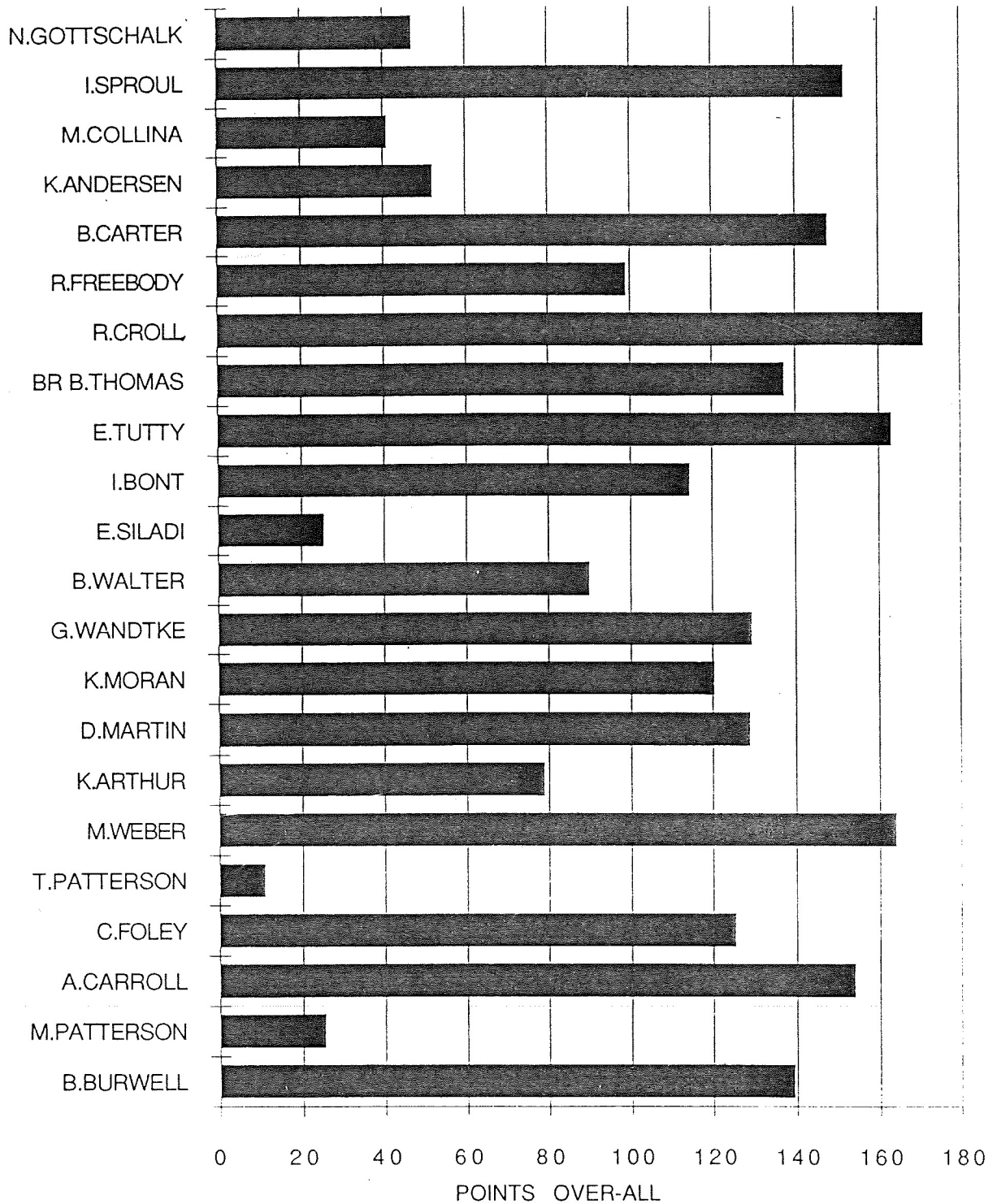
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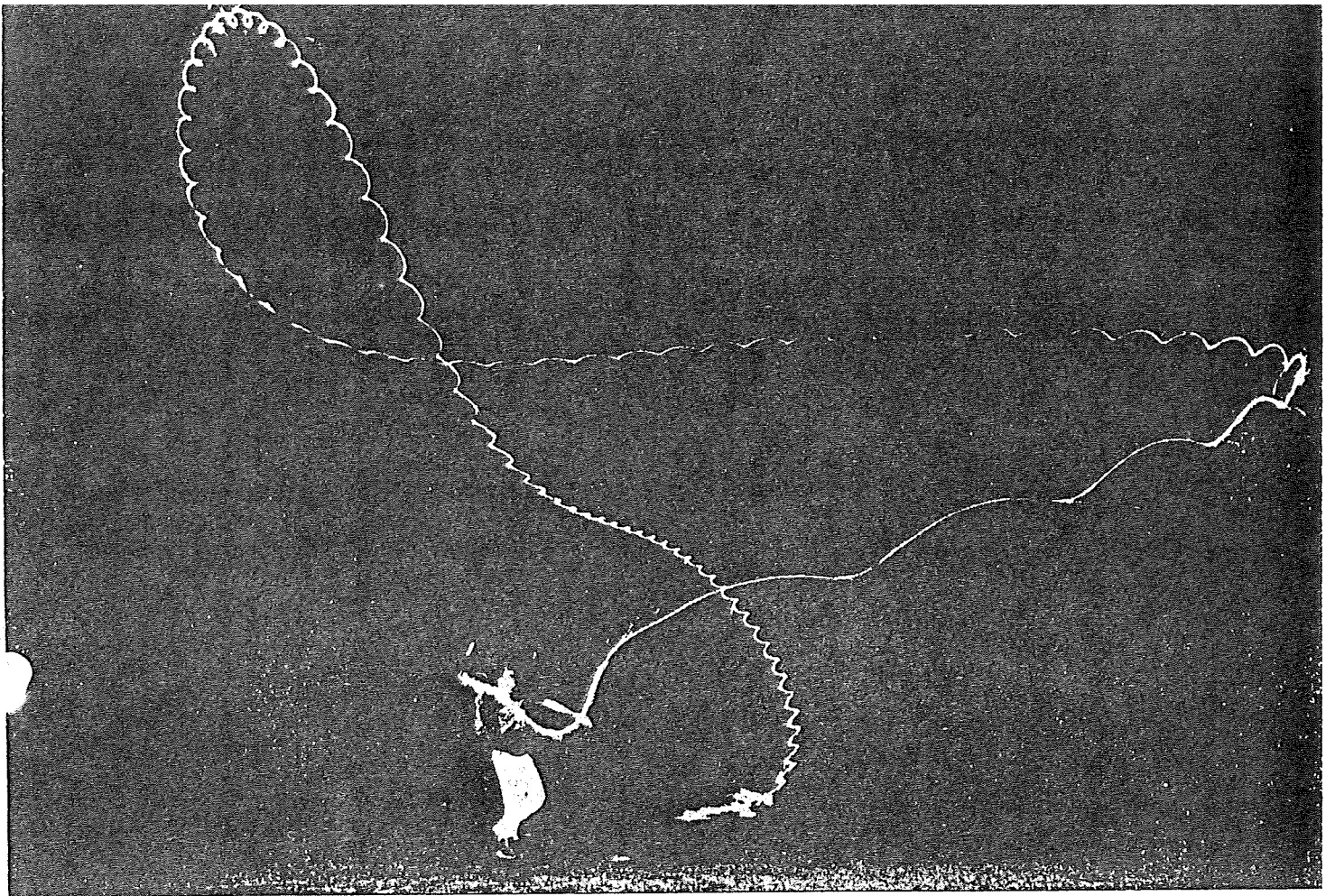




1994
AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG
CHAMPIONSHIPS

OVER-ALL '94 AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS





What is it? If you can't get it straight off, we're not telling. See below for an explanation.

Picture by T...

This was on the prime back page of the "Sydney Morning Herald".

Quite a number of spectators came to this article.

Our boomerangs are just not coming back like they used to

Good photo, huh? Would you believe a reader took it simply with a Box Brownie and the headlights of his car flashing off and on? Actually, it was the *Herald's* sport photographer Tim Clayton - recent winner of the World Press Sports Photo of the Year award - who captured the image using a camera far more sophisticated than Jackie Onassis on a good day. A camera with time-exposure capability, of course.

But before we go on, try this quick quiz. What is it a photo of? Go on, try to work it out. I'll read the comics and hum *My Boomerang Won't Come Back* till you return.

Dum-de-dum-dum-dum... OK, time. Of course you have it. It's a photo of a man throwing a boomerang at night, with a sparkler attached.

Gunter Wandtke, of Dural, apparently often practises this way. At night, because he often can't get sufficient time during the day to properly refine the serious endeavour he is engaged in - to win this weekend's Australian Boomerang Championships to be held at Macquarie University Sports Field.

True. Boomerang throwing is now a serious endeavour internationally, and on that subject, we Australians have got to pull ourselves together. Our national reputation is at stake, no less. Do you see Spaniards get



PETER FITZSIMONS

walloped at bull-fighting? Nossir. (*Apart from the odd win for the bulls themselves of course.*) The French at boules? Yer kiddin'.

Yet even a fleeting glance at the World Record board of boomerang throwing reveals that, far from dominating the sport, we're now only leading in one event and are getting creamed in six others by people from boomerang clubs as far afield as Holland, America, Germany, Italy and France.

This weekend's competition though is part of the sport's local renaissance, with clubs springing up all over the land, and if we have to recruit foreign talent to do so, then that is merely the way of serious sport these days.

Wandtke first came to Australia as a member of the German team in the 1988 World Cup at Barooga and has remained here since. The present overall NSW

champion, he was recently granted residency in Australia.

And why couldn't the *Herald* get a single quote out of him on the subject? Because he was out boomerang throwing all day and couldn't be reached. *That's* the sort of competitor we've been looking for.

Incidentally, on the whole subject of boomerangs, a Mr Jacques Thomas - the founding member of the La Perouse Boomerang Club de France - on a recent sojourn here, recently had the temerity to say: "It is a little-known fact, but when they opened the tomb of King Tutankhamen earlier this century there were 40 throwing sticks and 12 of these were boomerangs. "Boomerangs have also been found in Holland from 2,500 years ago and a boomerang-like throwing stick has been found in Poland, made out of the ivory of a mammoth dating back 25,000 years."

Monsieur Jacques claimed this means the invention of boomerangs wasn't the exclusive province of the Aborigines after all.

Which was like his damn hide. For he completely ignored the obvious. That maybe, just maybe, the Aborigines were simply more nomadic than previously thought ... It works for me.

● The event goes from 1 pm to 6 pm on Saturday and 8 am to 2 pm on Sunday.

Gunter Wandtke did an outstanding job in organising the 1994 Nationals. As a result the TV show "Live and Sweaty" was made, shown the week after. Three members of the Olympic Committee attended the two days and were very favourably impressed with boomerang throwing as a possible activity for the 2000 Olympics. Thanks to Mr. Robert Lawton and the Macquarie Uni for the generous use of their grounds. Jock, the groundsman, did a magnificent job marking out the lines. Three radio interviews were done before the comps.

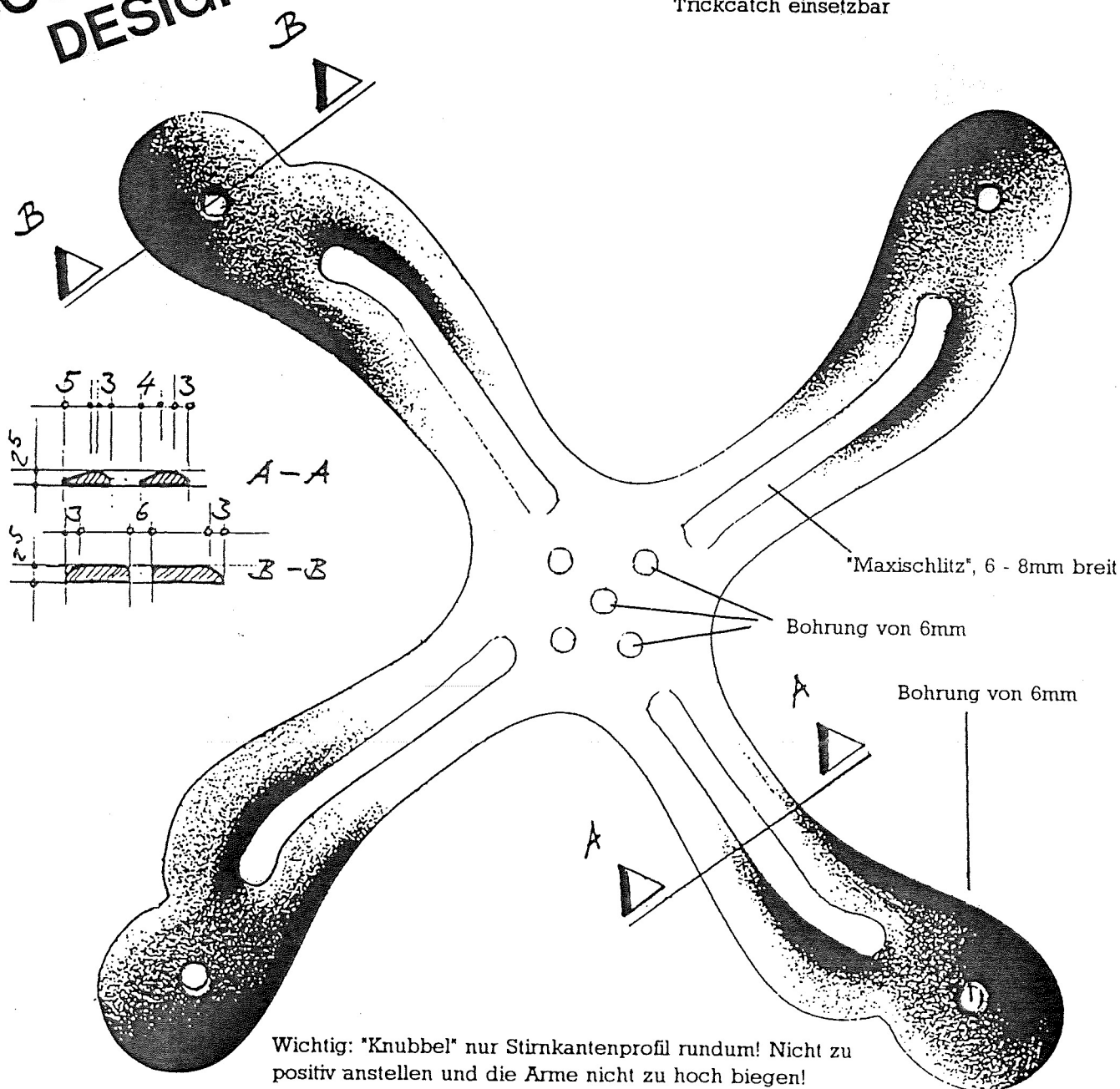
workshop

"Earlybird"

von Adam Müller

GERMAN
BOOMERANG
DESIGN

Material	: GFK
Dicke	: 2 - 3mm
Profil	: Vorderkante ca. 3 - 4mm gerundet oder kantig,
Hinterkante	: ca 5mm gerundet oder kantig, keine Bevels, Vorderkante leicht gegenrunden
Biegung	: Nur "Knubbel" hochbiegen, Vorderkante minimal positiv anstellen
Maßstab	: Seite auf DIN A3 vergrößern
Wurf	: Abwurfwinkel horizontal bis 20, 45 - 80 aus dem Wind herauswerfen, Neigungswinkel 60 - 40 (ziemlich sicheln), mittlere Wurfkraft, "PinchGrip"
Windstärke	: 2 - 7 je nach Schlitzbreite, Dicke, Gewicht; falls jemand Windstärke 7 anzweifelt: Micha Siems fragen!
Weite	: für alle 30 Meter - Disziplinen, sowie Aussie Round geeignet, bei sehr dünnem Material (1,5 - bis 1,7) hoch fliegend und auch für Trickcatch einsetzbar



Wichtig: "Knubbel" nur Stirnkantenprofil rundum! Nicht zu positiv anstellen und die Arme nicht zu hoch biegen!

BOOMERANGS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On August 26th, 1993, Papua New Guinea's own Television Station EMTV (pronounced MTV) announced during the 6.00 pm National News that a new sport had been launched in PNG. This news item was followed by a 3 minute segment on boomerang throwing during the sports section of the news.

We had recorded it at 7.00 am on the practice fairway of the Port Moresby Golf Course with wind conditions ranging from medium to strong. Four of the locals, in PNG referred to as "Nationals", and half a dozen young caddies had a throw after a few minutes instruction. The TV producer, and later on the cameraman, also joined in. I was pleased to see the camera concentrated on the enthusiasm of the Nationals, because that's what it's all about. Rather politely they showed my good catches on TV.

During the interview I mentioned that I would try to introduce the sport to schools. During the following weeks I received a parcel with 50 plastic boomerangs from Bruce Carter, but I would still like to be able to send any used or new boomerangs our members could spare to my friends in PNG, now that I no longer work there.

Do you realise that Papua New Guinea is closer to the Australian mainland up north than Tasmania is in the south? The people over there are our nearest neighbours. It would be nice to have some sort of follow up and continuity in our sport in PNG.

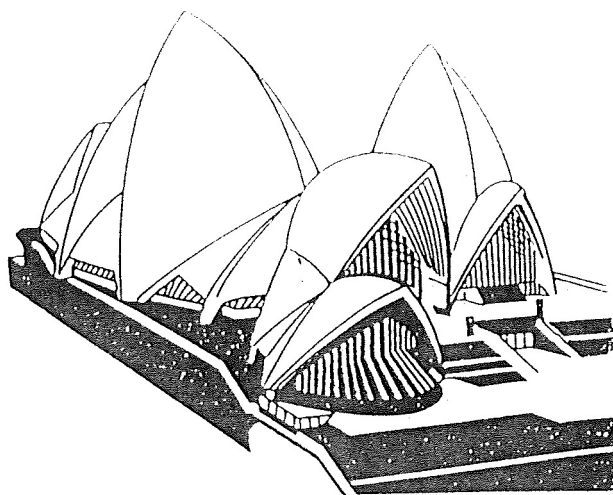
Well, until March 1994, when I went to Sydney for the Australian National Championships, I thought I had introduced boomerangs to PNG. True or false? Of course it is not true. Next time you meet Ken Arthur the young 72 year old keen competitor from the Sydney suburb of Lane Cove, ask him about the time when he made boomerangs in PNG during World War 2 in the forties!! Now there is a good story and perhaps the Editor can follow it up and ask Ken to record his experiences in PNG. It would be a pity not to have Ken's war time boomerang making and throwing efforts told in his own words and published in the Bulletin. Come on, Ken, we are waiting!

Nick Gottschalk.

Victoria.



SYDNEY



33.55° SOUTH
151.10° EAST
NEW SOUTH WALES
AUSTRALIA 2000

1994 BTA NSW EXECUTIVE *****

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PHONE: 427 3802



A mighty big THANK YOU to our out-going members of the Executive:

- SECRETARY.. RICHARD BARRASS
TREASURER.. ROHAN JOHNSTON
EDITOR.. MARK HOWARTH

The BAA is very grateful to them all for the marvellous work they have done. May they enjoy their retirement!!! God bless them all.

1994
YEAR
OF
COACH
Living it better!

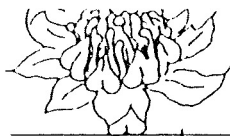
COMING EVENTS *****

2nd EASTERN SUBURBS COMPETITION
at Queens Park, Waverley, NSW,
at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 26th June.

6th BLUE MOUNTAINS CHAMPIONSHIPS
at "WINBOURNE", MULGOA RD., MULGOA,
at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, 13th Nov.

NEXT ISSUE WILL CONCENTRATE
ON ARTHUR JANETZKI, WHO TURNS 90
ON MAY 6th 1994. CONGRATUALTIONS!!

ALL COACHES DESERVE RECOGNITION!

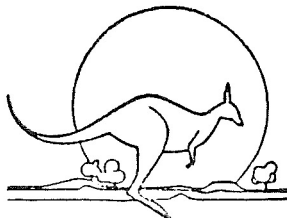
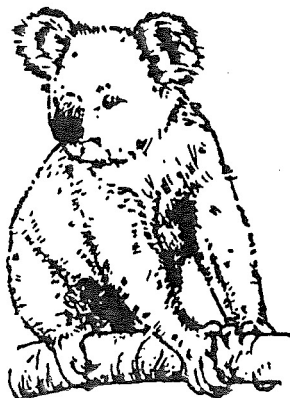
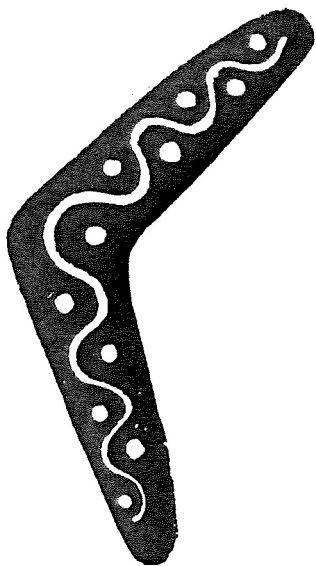


1994 N.S.W. STATE BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS
HELD AT OXFORD FALLS ON 6TH FEB. 1994

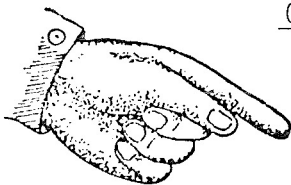


RESULTS

COMPETITORS	ACCURACY	AUSSIE ROUND	FAST CATCH	MTA UNL.	OVER-ALL
BIRGIT WALTER	34/1ST	38/7TH	0 CATCH/E5	10.71/4	137.5/4TH
MARGARET PATTERSON	17/8	20/10	DNC	DNC	58/10TH
KEN ARTHUR	8/10	44/6	0 CATCH/E5	DNC	92.5/6TH
KEITH ANDERSEN	27/3RD	52/5	3 CT/E3RD	0/E5	135/5TH
ADAM CARROLL	30/2ND	89/3RD	65.54/2ND	17.6/3RD	144/3RD
GUNTER WANDTKE	26/4	99/2ND	44.31/1ST	18.40/1ST	151/1ST
EDDIE SILADI	9/9	57/4	DNC	DNC	63/7TH
TERRY PATTERSON	20/6	32/9	DNC	DNC	61/E8TH
RAY BOTTRELL	18/7	37/8	DNC	DNC	61/E8TH
BR. BRIAN THOMAS	24/5	121/1ST	3 CT/E3RD	17.95/2ND	144.5/2ND
KEVIN MORAN	DNC	DNC	DNC	0 (LEFT)	..



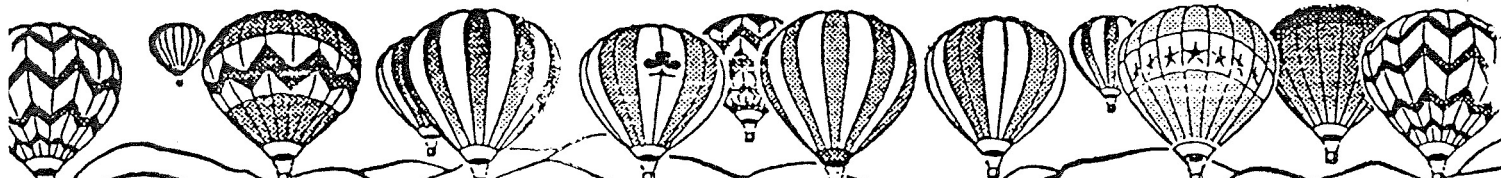
LADIES' CHAMPION: BIRGIT WALTER
THE FRED HOLLOW'S MEMORIAL TROPHY WON BY BR. BRIAN THOMAS (AUSSIE ROUND)
CATCH OF THE DAY: TERRY PATTERSON.



A VERY BIG "THANK YOU" TO KEVIN & SONYA MCCARTHY OF FORMACH, CANBERRA, WHO SPONSORED THE TROPHIES FOR THE STATE TITLES.

THE WEATHER STARTED CALM BUT GRADUALLY GOT WINDY, AS THE FAST CATCH RESULTS SHOW. BIRGIT WALTER TOOK OUT HER 2ND CONSECUTIVE NSW LADIES' TITLE..CONGRATULATIONS!
THANKS ALSO TO ST. PIUS X COLLEGE FOR THE USE OF THEIR OVALS AND FACILITIES.

QUITE A FEW THROWERS MISSED THIS COMPETITION DUE TO ILLNESS AND INJURIES (TONY BUTZ CRUSHED HIS RIGHT HAND UNDER A SLAB OF CONCRETE FOUR DAYS BEFORE!)..OUR SYMPATHIES TO ALL THESE. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



**3rd Central Coast Boomerang Championships
24th April 1994
St Edwards College East Gosford**

Name	ACC	FAST	AUSSIE	MTA 100	CCWID	OVER- ALL
Br Porres McRae	25-6th	DNC	10-11th	0-e8th	DNC	88-11th
Ken Arthur	19-9th	61.6- 6th	51-5th	0-e8th	2-e6th	154-8th
Br Brian Thomas	43-2nd	33.77-3rd	80-2nd	14.52-6th	5-3rd	176-3rd
Dave Martin	14-11th	32.08-2nd	28-9th	18.76-5th	3-e4th	159.5-5th
Adam Carroll	48-1st	21.4-1st	116-1st	43.06-2nd	7-e1st	195.5-1st
Gunter Wandtke	42-3rd	36.38-4th	68-3rd	56.03-1st	7-e1st	182.5-2nd
Birgit Walter	26-5th	65.1-8th	19-10th	0-e8th	DNC	120-9th
Ray Freebody	21-8th	62.8-7th	48-6th	21.34-4th	3-e4th	170.5-4th
Dave Benson	16-10th	58.37-5th	38-7th	25.22-3rd	2-e6th	158-6th
Margaret Patterson	23-7th	66.55-9th	34-8th	0-e8th	1-9th	119-10th
Terry Patterson	39-4th	88.7-10th	55-4th	6.72-7th	2-e6th	158-7th

Ladies' Champion: Margaret Patterson
Nearest the Pin: Gunter Wandtke 655mm
Catch of the Day: Terry Patterson

Special thanks to Merle Martin for recording results.

Conditions were perfect for most of the day. Adam Carroll showed this when he equalled the Australian Record for Accuracy with a magnificent throwing effort of 10,8,10,10,10=48. Gunter put his MTA up for 56.03 secs..and then broke it as he caught it! Another order to Rod Jones! But it was Adam's day..he swept all before him. Why did God make left handers?!? Thanks to Dave Martin for the lovely boomerangs he donated too..and the Advance Bank, who continued their support after the Nationals. And thanks to St. Edward's for the ovals!



MY BOOMERANG WILL COME BACK

JAPAN

Hidefumi Kobayashi writes to mention that he saw **Ted Bailey** on Japanese television (CNN?) last summer. TV Channel 12 (in Tokyo) borrowed some of Hide's MTAs to explain how they work to the Tokyo television audience.

On 24 March, a boomerang competition was scheduled to take place at Isehara. **Roger Perry** from Perth, Australia was scheduled to attend.

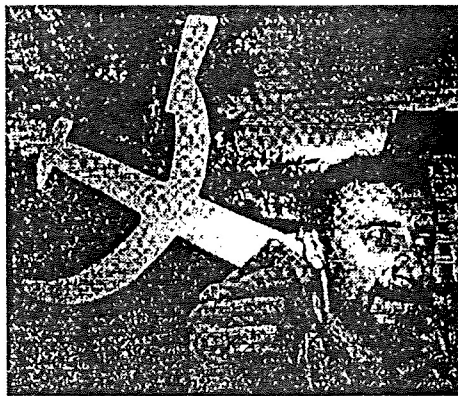
The Japan based "Rangs Boomerang Club" will change it's name to "Japan Boomerang Sports Federation (JBSF)" in the near future, backed by the Japanese Department of Education.

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu of the Japan Boomerang Association announces the 1994 World Cup which will take place in Hiratsuka over the week of 3-10 August. All international clubs have been provided details for registration of competition teams. The schedule of events includes the following:

- 3 - Arrive at Hiratsuka
- 4 - Registration/Captain's Meeting/Opening Ceremony
- 5 - First Team Cup
- 6 - Second Team Cup
- 7 - Rest Day/Public Instruction
- 8 - Third Team Cup
- 9 - Individual Championships/Closing Ceremony/Party
- 10 - Farewell/Parting

Any of the readers wishing more information on this important event can contact Yoshi at the following address:

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telephone/fax: (03) 3261 9304



RUSSIA

Vladimir Alekseev of the Russian Boomerang Association sent the editor several clippings from Russian newspapers which mentioned Russian efforts to promote and market boomerang products. **Arkady Nemov**, pictured above, was featured in the 25 August (English) edition of the *The Moscow Times*. Nemov is the Vice-President of the Russian Boomerang Association, an artist and an Avionics graduate of the Moscow Aviation Institute. Nemov also plans on writing a book on boomerangs which includes chapters, such as, "How to Find Boomerangs in the Snow". More information on Russian boomerang products is planned for the next issue of BN. Any of the readers who have an interest in purchasing decorative "X" and "T" shaped boomerangs (about \$30 + shipping) should contact the editor in the very near future so that a group order can be organized.

SWITZERLAND

Thomas Stehrenberger writes with information about the Swiss Boomerang Federation, of which he is the President. The club currently has a total of 35 members, each belonging to one of several local clubs. The club issues a newsletter 3 times a year: March, July, November. In August, the Swiss Team (K. Galeaz-

zi, D. Hesse, O. Kaiser, G. Margot, J. Schedler, T. Stehrenberger) will compete at the 1994 World Cup in Japan. The Swiss Boomerang Championships are planned for an undecided date in September. For more information on Swiss activities, write to Thomas at the following address:

Thomas Stehrenberger
Tösstalstraße 249
8405 Winterthur
Switzerland

IN EVIDENCE

I hope you enjoyed this issue of "Boomerang News". The distribution is now up to 105 (not bad for a two month advertising effort) and new subscribers are joining every day. A mass mailing to more than 1,000 non-USBA members took place in February & March. Several individuals, like *The Boomerang Man*, helped out quite a bit by enclosing BN order forms with their correspondence to other boomerangers. **Joe Becker** added a notice on a computer bulletin board. You can help out as well by showing your copy of BN to your friends and recommending that they subscribe as well.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This publication is produced 6 times a year. Each issue has 8 pages packed with all the information needed to keep up with the ever changing world of boomeranging. A one year subscription to "Boomerang News" is only \$8 in the USA/Canada or \$15 overseas. You can subscribe by sending payment (make check or MO out to **Ted Bailey**) with your name, address & phone number to:

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TOP TEN PERFORMANCES FOR 1993 BY N.S.W.THROWERS.

AUSSIE ROUND

ADAM CARROLL 71 (C.C.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 69 (C.C.)
ADAM CARROLL 68 (C.C.)
ADAM CARROLL 67 (B.M.)
DAVE MARTIN 64 (C.C.)
BR.BRIAN THOMAS 61 (O.F.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 61(C.C.)
RAY FREEBODY 60 (C.C.)
DAVE MARTIN 60 (C.C.)
BR.BRIAN THOMAS 55 (O.F.)

ACCURACY

BR.BRIAN THOMAS 46 (C.C.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 44 (C.C.)
ADAM CARROLL 44 (C.C.)
BR.BRIAN THOMAS 40 (E.S.)
RAY FREEBODY 40 (C.C.)
DAVE MARTIN 39 (C.C.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 37 (B.M.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 33 (O.F.)
ADAM CARROLL 32 (B.M.)
KEVIN MORAN 32 (C.C.)

FAST CATCH

ADAM CARROLL 22.77 (C.C.)
ADAM CARROLL 26.65 (E.S.)
BR.BRIAN THOMAS 28.23 (C.C.)
KEVIN MORAN 33.50 (C.C.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 34.13 (C.C.)
ADAM CARROLL 34.80 (B.M.)
DAVE MARTIN 42.25 (C.C.)
RAY FREEBODY 43.22 (C.C.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 43.30 (B.M.)
HANS HEINISCH 44.80 (B.M.)

MTA

BR.ROD SHOEBRIDGE 35.97 (B.M.)
KEVIN MORAN 31.02 (E.S.)
GUNTER WANDTKE 30.19 (C.C.)
BR.BRIAN THOMAS 29.87 (C.C.)
DAVE MARTIN 29.01 (E.S.)
ADAM CARROLL 28.34 (B.M.)
DAVE MARTIN 26.14 (O.F.)
ADAM CARROLL 26.08 (ALBURY)
ADAM CARROLL 25.64 (E.S.)
GUY MARTIN 25.37 (B.M.)

CODE:

O.F. ... OXFORD FALLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, 21ST MARCH 1993

C.C. ... CENTRAL COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS, 18TH APRIL 1993

E.S. ... EASTERN SUBURBS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 23RD MAY 1993

ALBURY ..ALBURY CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2ND OCTOBER 1993

B.M. ... BLUE MOUNTAINS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 21ST NOV. 1993

Setting a World's Record

Improved Technology (plastic three-bladers, etc.) combined with an advanced throwing technique (toss just as hard as possible to beat the wind and design the boomerang accordingly) led to many world boomerang records being set in tournaments over the past half dozen years. Some standards were established several times. The competition mark for Aussie Round---testing distance, accuracy and catching---survived, however, with Brother Brian Thomas's standard of 90 out of a possible 100, set at Albury, Australia, in 1983, the dam burst, with the record being broken twice---within minutes. First came Will Gix, of Brier, Washington, then Mark Weary, of Phoenix, Arizona. Following is Weary's laconic account of events, edited by Ben Ruhe.

by Mark Weary

The scene was Phoenix, in the Valley of the Sun at Esteban Park, set in the shadow of the city's South Mountain. It was an Abnormal day for Phoenix because it was rainy and overcast. We had had rain only twice during the summer, so I never thought the first tournament I organized would be like this. It was a blessing in disguise. If it had been hot as normal, I would have been one of only a few to survive, because I'm used to Phoenix's searing desert heat.

We started off the day with Michael Girvin of Berkeley, California---"Gel" himself---breaking the world doubling record (under new rules established in 1992) with 17 straight catches. But the best came last at the end of the long day.

It was almost 5 p.m. and the sun, which had eventually come out, raced for the horizon. The wind was down to a steady 4 mph. I had just finished juggling, with a 232 score, a best for me. My legs were somewhat taxed from that performance.

During my juggling effort, I distinctly experienced "runner's high"---satori, zoning, call it what you will. It was euphoric.

As soon as I finished juggling, the warmup for Aussie Round started. Because I needed to catch my breath, I downed some Gatorade and ate a plum to restore much-needed energy. I made a half-dozen practice throws.

After sitting on the lines doing distance judging for two sections of Aussie Round, it was my turn to throw. I was the last thrower in my group with Will Gix just ahead of me. We were both throwing phenolic Sunshines made by Michael Girvin. I would not realize until the fifth and final throw that I was "pushing the envelope."

Will's first throw was 6-4-8---for a total of 19. (Six for maximum range of 50 meters, 4 for the catch, 8 out of a perfect 10 for accuracy. A total of 18 out of a perfect 20. Mark's throw was a disastrous 4-4-5--13. Seven points down already. My analysis: Although the throw felt right on, the steady wind shifted and my boomerang made only 40 meters distance, with the catch coming way in front of the bullseye. I had not read the wind or put enough power into the throw.

Will's second throw scored 6-4-8, another 18. Nice and consistent. Mark then boosted the power and got 6-4-10--20. Perfect.

On his third toss, Will let it slip. The wind shifted and he failed to. His 6-4-5--15 opened the door. Mark passed through it with a 6-4-9--19. Even being 6 feet 4 and limber he had to stretch for the catch. Anyone smaller would have split in half like a wishbone.

On the fourth throw, Will made the catch in the center without

moving an inch from his launch point. Mark was on as well. Two perfect 20s.

Fifth and final toss. A 20 would give Willie Gix the world's record, although he was unaware of this.

Will's throw skimmed the grass for 30 meters, as if to say "I'm going to fall out of the sky before I get home."

Will watched unmoving. When the boomerang finally made it back accurately, he scored the catch in the bullseye.

Mike Girvin scoring the round and knew what was what. "91---world record!" he yelled. Will didn't celebrate, however. He had a glassy look and pointed at me, as I stepped into the center circle to launch.

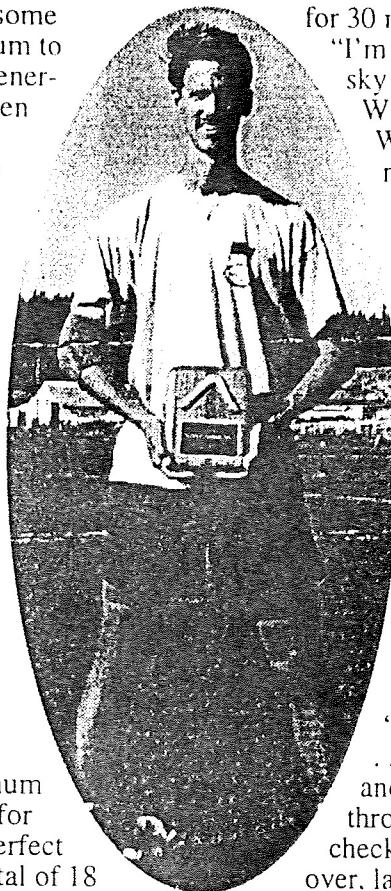
I looked back at them and now for the first time thought "Could it be possible? ... Then, hey forget it

and do the job." I went through the ritual wind check, thinking "Lay it over, lay it over some more

now, just like the first four throws. Get down low and follow through, as Barney Ruhe and Eric Darnell say."

Out the throw went, the boomerang gliding along, then curving up as it turned home. In order to see all the point circles, I backed out of the bullseye. Down the boomerang floated. "Don't leave things to chance," I told myself. So with three steps I leapt to grab it in mid-air, the little final hop ending with my putting my two feet down in the bullseye, a la football end Lynn Swann doing an in-bounds drag. 6-4-10--20. Girvin yells "92---world record!"

I can still remember the feeling. I was locked in like a missile heading for a target. "Throw and catch it in the bull" was the only thing on my mind. Just thinking about it permits me to live it again.



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I am starting a boomerang collection and would like to hear from any boomerang collectors or makers interested in trading or exchanging boomerangs.

I have available any of my commercial lines or some limited designs.

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