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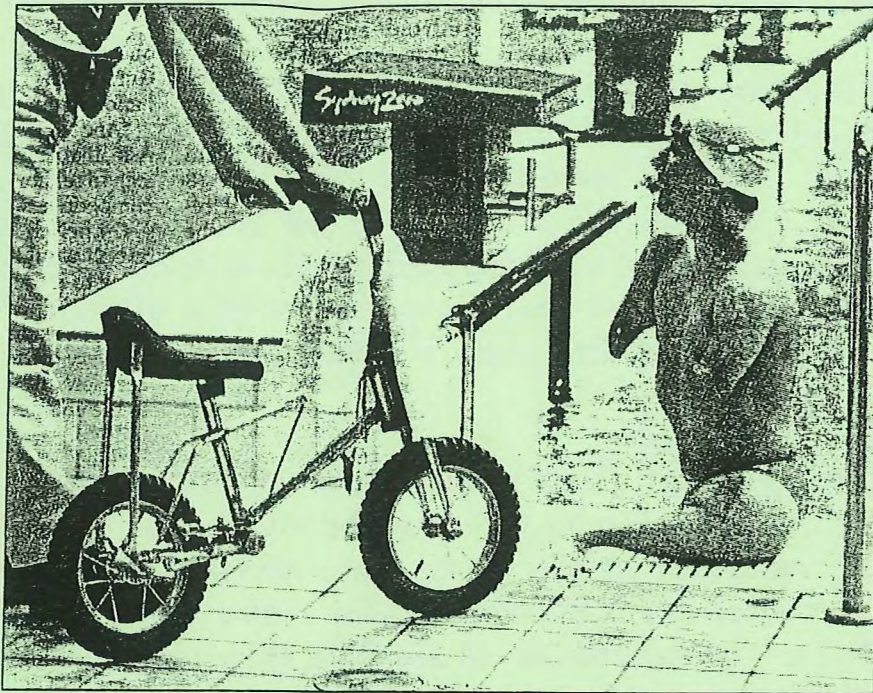
BOOMERANG BULLETIN

BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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Gabriel Vallejos has been the crowd favourite at the pool.
Photo: Craig Golding

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



OUR BIG BOOMERANG LESSON

Sydney's Unforgettable Moments and Inspiration.

Dry eyes were impossible to maintain during our inspirational 2000 Sydney Paralympics (dark glasses were my common companion during this time, and it wasn't for the sunshine!), as we witnessed the world's gutsiest people displaying their extraordinary skills and determination in a great variety of sports. None of them threw boomerangs, to my knowledge, but their efforts taught all boomerangers how to participate in their sport.

For some, part of our sport has always been: *complaining*. We all have hard luck stories about small or large injuries that come our way at the wrong time, or a bad decision by judges or range stewards. These can loom very large in our eyes, and sometimes in our voices. Well, folks, let's try and take a leaf out of the books of the thousands of handicapped people who so proudly displayed their talents in Sydney during October 2000. They didn't want sympathy for their sometimes horrific situations. They just wanted respect for their efforts. Certainly none of them complained, even though they had more right to do so than anyone else.

Some didn't have a sore leg or arm. They had no leg or arm! And yet here they were hopping on one leg to do the high jump or throw the javelin. Amongst these many inspirational stories all hearts were grabbed by the brave efforts of Gabriel from Chile. Read about his story reproduced in this Bulletin and keep a dry eye if you can. But above all think twice before next you complain about any pain or inconvenience that comes your way. Just be thankful for the limbs and health you have.

During the Paralympics we witnessed true greatness in action. Sadly commercial TV didn't think it would appeal to great numbers of people and failed to cover these moving moments. This must go down as the greatest media boo-boo ever!! Fortunately the ABC gave some coverage and for that we are grateful. More people attended the Paralympics than the Olympics. The million plus adults and children who poured into them experienced an outstanding lesson in human endeavour, which will be etched firmly into their hearts, souls and memories forever. I witnessed many of these uplifting efforts, but was not fortunate enough to see Gabriel in action. If, like me, you missed seeing him, then we have Gabriel's story to elevate our hearts, minds and admiration to a new level. Hundreds of others had similar stories to inspire us. Read it, and don't forget it!

Br. Brian M. Thomas, cfc, Editor 2000

Gabriel: paradise found

If Eric the Eel was the unexpected hero of the Olympics, the Paralympian equivalent is an athlete from Chile who has emerged as the crowd favourite at the pool. Michael Cowley met him.

Gabriel Vallejos couldn't sleep. He tossed and turned in his bed on Wednesday night but just could not manage to nod off and get the rest which an athlete requires when competing the following morning.

His mind was abuzz. Thinking of that next event, of how he would swim the 100m freestyle, but, above all, thinking about his experiences here in Sydney at the Paralympics.

So the 32-year-old sat up in bed, picked up a pen and paper, and jotted down a few words he felt he needed to say.

"Ladies and gentleman," his letter to the Australian public

Overcoming one's limitation is very important. That is someone's triumph

GABRIEL VALLEJOS

began. "I came here with the hope and aspirations, perhaps a little ambitious, of winning a medal. I wanted to do it. But, with the love you have given me, it has made me feel I am a triumph. I will always carry you in my heart.

"If there is a paradise, this is where it is."

It was a heartfelt letter but in reality it is the Australian public who should be grateful. For anyone who had the privilege of watching him swim would want to say thank you to Vallejos for opening their eyes to what the Paralympics are really about.

We quite often get overcome - rightly or wrongly - by the pursuit of gold. Sometimes even silver and bronze barely rate in comparison.

Vallejos has not won a medal at these Games. He hasn't really even come close. But while he has no jewellery, he has won the hearts of everyone who witnessed his performances in the pool.

It has nothing to do with pity when one watches the S3 swimmer, who was born with just one leg and neither arm fully formed. To watch the courage of Vallejos can only be described as inspirational.

The Australian public got their first taste of him in action on Monday night when he contested the 200m freestyle final.

He took 4min 42.84s to complete the four laps of the pool - doing backstroke, with his arms rotating at a furious rate - but after watching for almost five minutes, the large crowd stood and cheered when he reached the wall. They did it again when he contested the 50m breaststroke, and again yesterday in the 100m freestyle.

And no doubt the cheers will be boisterous today when he swims in the 50m freestyle.

He's not the slowest swimmer in the pool - over the short distances he would give Equatorial Guinea's Eric "the Eel" Moussambani a competitive race - but there was something about Vallejos's effort which had a hypnotic effect on everyone.

"I have really enjoyed taking part and sharing it with the people," he said. "That I am involved in sport is just a coincidence. What is not a coincidence is my desire to keep living and enjoying life.

"Swimming is my life. It is like a drug. For me it is an important way to enrich myself.

"I have always been given much love from people wherever I have been competing, and what has been shown here touched me deeply."

Vallejos has been swimming for 22 years. He also tried other

sports such as shot put, javelin, discus and table tennis, but his sport of choice was swimming.

It has taken him to three Paralympic Games, and although he is yet to win a medal, it has not diminished his enthusiasm or will to win.

"Winning is important," he said. "Those who say they come to the Paralympics and don't care about winning would be lying. I would love to win a medal, and God willing I will one day. But overcoming one's limitation is very important. That is someone's triumph."

Vallejos lives with his parents and a total of eight brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces in Santiago. He works as an accountant and auditor, specialising in tax law.

He is Chile's only swimmer at the Games, and one of just four athletes competing for the nation at these Paralympics.

He said he had received a lot of recognition in his home country as one of the leading Paralympic athletes, and although he was not a regular visitor to the dais, he felt he had achieved many things.

"I think I have achieved something regarding the opinion people have of disabled sport," he explained.

"Around 10 or 15 years ago, people looked at a disabled person and thought, 'Should I give them money, should I move away, should I smother them with more help than they need?'

"I think I have contributed to change that mentality."

Vallejos will leave Sydney without a medal when the Games finish.

He will, however, leave enriched by his experience, and so, too, will anyone fortunate enough to have watched him swim and realise they have witnessed a triumph not only of sport, but of life.

Thank you, Gabriel.
More gold for Paton - Page 3

Brian Kemp's Travels

RECONCILIATION THROUGH BOOMERANGS

You are probably aware of the sayings "Taking coal to Newcastle", or "Selling ice to Eskimos". Well, I was recently involved in teaching Aborigines to make and throw boomerangs.

My wife and I spent a term at Shalom Christian College in Townsville as volunteers. Shalom is run by the Uniting Church of Australia and is a primary school, secondary school and old peoples home catering to indigenous Australians from all over Queensland and the Torres Strait.

I was working as a teacher's aide in the secondary school where all the students were boarders. We ate all our meals with the students in the school dining room and each evening after dinner I would go out onto the oval and throw my boomerangs. Many of the boys showed an interest and I was very surprised to find that none of them had any idea how to throw a boomerang and most of them had never handled a boomerang before. Because I was helping in the Art Department I suggest introducing boomerang making as a craft activity. I was able to use the bandsaw in the woodwork shop to cut out a number of traditional shaped plywood blanks. The students then shaped these with rasps and sandpaper before test flying them then decorating and varnishing them.

As interest increased I began to include the students in boomerang games each evening. With the approval of the Principal and the PE teacher I organised weekly boomerang competitions as part of the sports programme. To make things as even as possible I bought some 3 mm polycarbonate and made three identical three bladed boomerangs. Our first competition was a very rough and ready Accuracy event. The centre circle was made from a ring of rope on the ground and we scored by pacing from the circle to where the boomerang landed. Then The groundsman marked our competition circles for us on the main oval.

I wrote to Rangs in Perth telling them about the interest in boomerangs at the school and enquiring as to whether they had an outlet for their boomerangs in the Townsville area. I was thrilled when they sent a set of 10 "Hornets" as a donation to the College. So, our first official competition was the *Rangs Hornet Inaugural Competition* and the events were Accuracy, Aussie Round (modified) and Two Minute Endurance.

This was so successful that I then ran Teams Competition over three weeks with competitors also scoring points towards the Individual Championship. I introduced trick catching and was amazed at how quickly they picked up the ten catches. They just practised and practised and it was hard to prise the boomerangs away from them each evening when it became too dark to throw.

I also had a mulga wood throwing stick with me and some of the boys proved to be deadly with it. The boys from Mornington Island in particular showed incredible accuracy with it the very first time they threw it.

Just before we left the College the woodwork teacher became infected with the boomerang bug and I believe that he will continue the weekly sessions each sports afternoon.

I was amazed at the skill the students showed and how competitive they were. There is a possibility that we will return to Shalom as volunteers again next year and I would like to think that some of the boys might have the opportunity to compete in a BAA competition.

Perhaps some of the BAA members might like to have a few days in Townsville next year and we can run a Far North Queensland Championship.

On our travels I had the good fortune to find in an antique shop in Coonamble a 14 inch mangrove, natural elbow boomerang, poker worked with the words *La Perouse* and decorated with a kangaroo, emu, kookaburra, possum and foliage. Then in Surfers Paradise in an Antiquarian book shop I found a copy of the 1975 book "*All About Boomerangs*" by Lorin and Mary Hawes. This copy is inscribed inside the front cover, "*With best wishes from the authors of this magnificent book*" and signed by Lorin Hawes and Mary Ella Hawes. That was exciting enough but I then found the book also contained a vinyl record. On one side is *Boomerang Throwin'* and on the other is *Didjeridoo Blowin'*. It is copyrighted to Hawes Boomerangs, Mudgeeraba, Queensland, Australia.
EAT YOUR HEART OUT GARY BROADBENT !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Some throwers of Shalom Christian College, Townsville.
Stanley Wosomo, Phillip Melville (Individual Champion), Pedro Solomon, Fred Pabai.



1910



BUDGERIE
1918



1915

BLACKTOWN

FUN AUSSIE ROUND DAY

organised by Peter & Shirley Lewry on 20th August 2000

Results

Competitors	Team	Rd.1	Rd.2	Rd.3	Rd.4	Top Two	Place	Team	Place
Dave Richardson	1	74	31	43	73	74+73=147	1st*	172	1st*
Nardine Cranenburgh	1	0	8	0	17	8+17=25	16th	172	1st*
Br. Brian Thomas	2	58	0	41	28	58+41=99	2nd	143	5th
Kath Dansie #	2	2	16	28	6	16+28=44	14th	143	5th
Wayne Patterson	3	55	20	20	30	55+30=85	5th	107	8th
Bruce Lee #	3	4	6	0	16	6+16=22	17th	107	8th
Tony Butz	4	40	24	38	36	40+38=78	7th	104	9th
Suk Dong Kim #	4	15	8	11	10	15+11=26	15th	104	9th
Ken Arthur 79	5	34	11	36	18	34+36=70	9th	115	7th
Shirley Lewry	5	17	14	28	0	17+28=45	13th	115	7th
Paul Croft AJ	6	30	37	35	37	37+37=74	8th	158	2nd
Gunter Wandtke	6	18	32	52	32	52+32=84	6th	158	2nd
Terry Patterson	7	28	18	40	13	28+40=68	10th	122	6th
Julie Lendrum	7	18	20	31	23	31+23=54	12th	122	6th
Jim Lendrum	8	28	12	30	6	28+30=58	11th	155	3rd
Peter Lewry	8	21	31	50	47	50+47=97	3rd	155	3rd
Br. Rod Shoebridge	9	23	26	55	36	55+36=91	4th	145	4th
Julie Lendrum	9	18	20	31	23	31+23=54	12th	145	4th
# first competition									
JUNIORS									
Michael Lendrum	1	25	26	29	37	29+37=66	2nd	129	1st
Scott Raymond	1	6	10	36	27	36+27=63	3rd	129	1st
Peter Lendrum	2	24	14	4	29	24+29=53	4th	83	3rd
Chris Brooks	2	14	9	9	16	14+16=30	5th	83	3rd
Mark Patterson	3	19	33	11	38	33+38=71	1st *	101	2nd
Chris Brooks	3	14	9	9	16	14+16=30	5th	101	2nd

Ken Arthur Perpetual Boomerang Trophy: David Richardson.

COMMENTS FROM BOB BURWELL, AUSSIE LEGEND

Bob has been throwing boomerangs all his life, being taught by his famous father, Cec Burwell, who was a founding member of the BAA. Bob has won many National and Overseas titles. He has been the backbone of Australian teams. In recent times he has shared his knowledge on the Internet. For those who missed it, we will carry his advice in the Boomerang Bulletin.

Subject: (rang-list) Burwell Talk Shaping revisited

SHAPING THE CENTRE SECTION REVISITED.

For those who may have missed my Centre section shaping I thought I would give it a rerun. From my point of view it is an important piece of knowledge when building your boomerang.

I use file tuning to get the boomerang flying at the approximate height I want.

This knowledge was learned by me when I used to make & present my Lazy 7's for sale. It applies to curved Centre sections in particular. Hooks, Omegas, Lazy 7, Vipers, C shapes etc.

The key to making this type of boomerang fly well, is to ensure there is positive dihedral to start with. At minimum zero dihedral. Negative tends to give birth worm burners, at best or halfway round ground attackers.

The two problems as I see them are,

1. Dips on the return flight. Sometimes so bad that they crash to ground half way around.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Generally my Centre section shaping start fairly steep on the inside & outside edges. About sixty degrees. The cut depth is about two thirds wing thickness. Extends across the top of the wing about equal distance to the thickness of the wing.

I use corrective shaping on field with a file. I file the inside Centre camber from a steep to a low angle. It can extent up to 25mm either side of the approximate Centre along the edge of the wings, increasing the camber angle towards the tips.

In the Centre the angle of camber is lowered and the cut will go back as far as two or three times the wing thickness.

2. Flies higher than you plan on its flight path

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Incrementally lower the angle of camber on the outside Centre section till you achieve the height that is lower and more suited.

In 1982 I demonstrated this knowledge in the USA on field. At that time it was generally believed that the Centre section was neutral. Rusty knew better and shared his knowledge with me, and is different.

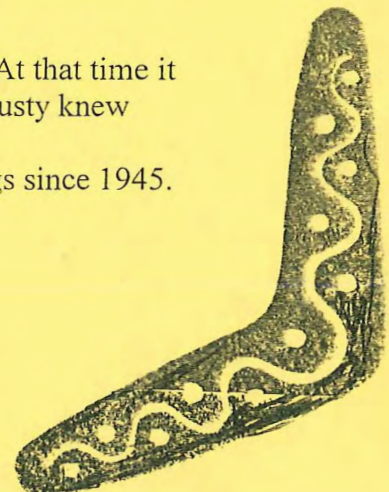
Bob Burwell. Giving and receiving pleasure from boomerangs since 1945.

BAA Australian Champion 1976,1977,1978.

USBA Champion 1982

No wins for years and still loving it.

Robertburwell@bigpond.com.au



Sugarbag Jack

WAILBRI TRIBE

YUENDUMU, N.T.



I SAW AN ASTONISHING thing the other day. A white man came out here to Yuendumu settlement with a collection of boomerangs he had made on a lathe.

And do you know that when he threw one it returned to his feet. I've never seen anything so accurate in my life.

A lot of people think that every boomerang thrown by an aboriginal hunter returns to him.

I don't know where they got that idea but no boomerang I've ever thrown has returned to me -- and I've been hunting with them all my life.

When I throw one I have to walk after it. I wish I could discover the white man's secret.

The boomerang, essentially, is nothing more than a throwing stick which has been curved so that it will travel in a straight line. When you've been tracking a kangaroo in the hot sun all day and then have to kill it with a stick you don't want the weapon to deviate from its true course.

If that happened it might be a long time between meals.

The Pintubi tribesmen out west from here are boomerang throwing experts. They can hit a small target at thirty yards with every shot.

You may be interested to know that the aborigines still have what is probably the oldest secret weapon in the world. Years ago the Djingali, the Waddaman and the Mudbra tribesmen fought with a fearsome hooked boomerang which was as superior to the conventional weapon as the hydrogen bomb is to T.N.T.



Originally the ordinary boomerang, like the one I'm about to throw, was a lethal weapon against our enemies. But they were also using it against us, so we had to invent a defence.

This was the wooden shield held in front of the body to deflect the boomerangs. It played the part of a portable tree behind which we could take cover.

Later we had the nulla-nulla, a heavy straight stick we used both as a weapon of offence and defence. It could be thrown, or used as a narrow shield.

But then some primitive genius invented the warradulla, a most diabolical weapon. This was a boomerang with a hook on the end, connected to the main body of the weapon by a wooden isthmus.

The theory of the warradulla was that the very act of stopping its flight with a shield or nulla-nulla caused the hooked end to fly off at tremendous speed, decapitating or seriously injuring its victim.

You want to watch out for the man who has one of them — he's dangerous.

My name, incidentally, is Sugarbag Jack of the Waillbri tribe. I've lived all my life in the desert and I will be here until I die.

Do you want to buy a good boomerang, Mister? Only ten bob. Or I can do you three for a quid. Brand new, all my own work, made from mulga wood. Genuine killing variety. They'd charge you a couple of quid each for them in Woolworths.

What d'ya say?

I suppose most people would say the boomerang has few advantages over a rifle when it comes to hunting kangaroos. Nevertheless, there is a reason — and it's an impressive one: a kangaroo can't turn a boomerang against the thrower, whereas it can fire a rifle.

You don't believe it? Then listen to the story of Arthur Crosbie, a half-caste stockman at Tipperary station, who has a six-inch bullet wound in the back of his right upper-arm.

'I was in Tipperary stockcamp,' Crosbie says. 'Kangaroos were coming into water. We were short of beef. I thought there'd be nothing wrong

with fresh 'roo steak and maybe a pot of 'roo-tail soup. So I went down with the rifle and shot one. It flew into the air, then sprawled on the ground. I ran over to the spring to bring him back, and reloaded the rifle on the way, thinking I might get another.

'When I got there the 'roo was still alive so I took aim to finish it off. But then I remembered we had only half a dozen bullets left. They were precious. A big waddy was lying near the kangaroo's head and I decided to kill it with that rather than waste a bullet.

'I jammed the butt of the rifle on its throat, holding its head so it couldn't move, then reached down to pick up the stick. While I was doing that the kangaroo got a paw around the trigger and pulled. I jumped about ten feet . . . the bullet went right through my arm. You know, just six inches to the right and he'd have got me through the chest. Nobody would have believed the story and my wife, who was with me, may have been on a murder charge.

'I've shot hundreds of kangaroos for tucker but this was the first one ever shot me,' Crosbie said.

Now do you see that a boomerang is safer?

Story from "I, the Aboriginal"

by Douglas Lockwood.

Our Boomerang Scoring System.

Current books and magazines show people that a boomerang scoring field is comprised of a series of circles. The inner circles, five of them, are the accuracy scoring zones. Each is 2 metres apart, with the innermost circle worth 10 points, then 8, 6, 4 and 2. If you are on the line between two scores you are awarded the odd number. (i.e. if you are touching the line between the 4 and 6 circles, you score 5.)

The next four circles are the distance circles of 20m, 30m, 40m and 50m. The qualifying throw for any event is the 20m circle. In Aussie Round you may gain extra points for distance for 30m (2 points), 40m (4 points) and 50m (6 points).

A catch within the 20m circle is worth 4 points, while a catch outside it is 2 points. If you catch on the 20m line you receive 3 points.

This system of scoring commenced in 1983 and was devised by one of our BAA founders in Morris Maxwell, who served as honorary secretary for 10 years and was thoroughly devoted to the development of the sport. It was mainly through his efforts the sport became recognized as an official sport in Australia.

If you are looking up old scores and trying to compare them, just remember that this scoring system only started in 1983. Before that, *less points* were available. When I commenced competitive throwing 1974 there were only 7 circles, not 9.

The inner scoring circles were different. The middle circle was only 1.5m radius and was worth 8 points. The next three circles were 3.5m, 5.5m and 7.5m radii, worth 6, 4 and 2 respectively. So it was much harder to get your boomerang back in the centre circle then.

Available Distance points were less too, since you only had 20m, 30m and 40m circles. You scored two for 30m and four for 40m.

Catching points were the same. Consecutive Catching was harder earlier too since you had to catch the boomerang in the accuracy circles, which was only 7.5m radius. On a few occasions it was won with one catch!

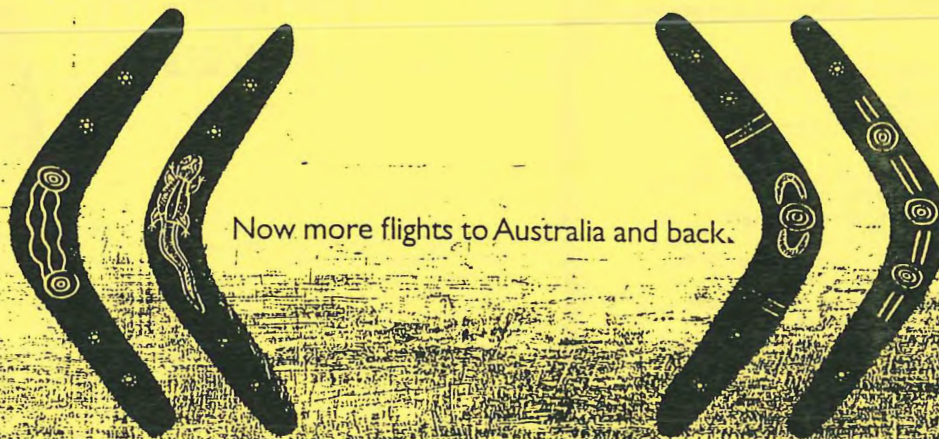
When you consider the accuracy area to score in, there is a tremendous difference between today's scoring area and pre-1983. If you work it out mathematically, before 1983 the scoring area covers 176.79 square metres. After 1983 it becomes 314.29 square metres. So when you read scores before 1983, give them the respect they deserve!! Accuracy points were far harder to earn prior to 1983.

In Aussie Round the available points for distance went up too, from 20 for 40m (5 throws) to 30 for 50m. Before 1983 the maximum score possible was 80. After that it went to 100. Keep in mind that the maximum score for Accuracy was only 40 prior to 1983. From 1983 it became 50.

What is my assessment of the 'new' system. It definitely rewards accuracy far more than distance. As a result we see far more throwers 'playing safe' and using short-ranged boomerangs where a healthy accuracy score gives them a good chance of winning. There has been no reward in points for distance. You still get 4 points for 40m under both systems. But in accuracy the scoring area has nearly doubled and the points have grown. Since 1983 most Aussie Round comps have been won with 30m or 40m rangs. Of course, when a 50m thrower is 'on fire' you can't touch them. But accuracy is a lot harder at 50m. Fifty metre winners are rarer than thirty metre winners.

Personally, to give true reflection of Aussie Round, I feel more points should be given for distance, but that would mean creating a new system. It could create more problems than it solves. What do you think?

Br. Brian Thomas, Australian National Boomerang Coach, 2000.



Qantas will be flying across the Tasman almost 200 times every week. That's 28 extra flights, making it even easier to get from Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch, to Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. This new schedule includes services from Wellington and significantly increased services to Brisbane and Melbourne. There are also upgraded New Zealand and International Qantas Club lounges and a new Business Class menu created by Neil Perry to make flying faster than ever. All these options mean there's really only one choice. For more information, phone Qantas on 1900 767 400 or contact your bonded travel agent.



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Talk given at school by Craig Carter (with some help from dad!)

BOOMERANGS --

From ancient weapons to modern day sport

What has only one moving part – itself ?

Was first made by primitive man !

Involves so much physics that it has been the subject of a number of lectures by leading professors, yet its characteristics are not fully known and probably will never be fully understood !

Has become the subject of a sport where the participant is his or her own target .

Is an emblem of its country –used in the year 2000 Sydney Olympics as the main emblem, shown in every picture of every sport as advertising yet not one was used in the Olympics..

THE ANSWER TO ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS IS THE AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANG.

Boomerang is an aboriginal word meaning flying stick ..The word is an English version of the name that the Aborigines of the Turuwal tribe on the Georges river near Sydney. They called their sticks that returned BOOMERANGS.

The sticks that did not return –they flew straight at their target were called Kylies or Killies and it is of interest to note that boomerangs found in South Australia in peat bogs have been carbon dated to be at least 10,000 years old.

Returning boomerangs are launched vertically (not side arm like the kylies) and if thrown correctly, travel out great distances and return to the thrower.

Historians tell us that throwing sticks have existed for as long as 30,000 years, in Australia and many countries overseas, including India, Borneo, Ethiopia, France, Spain, North America, Poland and Egypt..It is known that throwing sticks were found in Tutankhamun's (**TOOT-AN-CARN-AMS**) tomb...

The correct pronunciation is boome a rang although many ancient tribes had different names for their flying sticks, the word boomerang is the name we associate with the returning stick...

Traditional boomerangs were made out of solid pieces of wood, such as mulga, black wattle and red gum, with the maker choosing wood that had a natural bend in it. Modern boomerangs today are made from ply wood and a variety of other materials such as plastics, fibreglass and the space age materials such as carbon fibre. All of these materials have greater strength than the natural woods..

Some people think that the Aborigines used their boomerangs long ago to not only hit their prey but also bring it back to them..This is quite wrong, as once the boomerang hits anything it goes off sharply in another direction or simply falls to the ground. Kylies were thrown at large animals in an attempt to bring them to the ground. Once the animals had been knocked down, spears were used to kill the prey..

While ancient Aborigines left us few records, - most of their knowledge has been simply passed on generation to generation by word of mouth and most early European settlers were not really interested in recording information on people they saw as primitive or even savages. Now only fragments of their history remain. Still some historians have suggested that the boomerang was used in the following ways :

- a- as a toy or plaything in games by youngsters
- b- to fool ducks and water fowl on a lake into believing that the boomerang was actually a bird of prey flying overhead, so that while they were afraid to fly into the sky the Aborigines could creep up on them and spear them.
- c- To scatter flocks of birds and drive them into nets which had been hung in nearby trees.
- d- And if many boomerangs were thrown into a large flock of birds, the birds would be knocked to the ground as birds find it difficult to escape a missile which has a curved flight pattern.
- e- Also used as music machines (by clapping 2 boomerangs together) at tribal meetings and corroborees.

Boomerangs were also used to stir fires, skin kangaroos, dig holes, used in arm to arm combat and of course be thrown..It was the Aborigines own Swiss army knife.

Sporting boomerangs in contrast to the traditional and souvenir types of boomerangs maintain an even height in flight and can be made to come to a virtual halt near the thrower and hover down to be safely caught. The major problem today with boomerangs are the souvenir models being sold to many of our overseas tourists..It is estimated that nearly one million boomerangs sold a year are not properly designed --that is have a leading and trailing edge and be designed like an aeroplane or a birds wing...If a bird does not have feathers -IT CANNOT FLY -if the boomerang does not have proper edges it cannot fly and return to the thrower..

Boomerangs perform best in little or no wind -they are thrown slightly across the wind so that the wind helps stabilise the flight and help them return.. Boomerangs should not be thrown in winds stronger than 5 knots unless the thrower is an expert.

In 1969 a group of enthusiasts organised a boomerang competition at Syndal in Melbourne..the same year man first landed on the moon.

In 1978 boomerang throwing was recognised as it was accepted in to the Confederation of Sport and the first international competition took place at Flinders park Melbourne where the tennis centre now stands, in 1981 between Australia and America in a 3 test series.

In 1988 the first official World Cup was held with 7 countries competing..This year in Melbourne saw the german team win their 3rd. World championship at the 2000 World boomerang cup with over 100 competitors from 20 countries competing. The individual winner was Manuel Schultze from Switzerland.

In competition the major events are FAST CATCH—make a boomerang travel out 20 metres & return as quick as possible. Time stops when thrower takes 5 catches..Aussie record 18 seconds

AUSTRALIAN ROUND—points are allocated for accurate returns, catching and distance the boomerang travels out up to 50 metres. Each thrower has 5 throws in this event.

MAXIMUM TIME ALOFT---Keep this special boomerangs airborne as long as possible and catch it before it hits the ground. Boomerang must stay in the 100 metre radius of the oval. Each thrower has 5 throws, best time aloft with catch is throwers score. National record is over 60 seconds.

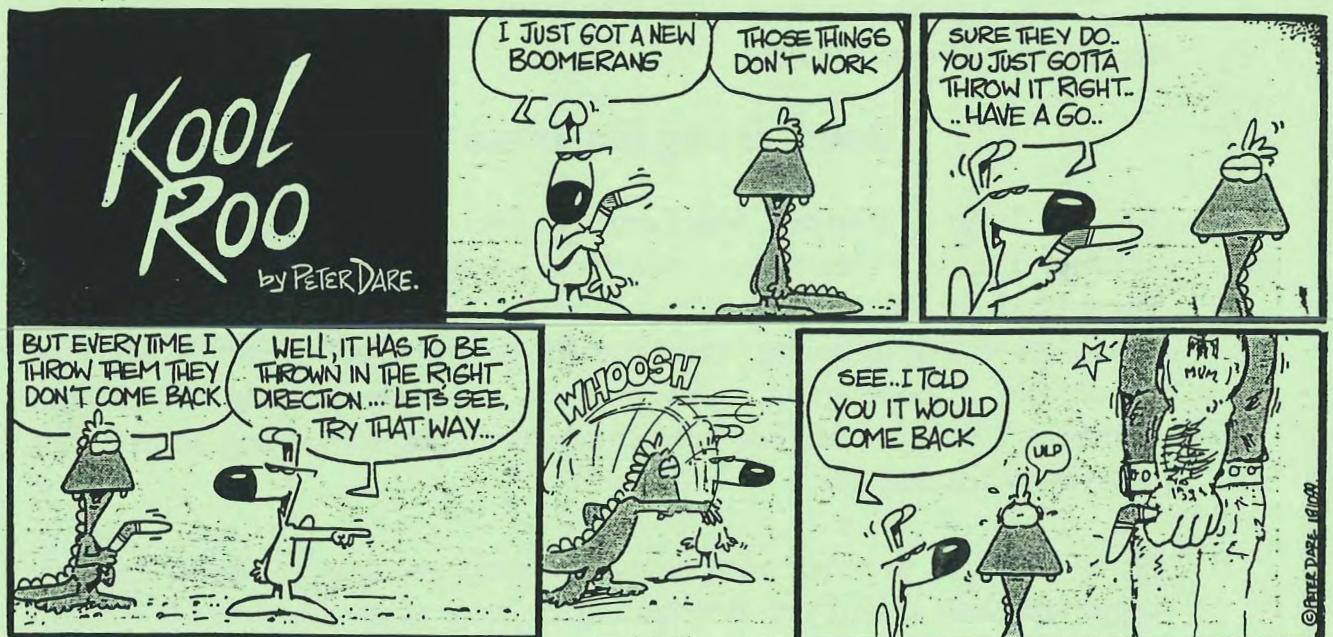
TRICK CATCHING with DOUBLING—Competitors must catch boomerangs that must travel out a minimum of 20 metres and return. The boomerang is launched 10 times with each catch becoming increasingly difficult, ranging from one handed catches to in the feet catch. Doubling is performing trick catching, but launching 2 boomerangs simultaneously.

ACCURACY-5 throws per competitor..points are allocated for accurate returns..the only event you do not catch the boomerang.

ENDURANCE—catch the boomerang as many times as you can in 5 minutes..National record is 70 catches

LONG DISTANCE-Throw the boomerang out as far as possible and have it return past the thrower -or within 20 metres either side of the thrower..long distance World record is 247 metres out before returning.

The modern boomerang is commonly known as the THINKING MANS FRISBEE



COMING EVENTS 2000 - 2001.

10th December 2000 ... 12th Blue Mountains Championships at "Winbourne", Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa, at 10 a.m. Contact: Br. Brian Thomas (02) 9744 9346.
*Peggy Thomas Perpetual Trophy. *Changed due to floods.*

4th February 2001... Oxford Falls Competition at Treacy Centre, Dreadnaught Road, Oxford Falls, at 10 a.m. Contact: Br. Brian Thomas (02) 9744 9346.
Fred Hollows Perpetual Trophy.

February 2001 .. Brisbane, Qld. Comp organized by Dean Hopton. For date and venue contact Dean on ((07) 3277 7889.

11th March 2001 ... Central Coast Championships at St. Edward's College, East Gosford, at 10 a.m. Contact: Br. Brian Thomas (02) 9744 9346. *Arthur Janetzki Perpetual Trophy.*

1st April 2001 ... Eastern Suburbs Championships at Queens Park, Waverley, at 10 a.m. Contact: Br. Brian Thomas (02) 9744 9346. *Bunny Read Perpetual Trophy.*

5th & 6th May 2001 ... Australian National Championships at Xavier College, Fallon Street, North Albury, at 10 a.m. Sat. & 9 a.m. Sunday. Contact: Rob Croll (03) 9887 5085.
Les & Arthur Janetzki Perpetual Trophy.

23rd September 2001 ... NSW State Titles at Blacktown Showgrounds. 10 a.m. start. Contact: Peter Lewry (02) 9622 2927.
Dave Martin Perpetual Trophy.

17th June 2001 ... Blacktown Aussie Round Day at Blacktown Showgrounds at 10 a.m. Contact: Peter Lewry (02) 9622 2927.
Ken Arthur Perpetual Trophy.

25th November 2001 ... Blue Mts Championships at 'Winbourne', Mulgoa Rd, Mulgoa, at 10 a.m. Contact: Br. Brian Thomas (02) 9744 9346.
Peggy Thomas Memorial Trophy.

Boomerang Business For Sale

Sydney legend, *Duncan MacLennan*, who is now an octogenarian, is calling it a day after selling hundreds of thousands of boomerangs to happy tourists in the Kings Cross area. Every Sunday morning Duncan would give free throwing lessons at Rushcutters Bay to people who had purchased a boomerang. He appears on endless home videos and overseas TV clips. He has been the outstanding boomerang ambassador in Sydney for decades.

Now he wants to have more time to himself and his family, so his very lucrative shop called the Boomerang School, at the top end of William Street, is for sale. If you are interested, give Duncan a call and find out all the details.

You can ring Duncan at the shop on (02) 9358 2370