



# BOOMERANG BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 1983

*Boomerang Association of Australia*

P.O. BOX 245, LILYDALE, VICTORIA, 3140, AUSTRALIA.

No. 33

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JACK BYHAM: His story begins in this issue. Fifty years of boomerang action!

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VICTORIAN TEAM wins again..at BAROOGA: Can they be tossed at the NATIONALS at ALBURY on APRIL 9th?

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# EDITORIAL

Our sport is booming in both Europe and America. There is another American book noted in this issue, and I know of at least two more being prepared. American throwers are warming up for the third USBA Annual Tournament to be held in Fairfax, Virginia, in June. Australia will be represented this year by Bunny Read and Ben, Leanne & Trevor Loveland. The USBA is about to become incorporated, and there is a report of a member in Alaska. During 1982, an American thrower produced a remarkable 26.81 secs. in the fast catch event.

The EBF (European Boomerang Federation) recently held three highly successful tournaments. A report of one of these, held at Bievre, France, is reproduced from the USBA Newsletter. As you will read, there was a sensational duration performance (26.33 escs). The European Federation includes Belgian, Dutch, English, Finnish, French & German Associations. It also has members from Denmark, Scotland and Sweden.

As reported below, the BAA executive have begun to organise ways to send a team to the USA in 1984. They will need plenty of help. This is also a chance that some European throwers will come to Australia in early 1984.

The local scene is hopping too. This issue reports 36 new members (19 family, & 17 ordinary). It also has reports on three exciting competitions, including the first annual Barooga Competition. There are plenty more coming up in 1983 too.

The BAA executive has agreed on a new federal structure. Victorian and NSW associations have been formed. Others are being organised. If the new arrangements are ratified at Albury at the Annual General Meeting in April, they will provide for half of each membership fee to go to the BAA and half to go to the relevant state organisation. The state associations will take over most of the functions of the BAA, leaving the Australian organisation to arrange team selection, publication of the Bulletin, negotiations with overseas organisations, etc. The rule book is being finalised. Our longer term aims (in conjunction with the Americans and Europeans) must be to agree on rules for international competitions.

Most items in this issue have been mentioned above. A further highlight is the first installment of an interview with Jack Byham. Jack is one of the most famous boomerangers in the world, and he has a wealth of interesting stories and comments to share with our readers.

Best wishes and many happy returns for 1983!

P. J.

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### INTERSTATE CHALLENGE AND AUSTRALIAN TEAM SELECTION.

The BAA executive has determined that the 1983 Albury Championships (to be held in October) will be the final selection trial for the Australian Team to visit the USA in 1984. It will include the final interstate challenge match for 1983.

Selection for the Australian Team will be based on performances in major competitions during 1983. Anyone who is interested in being considered for a place in the team should notify the Challenge Co-ordinator, (CATHERINE MAXWELL, or another member of the executive committee. We would also be pleased to hear from anyone who can help (e.g. with a donation) or from anyone who might be able to go along as a supporter. If enough people are going, cheaper fares could be available.

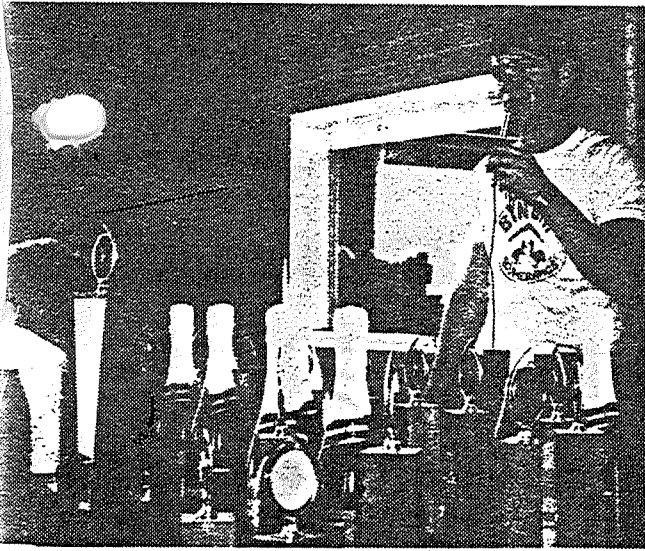
It has also been decided that there will be an award for the Thrower of the Year. This will go to the person who amasses most points in major General Competitions leading up to the 1984 Barooga Championships. (Details will be announced at the ANCs.)

Br. B. T.

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#### PETER BYHAM & BAROOGA TROPHIES

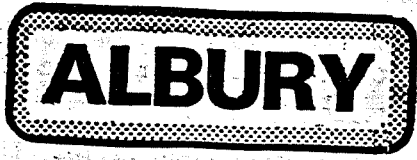
Congratulations, Joan & Peter, for organising such a great weekend. Times are tough for boomerang manufacturers. BAA members are exhorted to support Peter and other makers of fine Australian 'rangs. See Binghi ad.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1983  
held at ALEXANDRA PARK, ALBURY.

On APRIL 9th & 10th.

SATURDAY, 9th. 11.00 a.m.



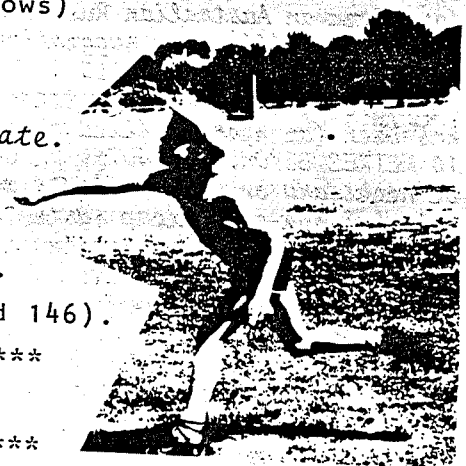
- ACCURACY.. JUNIORS.
- CONSECUTIVE CATCHING.. JUNIORS.
- DURATION OF FLIGHT(SLOW CATCH).. OPEN. (3 throws)
- GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP.. JUNIORS.
- DISTANCE.. SENIORS.
- TEAM EVENTS ... 5 throwers each event per state.

- \* FAST CATCH
- \* ACCURACY.. 3 consecutive throws each.
- \* GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP.. two rounds of 3 throws.
- CONSECUTIVE CATCHING.. SENIORS. (Current record 146).

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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SUNDAY, 10th. 8.00 a.m. (Get up early!)

- FAST CATCH.. OPEN. (2 min. limit)
- SUICIDE THROW.. OPEN      HUNTING STICK ACCURACY.
- GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP.. SENIORS.

*If time, novelty types will be run. e.g. juggling, etc.*

REMINDER:

1. No practice throws.
2. No gloves.
3. 10 pt. accuracy circle.
4. 50m in General = 2 more points.

ENTRANCE FEE: Juniors \$2 (Juniors entering Open events pay \$5)  
Seniors \$5

Competitors must be BAA members. People may join on the day.  
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BOOK NOTICE

The Big Book About Boomerangs. Compiled and edited by H.L. Mayhew, 1982. Come Back Press. \$US 6.75.

Another boomerang book from the U.S. It is described on the front cover as, "a guide for mature, highly intelligent people who want a better understanding of whence and whither the crooked stick that can be thrown to fly in a circle and come back". Actually it could be described as a scrap book of newspaper clippings, tales, quotes, photos and cartoons about boomerangs. It is compiled so as to give some insights into philosophy, history, science, discovery and development of the boomerang. It even includes a list of boomerang associations you can join. Highlight for many will be photographs and notes on members of the US Boomerang team. All in all, a fun book with a free lift out Styro Gyro Indoor Boomerang. D.J.

# Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

I would like to place a few items before our readers for their mature consideration.

1. The Constitution. The Constitution states our aims as promoting the Historical, Scientific and Sporting aspects of boomerangs and has appropriate clauses for each of these. I propose that a similar clause be added to the Constitution covering the CRAFT/ART aspect of boomerangs.

2. THE GENERAL COMPETITION. The 50m range is fine for me, as a competitor. However, it does demand a large area for field layout, when any direction of wind has to be provided for. Even an Australian Rules football ground, when a cricket pitch has to be avoided, would not suffice. My suggestion is that "IN OTHER THAN CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS, AND WHERE THE SMALLNESS OF THE FIELD DICTATES, AS MANY SCORING RANGE LINES AS NECESSARY MAY BE OMITTED.

I have been to two competitions (Darlington Point & Moomba) where the outer range line has been too near to fixed obstructions around the ground. My suggestion is "AT LEAST 10 METRES BEYOND THE OUTER RANGE LINE MUST BE CLEAR OF ALL OBSTRUCTIONS". (This would not be necessary on the leeward side if the wind direction is thoroughly predictable.)

I envisage a handicap system, similar to golf, would encourage competition between contestants of different standards. The maximum possible points would be "scratch" as par is in golf. A contestant's handicap should enable him, if throwing to his normal ability, on a good throwing day, to aggregate the possible score (i.e. actual score + handicap = 160 (or 200 with 50m range and 5 scoring circles). A contestant failing to reach 160 points would have his handicap increased by 1 point for each 5 he is short of 160. A contestant exceeding 160 would have his handicap decreased by 2 points for each 5 he exceeded 160. The officials on the day would take into account weather conditions and set scratch for the day as far below 160 as conditions dictated. This revised figure would be used for adjusting handicaps from that day's competition. The figures are "off the top of my head" to illustrate how a handicap system could work.

3. DISTANCE COMP. To enable this competition to be effective on a calm day I suggest that the distance recorded should be "THE DISTANCE THE BOOMERANG RETURNS TOWARDS THE BASE LINE". At present a boomerang thrown 100 metres and failing by 1 metre to cross the baseline is disqualified, and a boomerang thrown 80 metres and falling 1 metre over the line qualifies. However, one has returned 99 metres and the other only 81 metres. Measuring a nett return seems a better way of measuring the flight distance generated by the thrower and boomerang and enabling effective competition in calm conditions. Return distance beyond the baseline would not be counted.

BARRIE FORSYTH. S.A.

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Dear Peter,

Congratulations on your first edition of the Boomerang Bulletin. My fears about relinquishing the editorship paled into insignificance when I heard of your willingness to take on the job, and No.32 was just great. Keep up the good work.

Best wishes,

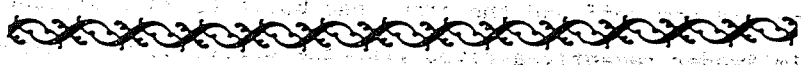
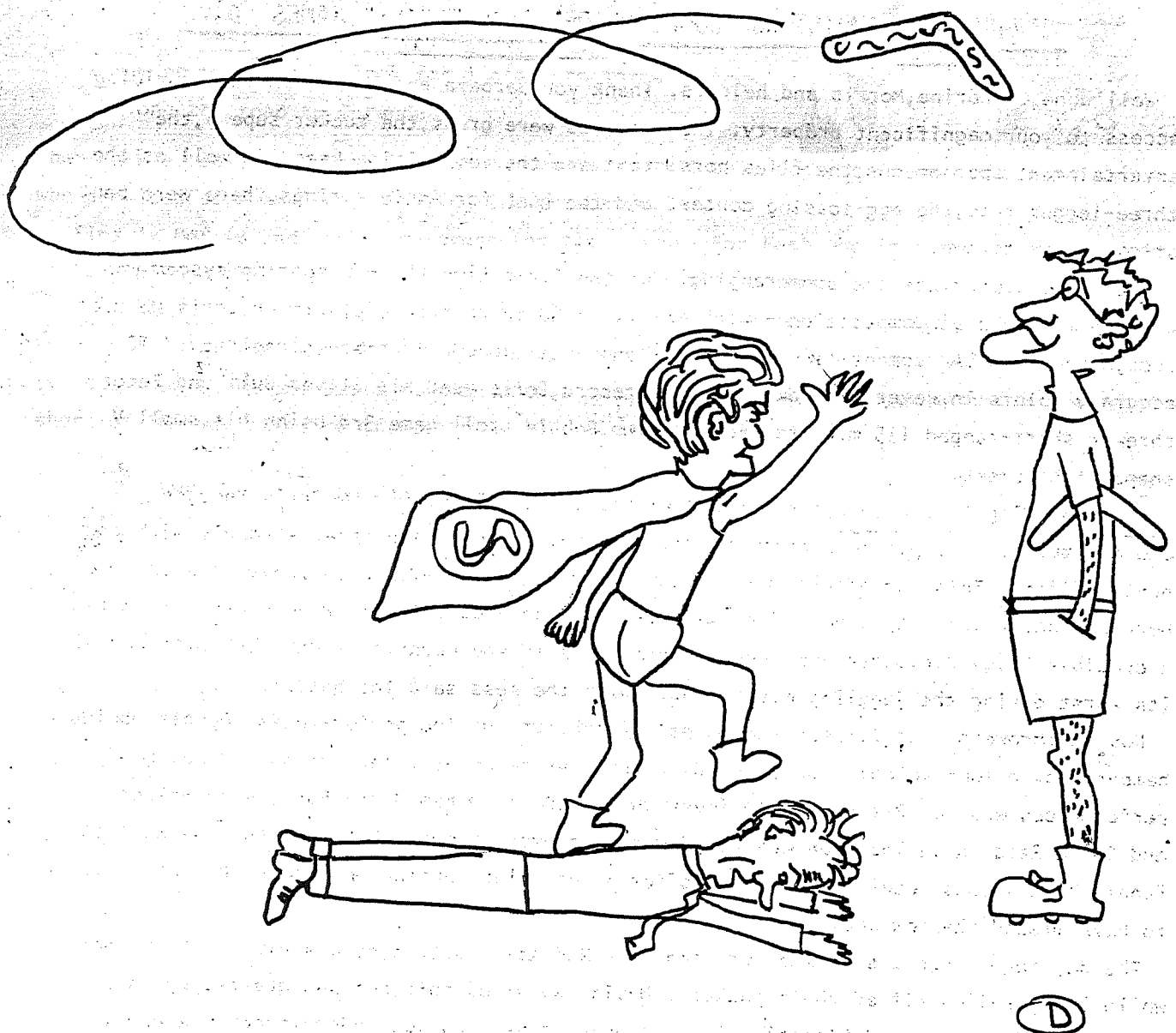
Tony Butz.

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## COMING EVENTS

1. 5th/6th March...SKY DAY/SPORT FOR ALL. Demos for MOOMBA FESTIVAL. Flinders Park, Melb. Contact Morris Maxwell: (03) 739 1809.
2. 12th March...MOOMBA CHAMPIONSHIP. Flinders Park, Melb. Contact Chris Henzgen (03) 3834444
3. 26th March...2ND ANNUAL BLUE MOUNTAINS CHAMPIONSHIPS...Sun Valley Rd., Valley Heights. 2 p.m. Contact Tony Butz (02) 807 4529 or Br. Thomas (02) 411 4733.
4. 27th March.. VICTORIAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. Station St. Reserve, Coldstream. Contact Morris Maxwell. (Please note: only resident Victorians may compete.)
5. 9th/10th April...AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS..Alexandra Park, Albury. Contact Br. Thomas

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COMING EVENTS...etd.

- 6. 17th April...WAVERLEY CHAMPIONSHIPS. Syndal Technical School, Mt.Waverley. Contact Rob Croll (03 ) 277 2386.
- 7. 30th April...SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. Whyalla. Contact Barrie Forsyth: (086) 45 7674.
- 8. 24th July...5TH ANNUAL SYDNEY CHAMPIONSHIPS. Beauchamp Park, Nicholson St., Chatswood. 12 noon. Contact Br.Thomas. Note: Junior events will be run the week before at Chaplin Oval, Mars Rd., Lane Cove. 12 noon.
- 9. 1st/2nd October...ALBURY ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. Contact Ken Ovington: (060) 25 2648.



**BOOMERANG CLUB  
DE  
FRANCE**



## CORANDERRK CHRISTMAS COMPETITION AND FAMILY GAMES DAY

Well done, Catherine, Morris and helpers. Thank you Barbara and David Tan for providing access to your magnificent property. The costumes were great, the tucker superb, the entertainment spontaneous, the flies persistent and the competition keen. As well as the three-legged race, the egg-tossing contest and the hunt for Annie's rings, there were bent sticks to be thrown.

The fable summarizes the boomeranging. For the first time the new scoring system was used in the General Competition - with the first 50 metre throw (by winner, Chris Henzgen) recognized in a BAA competition. Both Chris and Peter Jonson (runner-up) registered 10 accuracy points in several throws. For the record, Chris used his Silver Gull and Peter threw a short-ranged (35 m.) Peter Ruhf Cosimo. Robbie Croll came 3rd using his small V shaped instrument.

Other highlights included a record 32.43 sec. for the 5 catches by Chris Henzgen, and a return to the pin of a throw by Jackie Byham. Jackie also threw strongly with the hunting stick. This competition was fought out very keenly, with a tie, despite a throw-off, between Andy Hulstaert (using a "Mad Max Special") and Robbie Croll. Dennis Maxwell scored a credible 16.87 sec. under very trying conditions in the duration event. The wind was at its worst during the juggling event, about which the less said the better.

Novice throwers, Ross Simpson and Russell Clark, put up fine performances. Despite being hampered by a long colonial skirt, Lindy Jonson was rated best lady thrower. Other good performances were by Peter Maxwell (best Junior), Peter Byham, Barry Burt, Gerry Sniders, and Gavin Reid. Alan Thompson was rated most improved thrower. Catch of the day went to Dennis Maxwell, who required first aid after a one point landing on a rock (he was relieved to have missed the cow pad).

The day began when Les Parkman, dressed in a Ned Kelly outfit, held arrivals at the gate while Betty Bailey rifled their pockets. Having survived this, one was greeted by Morris in top hat and tails and Catherine in a stunning pink creation underpinned by a hoop. By lunch time the hoop had come off and the crowd had built to 70 souls and 70,000,000 flies. Lorraine and Jim Synder, recently arrived from the U.S.A., soon mastered the continuous Aussie Wave. Catherine's interesting method of random pairing got everyone well mixed up, and left them wondering about those Coldstream parties! With everyone tied up in pairs, Robbie Croll and Russell Clark led the three-legged stampede to lunch. After generous helpings of roast beef, the crowd were entertained by Brett and Mark who sang Christmas carols. This inspired the Coranderrk Six, accompanied by Jackie Byham on gum leaf, Chris Henzgen on didgereedoo and Robbie Croll on boomerangs, to sing the Coranderrk Song. For the record, it sung to the tune of "On the Road to Gundagai". The words are:

There's a track winding back past a boomeranger's shack  
 Along the road to Coranderrk.  
 Where the Badger Creek is flowin'  
 The Gundawarra throwin'  
 It's the dream I have at work.



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Where David and Barbara are waiting for me  
 And plenty of others I'm hoping to see  
 Now no more need I look for a place to throw my hook  
 Along the road to Coranderrk.



Then Jackie recited a Henry Lawson poem and sang. All this apparently woke the wind-gods, who provided some challenges during the afternoon.

Finally Morris and Catherine presented the awards. For Fashions in the Field Prospector Jon Bailey won the prize for the best dressed male, while Joan Byham and children took the rest of the costume prizes. Peter Byham awarded a special prize of a Bunghi hat and Omega boomerang to Nicky Jonson for finding one of Annie's rings. The egg tossing event was won by local Ken Clark and David Parkman with a throw of 20 m. (This was unfortunately a bit short of the World Record of just over 100 m.)

The day was a tremendous success. Let us hope that this function can become a permanent feature of the BAA calendar.

P. J.

CORANDERRK RESULTS 1982.

COMPETITOR	GENERAL		ACCURACY		DURATION	FAST CATCH	
Peter Maxwell	94	4th				44.30	5th
Peter Jonson	115	2nd	13	3rd	11.28	3rd	41.02
Andy Hulstaert	46						
Russell Clark	34		12	1			
Robbie Croll	106	3rd	10			41.14	3rd
Jacky Byham	64	6th	13	3rd			
Peter Byham	34						
Ross Simpson	36				11.14	4th	
Barry Burt	34						
Chris Henzgen	124	1st	10		13.92	2nd	32.43
Dennis Maxwell	67	5th			16.87	1st	44.00
Alan Thompson	51		14	2nd			
Gerrie Sniders			16	1st			

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Others who competed include John Eykelenburg, John Bailey, Ken Clark, Jarrod Byham, Gavin Reid, Lindy Jonson, David Parkman, Mark Elliott, Jill Jacobson, Annie Henzgen, Lorraine Snyder, Jim Snyder, Catherine Parkman, Helen Rowley, Catherine Maxwell, Les Parkman, Joan Byham and Betty Bailey.

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*Ever tried swatting flies? If you need any tips, ask John Bailey. John was being pestered by some of the many thousands, who turned up to witness the first Coranderrk Boomerang Competition. One blighter was exploring just above John's eye, so John decided to terminate the crawly creature's miserable life. Swat! Blood spurted out just above his eye, and his head began to ring. John forgot that the hand he swatted the fly with was holding his largest 3 foot boomerang!!*

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BOB BURWELL'S 1982 USA TOUR.

November 1981 saw the first Australia versus U.S.A. boomerang challenge match. I was lucky enough to be with the U.S.A. team for almost all of their tour. The team was farewelled from Brisbane after a successful tour, and I figured I would not see my new-found friends for some time. Two months later the invitation arrived. "Bob", wrote Ali, "I want you to start thinking about coming to the U.S.A. in June 1982 for the Smithsonian competitions, and any other we can arrange. We are fund raising and already have \$1000."

With an invitation like that, how could I refuse!

Now to see if I could get leave from my employer. I knew we were heading towards a massive work load that will take 18 months to 2 years to complete and it was starting in June 1982. Leave was applied for instantly, and not a word of approval was heard for weeks. Time was running out, so Ali sent an official invitation. At last I had leave approval and I finally began to feel that I was actually going to the U.S.A..

The time leading up to the departure day varied from frantic boomerang preparation to fleeting bouts of butterflies, by worrying about the airflight.

Plenty of challenges arose while preparing sticks for the U.S.B.A. competitions.

EXAMPLES: 1. Doubling contest. After much experimenting I came up with a good pair. I painted them, and they turned into painted catastrophies! I checked out numerous others I had made and finally came up with a good doubling pair. At the first competition I could not find one stick, and in fact have not seen it since. Again I had to find another stick to use, and I had only those in my bag to choose from.

2. Pinwheel. After much experimenting with single piece six-bladers and cross-sticks, I found I achieved the best results with a cross-stick Steve Glover had given me. It was an Aboriginal made in the USA. Guidelines I had received for this contest said you had to first catch on the hand with a two second spin, and then on the head for a two second spin. I bought an Aussie digger hat and put a round bash in it (Clint Eastwood the Americans say), and it worked very well. Alas, some last minute departure confusion saw me going to the USA and my hat going home!

After all that, on the day of the contest I was informed that you had to catch behind the back. I was completely unprepared for this style of catching, and the results were disastrous.

3. In the short time I had, I tried to develop a super MTA, but ended up using a standard shape of mine. Some how I scored 22 seconds with it, which was a personal best, so I had a bit of luck there. I came second in that event in the USBA contest.

4. Juggling was not new to me, but I have never tried it in competition. The night before I left, I had the good fortune to have a boomerang thrower friend, Rod Jones from Southport, present me with a juggling pair. I think the success I had with these is well known, (Bob set a new record of 69 juggles.)

5. Quite a bit of my time was devoted to trying to get some good spears together so that I could show another facet of an Australian Aboriginal art. Fire making by twirling a stick with the hands was also tried, and I'm sorry to say that after spending \$60 on obtaining some Aboriginal spears they turned out to be totally unsuitable for throwing. The only thing I could achieve with the fire making was sore hands!!!

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My first introduction to American ways was when I was at Honolulu. It was to be the first of my battles in the bathrooms. It was a simple skirmish, but the tap (faucet) turned counter-clockwise to turn on, not clockwise. I have won the first of numerous hand-to-hand combats.

The flight from L.A. to Seattle was a quiet and almost lonely one. The jet was a 727, and there were twelve passengers on it. On arrival at Seattle I was to be greeted and treated to a style of friendliness and hospitality that I found continued for the duration of my tour. Within a couple of hours of arrival at Seattle my second hand to handle combat began. After about five minutes I was almost about to retreat to bed, B.O. and all, when in a last ditch attempt I had the shower on and had saved myself from a soapless situation.

The reception given to me at the RED BARN (the BOEING COMPANY'S ORIGINAL FACTORY) was one to remember. What a magnificent restoration of history this will be for the Pacific Museum of Flight.

My next stopover was in Portland with Marjorie. Marjorie lives in an oasis in a city and deservedly has the nicest bunch of friends and helpers you could wish to meet. The contest at Portland ran smoothly and was a very enjoyable tournament.

My next stopover was in Washington DC. Here was where I was able to meet many of the people who were previously just names. DC is an exciting place and seems to have so much to see and do. Rain disrupts one day's events and is re-scheduled to be contested at the Lee High University. Brother Jack strikes form and wins accuracy.

Big Al takes me for the next section of my tour and again I am treated to the best hospitality anybody could wish for.

Rusty Harding takes me from Al's and the next stopover was with Peter Ruhf. Here was my first chance to go for a stroll through the bush. Peter and Larry have me share a day with their mother at a delightful place on the Delaware River. I am introduced to Pennsylvania Dutch and a life-style that is obviously the foundation to strength and character.

Brooklyn and New York is my next stopover. I stay with Carl and am pleased to have somebody with his experience to show me this part of the States. Confusion rains supreme on whether we are going to throw on the "Sheep Meadow". At the 11th hour the venue is changed and hasty arrangements have to be made.

Next I go to stay with my father's sister and her family. They live in New Jersey so it isn't far to go.

The final leg is a restful stopover with Chet. His tournament is very relaxed and we have lots of fun socially throwing as well. Chet farewells me and 37 hours later I am home.

On the way home I meet a boomerang thrower at Honolulu who is going to Australia to have a competition challenge contest with the Australian champion. This is a formidable task as it is a long distance throwing challenge and he has never beaten the Australian in the past. Peter and I both break the existing record of 123 yards (Guinness record). I make it to 124 yards and Peter 125. Congratulations, Peter. Pennsylvania Dutch strikes again!!

BOB BURWELL.

(ED. NOTE: Bob returned the USBA 1982 Champion. Highlights, disappointments & observations of Bob's trip will appear in the next Bulletin. Thanks to Bob for being such a great Australian ambassador, and worthy BAA representative.)

# BOOMERANG THROWING ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

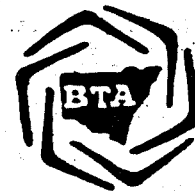
BTA NSW members decided to kick off the new year in fine fashion devoting considerable time and effort to displays, demonstrations and workshops for boomerangs. Br. Thomas, Rick Haywood and Tony Butz were involved in: a three-day demonstration at Sydney's new Power House Museum; a session for North Sydney Council and a make-a-boomerang workshop at Macquarie University. Their combined efforts raised \$650.00 for the NSW Association, swelling the coffers for the first time since the inception of the state body. But, above all, it brought boomerangs to the attention of literally hundreds of people.

Congratulations to the Victorian BTA for getting a state govt. grant so early in your life. Would that the NSW Govt. would see fit to do the same! Here we go for our third attempt, (maybe we could make it an election issue!! VOTE 1 FOR A RETURN OF GOVERNMENT! Oh well .....

Sydneysider and long-time boomeranger, Duncan MacLennan went to air on ABC Radio 1 on Jan. 15th in an interview on boomerangs for the programme "Perspectives". Stressing the debt we owe to our Aboriginal cultural heritage and paying tribute to the late Joe Timberey, Duncan came across very well indeed.

Things are happening. Let's keep them happening, for 1984 is less than a year away!

TONY BUTZ  
PRESIDENT, BTA NSW.



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Young Talent at Barooga



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Although not yet official the W.A. Boomerang Association should soon be in full flight, thanks to the efforts of a couple of fine ambassadors from the East. You may recall from previous Bulletins that Peter Jonson called on a few interested throwers while over here last year and gave us the first taste of competition. The rangs he brought with him were a great aid to rough amateurs like most of us, working in complete isolation, and I know that my boomerang making and throwing skills improved considerably as a result.

Another result of Peter's visit was a rather rough attempt to hold an unofficial competition, the results of which were encouraging, and a good time was had by all. Seeking to improve on this performance a second competition was duly organised, but cancelled on the day, because Ray Sampson, one of the few who turned up, had a string of his kites flying horizontally. One foolish attempt at a throw by yours truly resulted in a 100m run down wind to retrieve the rang.

Last week proved a real bonanza for us with Ian Forsyth being transferred here with the Army Survey Corps. Then Chris and Annie Henzgen arrived here on the holidays.

With these three enthusiasts we got together at Jo Mazzarol's with his son, Tim, Ray Sampson, Russ Raynor, & Neil George and had a talk about rangs and a few drinks. We then embarked for the local (that's playing fields) and under fairly windy conditions had a bit of throw around. As wind tends to be the rule rather than the exception here, we learnt from our visitors the need to produce rangs that travel further and are less affected by breeze. Some of Chris's designs and advice were invaluable here as most of ours tend to be nice hovering rangs, good for light air.

After much running around by the energetic, younger, sillier or perhaps terrible throwers, we returned to Jo's place to take a meal prepared by himself and his daughter, Joanna. Over this social gathering Chris began to fire us up about getting something official going over here. We actually tried to talk Chris and Annie into moving here permanently to run the show for us, but for some silly reason they decided they had to return to Victoria.

An invaluable contribution from the Henzgens' travelling around was their contacting of several individuals or groups interested in boomeranging, but working with little or no knowledge of the others. We now have the names of these people so they can be included in the local group.

Our first meeting has been planned for the end of January to elect a few office bearers, but more importantly to plan a series of events for the coming year: This information will be passed on in due course. A regular series of events should provide a big boost to the improvement of skills in both making and throwing, where we are obviously a long way behind those advanced in the East. We would dearly love more input from the East, so if you are planning a trip over to the West please look up our competition dates and try to fit one in.

Thanks for the interest shown by Peter, and now Chris. If things go well this year we may be able to field a team for the 1984 National Championships.

Neil George.

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STOP PRESS: W.A. Branch of BAA formed. Known as Boomerang Sports Association, office bearers are; President; Ray Sampson

Secretary/Treasurer; Neil George

Committee; Sam Blight, Jo Mazzarol, Richard Kujda.

Competitions in 1983 will held on the following Sundays; 27th February, 24th April, 26th June, 28th August, 30th October, 18th December. (Contact Neil on 291 8392).

If you are going west try to co-ordinate your visit with one of these dates.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE !!!

MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE BAA BEFORE 1ST AUGUST 1982. YOUR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SHOULD BE PAID ON OR BEFORE THE 10TH APRIL. HAND OR POST YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER, MRS. DI JONSON. (SEE BACK PAGE FOR ADDRESS OF TREASURER AND OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS.)

MEMBERS WHO JOINED SINCE 1ST AUGUST DO NOT NEED TO RENEW THEIR SUBSCRIPTION UNTIL APRIL, 1984.

NOTE: IF THERE IS A REGISTERED STATE ASSOCIATION, HALF OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE RE-IMBURSED TO THE TREASURER OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION.

COBRAM-BAROOGA 1ST ANNUAL COMPETITION

held on Jan.30th.



Report by Peter & Joan Byham.

The factory work-in was successful on Saturday. Ten members took advantage and some new designs were made. A B-B-Q tea capped off a tremendous day. Unfortunately some 'Kookaburras' didn't know when it was time to go to bed!

Sunday was very hot (around 100 F)but the slight breeze allowed for good throwing. Congratulations to Chris Henzgen and Russell Clark for winning their respective Generals. Also to Ross Simpson for winning the Senior Novice as well as being in the winning State Team.Must have been the boomerang he used!!(A weighted omega..Ed.)It was also great to see Ken Ovington take out his first title and trophy,when he won the Senior Accuracy.

The new range marshalling system was used (rotational)and nearly worked perfectly. Unfortunately one or two of our more experienced members feel that one run is sufficient for the day.

From comments made by competitors and spectators,next year promises to be bigger and better. Do hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

Peter & Joan.

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OBSERVATIONS..... by BT (no,not ET)

\* That wind beat Peter Jonson again. In his final five throws,the wind shifted to three different directions in three throws! Just the same it was top throwing by Peter,who has improved out of sight in 12 months...due to assiduous practice.

\* Chris Henzgen again showed that he is the form thrower of the moment,and that he has the wood on Peter...at the moment. Let's see what the Nationals show.

\* Peter Byham has produced a puff of fresh air through the ranks of throwers with his willingness to try and produce better competition boomerangs on a semi-commercial scale. They are worth trying out. I've also been very impressed with Peter's own throwing advancement in 12 months.

\* Take warning,men! The women have vowed to take out the National Accuracy title,and hard at training...with boomerangs made by some man!

\* The women have certainly supplied something to the boomerang scene that the men find hard...good looks!! Keep your eyes on the boomerangs,men.

\* Barooga conditions were almost identical to Albury..."where is that breeze?"

\* NSW Patrons and BAA Veterans Les (82) & Arthur (79)Janetzki received a clearance from young sister Ruby (84)to have a day away from Albury.Both were an inspiration to all there, and Arthur's juggling catch won him the Catch of the Day Award.What a lucky sport we are to have people like these!

\* Councillor Bill Yates presented trophies worth over \$500..many thanks to the local firms who backed the Competitions. Bill had throwing lessons from National Coach,Br.Thomas, as did friend,Joyce,and new Barooga Parish Priest,Fr.Jones.All had good arms. Morris ran impromptu lessons for spectators between events too.

\* The Barooga Brawl looked like that after it too..Jack Byham had blood flowing from the side of his nose.A Binghi Omega swept up and collected him.Lucky his mouth was shut!!

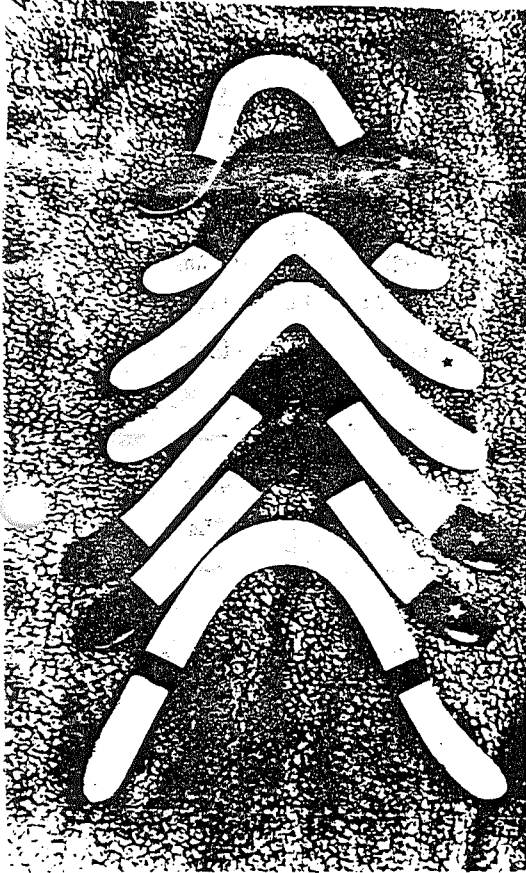
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COBRAM- BAROOGA COMPETITIONS RESULTS SHEET....1983

COMPETITOR	GENERAL COMP.	ACCURACY	FAST CATCH	SLOW CATCH	HUNTING STICK ACCURACY
<b>SENIORS</b>					
JOHN EYKELENBURG	48	10	0	0	0
ANDREW HULSTAERT	31	10	1.28.58	12.8	0
KEN CLARK	61	2	0	0	-
PETER JONSON	109 +115 2nd	0	1.15.06	0	20m
MORRIS MAXWELL	95 +106 3rd	13	-	11.95	0
DAVID PARKMAN	53	12	1.21.00	11.9	20m
CATHERINE MAXWELL	20	16			
KEN OVINGTON	63	18 1st	1.51.00	0	-
BR.B.THOMAS	81	17	51.5	-	20m
ROB CROLL	74	9	37.95	16.4	20m
LES JANETZKI	48	5	-	-	-
ARTHUR JANETZKI	13	2	-	-	-
JACK BYHAM	49	17 2nd	-	-	30m 1st
ANNIE HENZGEN	12	4			
CHRIS HENZGEN	108 +118 1st	10	45.79	17.4 1st	20m
LINDY JONSON	21	4	-	7.4	-
ROSS SIMPSON	87	0	0	11.8	-
JOAN BYHAM	17	14			
RUSSELL CLARK	29		0	0	
GAVIN REID	46		1.41.40	13.00	0
*****					
<b>JUNIORS</b>					
DARREN CLARK	23	14 1st & Nearest	the Pin:1164mm.		
RUSSELL CLARK	43 1st + 49	2			
CHRIS MORROW	22	9	<u>BEST LADIES: LINDY JONSON</u>		
CHRIS NORMAN	30 3rd + 38	0	<u>CATCH OF THE DAY: ARTHUR JANETZKI</u>		
GAVIN REID	37 2nd + 41	0	<u>BAROOGA BRAWL: ROB CROLL</u>		
JARRAD BYHAM	20	6	<u>JUNIOR NOVICE: RAYMOND FARRELL</u>		
MICHAEL ANDERSON	2	0	<u>SENIOR NOVICE: ROSS SIMPSON</u>		
RAYMOND FARRELL	22	0	<u>STATE WINNERS: VICTORIA</u>		
TRISH COLLIE	8	0	<u>HARDEST WORKING RANGE STEWARD:</u>		
PAUL COLLIE	0	0	KEN CLARK.		
DAVID COLLIE	4	14 2nd (throw off)	<u>NEAREST THE PIN SENIORS:</u>		
DARREN YARDY	0	5	DAVID PARKMAN		
CHRIS WOODHEAD	0	0	<u>NEAREST THE PIN JUNIORS:</u>		
TREVOR WOODHEAD	2	4	DARREN CLARK		
BRADLEY CLARKE	0	0	<u>HUNTING STICK CHAMPION: JACK BYHAM</u>		
ASHLEY BYHAM	5		<u>COMPETITION ORGANISER: PETER BYHAM.</u>		

# 'BINGHI BOOMERANGS'

## THE COMPETITION RANGE OF BINGHI BOOMERANGS



1. (Top one) THE FLYING BROTHER. 330mm x 6mm  
Range-25/30 metres. Calm conditions, slow drop on return.  
PRICE: \$6.
2. THE FLYING BROTHER MARK 2. Weighted model.  
Range-30 metres plus. Needs a breeze for full return.  
PRICE: \$8.
3. BINGHI OMEGA...395mm x 8mm. Weighted.  
Range-25/35 metres. No nonsense flight, good hover,  
for accuracy or General comps.  
PRICE: \$8.
4. BINGHI BAROOGA..395mm x 6mm. Double weighted.  
Range-40 metres plus. Needs a slight breeze and  
laying over. Good hover for catch.  
PRICE: \$10.
5. COSIMO 1..450mm x 6mm. Double weighted.  
Range 45/50 metres. Long arm style. Good range if  
you keep low. Good return; Slight breeze required.  
PRICE: \$15.
6. COSIMO 2..400mm x 6mm. Double weighted.  
Range 50 metres plus. Long arm style. Same flight as  
Cosimo 1.  
PRICE: \$17.
7. BINGHI HOOK..395mm x 6mm. Double weighted.  
Open throat style. Range 95/100 metres, depending on  
thrower.  
PRICE: \$20.

ALL BOOMERANGS ARE FLIGHT TESTED AND SOLD ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE. POSTAGE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE. ANY BOOMERANG MADE TO SPECIFICATION IF REQUIRED.

9 GUNNAMARA STREET,  
BAROOGA NSW. (058) 73 4463

- HANDMADE
- HAND PAINTED
- GUARANTEED TO RETURN

\*\*\*\* CONFEDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN SPORT \*\*\*\*

Our Association is now a member of the Confederation of Australian Sport. This is an Australia wide organisation providing liaison with other sports, government agencies and other bodies. A few of the objectives of the C.A.S. are:-

To encourage the raising of national levels and standards of fitness, sport and recreation and to encourage general participation in sport in the interests of health and the quality of life.

To encourage and support the upgrading of the standards of sports coaches throughout Australia.

To initiate and/or conduct research and to disseminate information related to sport.

To encourage the establishment of broad-based programmes of physical education (including sport) in all schools.

# What's on

15



## Times and places for Boomeranging.

**ALBURY:** Jelbart Park, Lavington. Saturdays at 2.30pm.  
Contact: Ken Ovington 25 2648, or Les or Arthur Janetzki 25 3691.

**GOLD COAST:** Keith Hunt Park, Musgrave Ave, Southport, Qld.  
Sundays 7am to 10am.  
Contact: Rod Jones 32 3841

**MELBOURNE:** (a) Far East; Coldstream Oval, Coldstream, (Melway Map 174) daily at 6.30am.

Contact: Morris Maxwell 739 1809.

(b) City and City North; Allard Park, Donald St, East Brunswick; most school days, 7am.

Contact: Chris Henzgen 383 4444.

(c) East; Contact Rob Croll 277 2386.

(d) South East; Contact Dennis Maxwell 551 1017.

**PERTH:** Contact Neil George 291 8392.

**SYDNEY:** Blackman Park, Wood St, Lane Cove West. Last Sunday each month (except January and December) 9am to 11am. Other times by arrangement.

Contact: Br. Brian Thomas 411 4733, Tony Butz 807 4529 or Peter Jonson 357 4585.

**WHYALLA:** Contact Barrie Forsyth 45 7674.

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## Play Day

On Saturday the 5th. of March, a special event is being organised with demonstrations of anything that flies. The Association will be providing both a static and dynamic display of boomerangs and throwing. Members who are able to assist in any way may contact Morris Maxwell on 739-1809 or Chris Henzgen on 383-4444.



## Youth Day

Sunday the 6th of March is a day for public participation in all sorts of sports. The V.B.T.A. in line with a "Sport for all" project by the Vic. State Dept. of Youth, Sport and Recreation, will be providing lessons and boomerangs for anyone able to take part on the day. If programme time permits, a novel novice competition will be held for first-time throwers showing most ability. Assistance from experienced throwers would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, please contact :- Dennis Maxwell on 5511-017 or Morris Maxwell on 739-1809.

ORGANIZERS REPORT ON THE 1982 MORELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

An attempt at pre-registration and pre-payment was made. This was done to cut down on paper work on the day, to assist in planning and preparing for the barbeque, and to ensure that throwers fronted up (regardless of weather conditions). The results were partially successful. However, it may be some time before throwers accept the practice of pre-payment. Unfortunately, the actual running of the competition was not as smooth as it might have been. It really is essential to have one person handling paper work and another out on the ground running the events.

A fixed throwing order (randomly selected) was used throughout the competition. This speeded things up immensely. Early in the day, one thrower failed to hear his number called and missed his turn. He was not allowed to make up the throw. Needless to say, it did not happen again! The 20 second rule was strictly enforced. On one occasion a thrower had wandered off during the Slow Catching event. When his number was called (for his next throw) he was at the far end of the ground. Realizing that he would not get back to the centre in time, he was forced to launch from where he was.

Another factor in keeping things moving along was the elimination of practice throws. Throughout the entire day, I can only recall one or two first throws which were shockers.

The General Championship was held as a split event, with round 1 opening the programme at 10a.m. and round 2 coming as the last event of the day. Not only did this get throwers there on time, but provided a partial safeguard against changing wind conditions. (And, of course, it was nice to have our most important event as the grand finale).

The next three events were all specialized catching events. One-handed Catching proved to be fast-moving and interesting. Throwers were permitted to catch with either hand. However, the boomerang was not allowed to touch any part of the body except the hand and wrist in which it was caught. As a consequence, all but two throwers were eliminated in the first round. (However, I am certain that with practice, standards would improve). This is a good event if you haven't much time.

Allowing five throws in the Slow Catching event proved to be a mistake. Whilst it did permit most throwers (including novices) to register a time, the event took far too long. Three throws is plenty! The "throw anywhere, catch anywhere" rule was used, placing the onus upon the thrower to avoid interference of all types. This is a must - especially when inexperienced onlookers (who cannot predict a boomerang's flight) are present. It might interest you to know there was one collision (as a thrower pursued his hovering 'rang and found another competitor in his path). He was not permitted a re-throw. There was no argument. Rotational throwing sped up what would have been an even slower event.

Unfortunately, the Fast Catching event was accompanied by a strong wind. Therefore, it was impossible to evaluate the effect of the shorter qualifying distance (from the 20m circle to the newer, larger centre circle). A cut-off time of two minutes was applied (regardless of the boomerang's position at the expiration of time).

Boomerang making was included as one of the new events. Moreland Timber donated a three foot by six foot sheet of 6mm plywood. This was cut into 18 inch squares which were then cut again, diagonally to produce the wooden pieces used for the competition. (Nearly every size and shape can be accommodated by a triangular piece of ply as described above). Throwers were required to provide all their own hand tools and miscellaneous equipment. (Power tools were not allowed.)



Before the contest began, the rules were explained:

- (a) make a legal boomerang as quickly as possible
- (b) proceed to the centre circle
- (c) launch the boomerang
- (d) make sure the boomerang travels beyond the 20m circle
- (e) catch the boomerang inside the 20m circle

Throwers were then shown a rough example before being told to set up their paraphernalia outside the 20m circle. The triangular pieces of wood were placed inside the centre circle while throwers selected positions around the 20m line. Contestants worked hard and fast, sweating as they sawed and shaped their 'rangs. A humorous situation developed as competitors raced to the centre of the ground to test their creations, only to find they would not return. (Oh well, back to the drawing board!) The exception was Rob Croll, who, within three minutes, was throwing and nearly catching his!

At this point it should be mentioned that a major factor in the success of this event was the ply-wood. Although 6mm thick, it was only 3 ply and was not the high quality marine ply to which we are accustomed. Long after Rob caught his second boomerang for a World Record time of 6 min 46.22 secs., the spectators were kept entertained by erratic boomerang flights and spectacular crashes. No less than four throwers saw their masterpieces turned to firewood! (This usually occurred after several tosses - just when the thrower was beginning to understand the flight of his wooden wonder.) Jill Jacobson took the cake when, after 17 mins of hard labour, her first throw bit the dust and broke in half. Undaunted, she picked up the two pieces, nailed them together (overlapped Rusty Harding style), and began throwing again!

This event definitely has potential. It is entertaining, exciting and fun. Best of all, it doesn't take very long. The cut-off time of 25 mins could easily be lowered to 20 mins (or reduced even further in the future) since all competitors were throwing after 17 mins.

The other new event was the Aussie Scramble in which 16 competitors (all trying to catch the same boomerang) took part. For once the wind proved a saviour, with fairly inaccurate throwing serving to spread the field. This event was exciting for spectators, with several gutsy, elegant, and spectacular catches being taken. (It also produced the Catch-of-the-Day). It was also a success with the competitors, with nearly half taking at least one catch, and all but two managing to get off at least one throw. In fact, in terms of involvement, this event probably has more to offer than most of the others when you consider such factors as the number of opportunities to catch per thrower. (There were 20-30 chances to take a catch.) As it turned out, the safety factor was not a consideration, and Morris Maxwell's summation "... a good comp for windy conditions", is probably the best description. How it will work in the calm remains to be seen.

In winning the Man of the Match award, Rob Croll was declared the 1982 Moreland Champion. Here was a perfect example of someone, who despite failing to win the General Championship event, was clearly the best thrower on the day. How can you argue with five 1st places, one 2nd, and one 3rd, out of a possible seven events (plus winning the Closest to the Pin trophy as well)?

The Catch of the Day was included as a counterpart to the traditional Closest to the Pin award. By popular vote, it went to novice Ken Clark for his superb effort in the Aussie Scramble. Someone made a good throw and, on one of the rare occasions, the boomerang descended softly for an easy catch. Ken leaped high, got a hand to it, slipped and ended flat on his back, the 'rang followed him down, he clutched at it a second time, taking it inches from the ground.

\*NOTES FROM ABROAD\*

From the French front: USBA President Carl Naylor recently attended the Second European Boomerang Days, hosted by the Boomerang Club de France. He sent this charming report to Return Mail:

To everyone in the USBA, greetings from Bievre, a beautiful little town 17 km southwest of Paris. From my room high in the Seminaire-Bel-Air, I can look out over its spacious park, orchards, surrounding trees, and open meadow where tomorrow and Sunday the Boomerang Club de France will host the "Second European Boomerang Days" with throwers from six countries competing. Earlier, from the third floor windows of this enormous 200-room stone structure, I helped Jacques Thomas, president of the BCF, hang large flags representing France, England, USA, Germany, Holland, and Belgium.

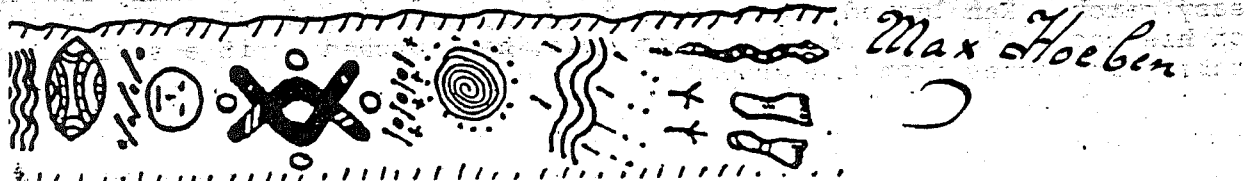
Across the fields from the Seminaire lies Villacoublay, an airfield of the French Air Force. This morning I watched a unit of airmen from Villacoublay erect a tent and deploy a P.A. system to accommodate the press, TV people, distinguished visitors, scorekeepers, and the Red Cross. At the same time a big truck bearing the words Ville de Bievre drove up and unloaded benches for spectators. I can hardly believe my eyes at this display of community support for French boomerangers, although I know Jacques has worked tirelessly and club members already have the ground set up and scoring circles limed... Contestants are provided not only low cost lodging but excellent meals with wine as well! I may never leave this incredible place.

The British party headed by John Jordan, president of the BBS, have arrived late this evening because the hovercraft bringing them across the channel developed engine trouble and returned to port, where the British, resourceful throwers ever, traded it in for one that flew better. Even so, crossing took longer than usual because of high seas. The same winds have been blowing at Bievre, but at a practice throw with the Dutch party this evening, we found conditions tricky but satisfactory because of the sheltering forest.

Heavy overcast wind and a chance of rain seem likely for tomorrow morning, but Jacques Thomas will not listen to the weather forecast because he doesn't want to know... As for me I believe in the magic of the boomerang. It brought me here to this ancient and beautiful place. Let the wind blow; let tomorrow come.

Tomorrow came with the wind and rain, but the rain stopped by mid-morning and the fields were in good shape for the first event at 2:00pm. Rapidite de rattrapage is a two-ring simultaneous event with more than 30 throwers competing. The winner is Servas Van Dan Horst from Holland in 44 seconds; David Schummy, a remarkable 15 1/2-year-old from England is second with 47.5; John Jordan third at 48.5; Carl Naylor, USA, throwing a Doug DuFresne boomerang is fourth at 51.5. Slow times. Everyone has heard of John Flynn's record and talks about the "hollow" boomerang. Next year fast catch may be a different story.

Next event was a simple 20-meter throw and catch, ten throws per contestant, with a second round on Sunday, scores from both rounds totalled. Van Dan Horst and Overdijh of Holland tie for first with 18. Henk Schurink and Stoog Van Vliet are second with 17; four throwers tie for third at 16; Schummy, Naylor, and Van Vliet are



THANKS TO MAX HOEBEN FOR ARTICLES AND SKETCHES USED.

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fourth with 14. It is amazing how many of us miss the easiest catches and make the difficult ones. I decide it's a very good event and that USBA throwers would like it. But you must let us know. Please write.

On Sunday, accuracy (no catch) is won by Karril Bakker of Holland; Claudela Guiton, France, second; Jordan, third. Naylor forgets that his accuracy boomerang is only good in gale force winds and finishes far down the list.

The final competition, which I am sure would delight my Aussie Challenge Cup teammates, is a fast-catch elimination tournament with throwers paired in side-by-side rings, with a bell on a stick 20 meters behind each ring. Each contestant makes five consecutive throws, then runs back and rings his bell. Since dropped throws and catches count equally, many rounds boil down to the foot race and the spectators love it. A ten-year-old Dutch boy wins against his own father and brings down the house, but John Jordan emerges victorious in the final round and wins the event....

Beautiful trophies are awarded to the overall winners by French ladies attending--LaGuiton, France, first; Jordan, England, second. There is much picture taking and kissing in the French manner; dogs and children begin to get into the act.... We are having a wonderful time...and there is more to come.

We have decided that after the crowd leaves David Schummy, the 15 1/2-year-old from England, will try for a world record in MTA. It did not take long for potential to become reality. On perhaps his sixth or seventh attempt, throwing a Breitfeld (German) design that gets tremendous altitude and is hell to catch, I clocked David at 26.33 seconds. Robert Lechie and John Jordan of England made it 26 seconds flat, and, with Jacques Thomas concurring, we elected to claim the conservative number as a new world record.

The new record appears to be another triumph of boomerang design, for although David Schummy is a very strong thrower, I cannot believe he throws as hard as Peter Ruhf, and he is smaller. Furthermore, I believe David is quite capable of 30 seconds with the same boomerang since he had no thermal assist and a breeze far from ideal. There is much more...but Paris, beautiful Paris, is waiting.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPETITION ORGANISERS.

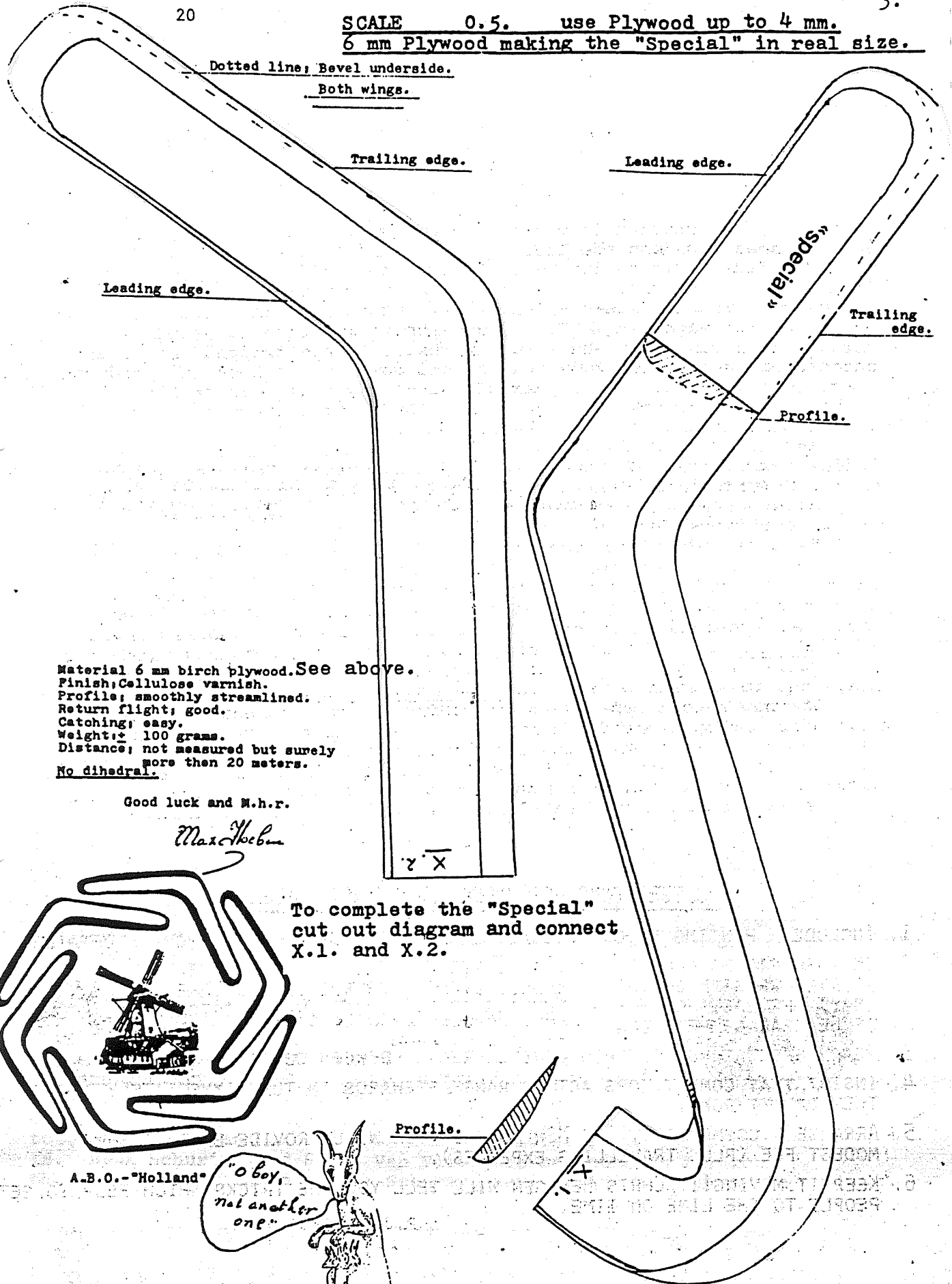
1. INCLUDE A HUNTING STICK ACCURACY EVENT. PETER BYHAM WILL PROVIDE DETAILS.
2. IN PUBLICISING COMPETITIONS ANNOUNCE THE TIME OF "MAIN EVENTS". ARRANGE PROGRAM SO THAT THE BEST EVENTS FOR SPECTATORS TAKE PLACE IN (SAY) THE LAST HOUR- E.G. HUNTING STICK ACCURACY, SLOW CATCH, FINAL ROUND(S) OF GENERAL COMPETITION.
3. TEACH SPECTATORS TO THROW DURING BREAKS BETWEEN COMPETITIONS.
4. INSIST THAT COMPETITORS ACT AS RANGE STEWARDS IN TURN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY HAVE THROWN.
5. ARRANGE A COMMENTARY. THE NSW ASSOCIATION WILL PROVIDE EXPERTS FOR A MODEST FEE (PLUS TRAVELLING EXPENSES).
6. KEEP IT MOVING!!! CHRIS HENZGEN WILL TELL YOU THE TRICKS WHICH HELP TO GET PEOPLE TO THE LINE ON TIME.

P.J. & BR.B.T.



SCALE 0.5. use Plywood up to 4 mm.  
6 mm Plywood making the "Special" in real size.

Dotted line; Bevel underside.  
Both wings.

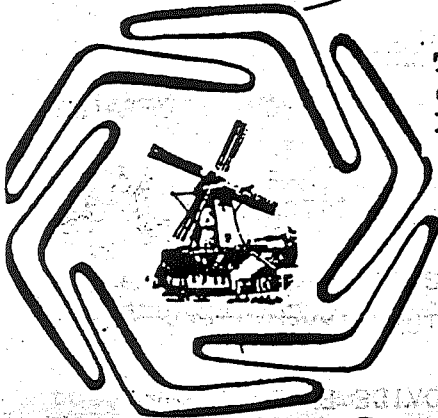


Material 6 mm birch plywood. See above.  
Finish; Cellulose varnish.  
Profile; smoothly streamlined.  
Return flight; good.  
Catching; easy.  
Weight; 100 grams.  
Distance; not measured but surely  
more than 20 meters.  
No dihedral.

Good luck and M.h.r.

*Max Hoeben*

To complete the "Special"  
cut out diagram and connect  
X.1. and X.2.



A.B.O. - "Holland"

*"O boy,  
not another  
one!"*



Profile.



size.

RUMBLE IN THE RANGS

Members of European organizations as well as EBF executives are having a mutual problem. They all have to deal in Europe with the use of four languages. In alphabetical order, English, French, German and Dutch. In communication, verbal as well as in writing is not always easy. English speaking countries do not have this problem. Meaning that if the European boomerang organizations print some interesting item in a newsletter it has to be translated to inform the English, Australian, American speaking boomerang--fans. It looks like a Swedish boomerang organization to be formed in the near future, making it 5 languages. Our new hopes to increase the European Boomerang force is Lasse CARENVALL and his also enthousiast wife Lena.

Address ; Kastalagatan 6  
s-442 36 Kungälv  
SWEDEN.

I have given some addresses to Lasse by mail and some more info he asked me for. We like Lena and Lasse to know that we welcome them in our ranks and wish them luck and M.H.R's. It is nice to know that Lasse is well aware that without constitutions and rules we shall get nowhere. The RUMBLE IN THE RANGS is that the European boomerang organizations are planning to start working for Europe only. The case in point is that an exchange of news is constantly between America and Australia. The rumour goes that the Europeans have not been invited at the wedding. Actually meaning that there has never been a letter directly to European Organizations. I hope you do not make the same mistake as some Dutch boomerang throwers did and believe that I write what I think, and for myself only. Whenever I receive articles I publish as much as I can in the Dutch newsletter and if I think that the info is not known in other countries I mail copies. What is expected? Europeans hope to receive a letter directly addressed to their organization. We could be wrong, but we do believe that most of you know the addresses of the European organizations. If not, it is possible that some of you liked to write but could not. So underneath the addresses known by me;

Association Belgique .  
Mr. Yves Simonson  
500 Avenue Moliere BTE 7  
Bruxelles Belgium

Algemene Boemerang Org. - "Holland"  
P.B. 309  
1180 AM Amstelveen - Holland.

Deutscher Bumerang Club  
Mr. Günther Veit  
Brückenstrasse 24  
5500 Trier West Germany

British Boomerang Society  
Mr. John Jordan  
Plot 9 Bowood Drive  
Wolverhampton WV 6 9AW

Kauko Putikka  
KP 2 64720 Perälä  
Finland.



Boomerang Club de France  
Mr. Jacques Thomas  
38 Rue Madame  
75006 PARIS.

Stay in touch with Mr. Micheal Hanson  
Schoolhouse, Sinclairston  
Ochiltree, Cumnock  
Ayrshire SCOTLAND

railing  
edge.

LAND.

# EXCLUSIVE

Interview with Jacky Byham 28th December, 1982.

Ed. Goodday Jack. I wonder if you could start by telling us how you got involved with Boomerangs?

Jacky. My original business with boomerangs was in the depression years. We were living at the Eildon Weir. My Dad was an engineer on the construction up there. We kids were running round bare footed, rabbiting and that, and he suggested that we make a boomerang. So my brother Bob and I went up the bank and chopped up the root of an old stringy bark tree and spent a few hours trimming it down with an old tomahawk. Bob was quite convinced we were going to get it to return. In fact it nearly took the head off the poor bloody postman on his push bike. The great heavy thing sailed just over his head.

Then in 1934, the first time I saw boomerangs anywhere in a shop, there were four of them on a card, at Beert, made out of ply wood. Prices ranged from 1/9 to 4/6. I bought one for 2/6. It had a good flight path, as good as any modern day boomerang I've seen, and went out 30 to 35 metres. I don't know who made it.

We went to Shepparton in 1935 or 1936. I was making boomerangs from red gum roots from the Gaulburn River at the back of Shepparton. I'd use a tomahawk to chop out a nice old elbow. Then I would saw it down to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch with a handsaw; got 2 boomerangs out of each elbow. Some of them absolutely perfect as far as flight is concerned, lovely boomerangs.

Coming home one night from the Lake I was picked up by the police for having no tail light on my bike. When I said "my boomerang got stuck up a tree officer, I've been trying to knock it down," he was fascinated. He came round next day, at lunch time, to learn how to throw the boomerang.

Ed. How old were you then?

Jacky. 16 or 17 years. Boomerangs were a hobby. I carried it right through to war years. I moved up here in 1946 and first thing I did was fashion myself a good killer boomerang out of some Mulga. The Mulga is all gone now, but then there was a two acre clump up here. I've made boomerangs ever since and later on my wife Bronia could see the potential for the 1956 Olympic Games. I was surveying at the time doing irrigational work. And Bronia said; "Why don't you make boomerangs for the games instead of mucking around with them?" We read that Bill Onus had 13 people working for him making boomerangs for the Olympic Games. So I downed tools and turned out 4000 to 5000 boomerangs. We ran out of money of course, three months before the Games in December. In September I had no more cash. So I went to the Yarrawonga Show grounds. I thought; "If I could sell them at the Games I could sell them at the Yarrawonga Show". I took over some old native artifacts I had and ended up making 25 pounds for the afternoon. That was when wages for a week was 10 pounds so I thought I was in the money, so we did all the shows. When the Games came around I still had three to four thousand boomerangs and I sold the whole damn lot. And I've been making boomerangs ever since.

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Ed. Did you put on an exhibition at the Games?

Jacky. Not in the arena itself but I had four or five aboriginals from Lake Tyers mission station with me. Laurie Moffatt and pastor Doug Nicholls were at Heidelberg and Laurie was offered the job of selling some heavy killer boomerangs (non-returning). When I showed Laurie some of the boomerangs I had he gathered up a few of his mates, all excellent throwers from Lake Tyers. They entertained thousands and thousands of people every day near the MCG over the railway near the Olympic Games Pool. We sold out of suitcases. The Parks and Gardens blakes wanted to chase us away but I said to them; "You can't stop a good old honest black fella making an honest quid." They let us stop there right through the games.

Prior to that I was out at Heidelberg, at the village. I had a good little stand there, a nice corner block, but with nowhere to throw boomerangs. A fellow rushed up - all his life he'd wanted to see a boomerang - throw a boomerang, a fellow from down Cohuna. It was a dirty, windy day. I threw a boomerang out and it came whistling back over our heads. He said to his friend; "You get that one back I want to see him throw again," So I threw another one; "Look out," I said, "this is a nasty one." It was a heavy 24 inch boomerang, and it got caught up in the wind. It came back like a bloody rocket. I ducked underneath, but it turned around. It got him in the back of the neck. We took him to the Heidelberg Village hospital. They put seven stitches in the back of his neck. The police were down in a few minutes - no more boomerang throwing or else. So we moved then to the MCG. We sold thousands of boomerangs - black fellas got most of the money. I couldn't keep up with it.

Ed. Were they all conventional type boomerangs?

Jacky. Yes, I can remember Cliffy Hayes - 10/- for a Dinky-Di-Aussie Souvenir, 18 inch boomerangs basically, for 10/-. Pick of box, 21 inch boomerangs, for one pound. All good flyers. They'd circle and come down like helicopters.

Ed. How many circles did they do?

Jacky. Do a good two circles with the big 21 inch. Cliffy Hayes woke me up to a trick for when you're giving a performance of boomerang throwing. After you've thrown the boomerang you estimate immediately where it will finish and you hurry to the spot - all the eyes are watching the boomerang and they don't see you move. You might have to move five or six yards. They you stand stock still and just put your hands out and catch the boomerang.

Ed. Jack I've heard that the Lake Tyers fellas got their boomerangs to circle four or five times.

Jacky. This could be right.

After the Olympic Games, my wife and I lived on showgrounds for about four years. We travelled all over Australia, Queensland

everywhere. Did country shows and at Maryborough Qld. I was scheduled to go out on the arena and I got talking to some aboriginals. I didn't know one had just won the Welter Weight title of Queensland. I was chatting with him and he said; "You wouldn't know which hand to hold a boomerang in." He said "White fellas don't know how to throw boomerangs." I said, "Well I'll give you a bloody shock in a minute. I've got a boomerang here that does six circles." It was a lot of nonsense but if you understand with those helicopter boomerangs you don't know how many times they go round. It was made out of a red gum root, 24 inches long. Up for 10, 12 or maybe 15 seconds. It went backwards and forwards and when I came back after throwing he said "I must apologise. Will you come and have a bloody beer with me?" He said "That's the finest boomerang throwing I've ever seen".

Ed. Do you have other stories of those days?

Jacky. There was the time I went to the Bundaberg Show. It was raining and the trots were off. Governor Sir Henry Abel-Smith opened the Show and asked me to throw boomerangs for him. He was up in a very high box, about 12 feet above the ground. I kept getting closer and closer to him with the boomerangs and I could see him ducking his head back as the boomerangs went past six feet in front of him. It was there I put up seven boomerangs in the air at once and caught five, without moving three or four feet.

Ed. Were they hard wood boomerangs?

Jacky. No, ply-wood - heavy Tasmanian Myrtle 5 ply, 3/8 inch thick, beautiful stuff. They were fairly brittle but by jove they used to be heavy. They got out 40 yards, no problems. Since we changed over woods I've never had any to fly as well as these. They had a lot of leading and trailing edge.

Ed. Do you think designs are generally improving?

Jacky. O yeah - some of the modern boomerangs are tremendous. Take Al Gerhard's boomerangs. They are probably the best creation in the world.

Ed. Do you think the Americans have better wood?

Jacky. O well Al's are Hickory - an excellent wood. I think we'd have equally good wood here if not better than they can produce over there. Some of our hardwoods are the best quality in the world. We've got such a variation of it here. Some of our wattles and blackwoods are magnificent. Red gum is all right but it is so damn brittle it snaps like carrots, also warps easily. And yet you can get a good one. I had one for many, many years. It was only small, 18 inches, and it did 30 metres. I threw it down at the SPC cannery there, maybe 25 years ago, when I worked there one season. Anyhow some bloke threw it and it broke, first go. I'd thrown that one for five or six years and it was a perfect flying boomerang, then some mug wolloper broke it.



And in 1972 I went on the third patrol and I walked through 12 days of the densest jungle following a native pad you couldn't see but which the natives seemed to know.

I threw boomerangs in every village, much to the amazement of the old warriors. They were all armed with bow and arrows and you looked over your shoulder a few times wondering what but the boomerang had them fascinated. The chief in one village up on a ridge insisted on throwing the boomerang. How he didn't cut somebody's head off I still don't know. A big boomerang throwing it out over the gully and coming back amongst his gang of about 150 natives and kids and that.

I stopped on the second last night at a Catholic Mission station called Canabea where the local priest had just finished building a little airstrip and the first flight that went from that airstrip to Port Moresby they pranged on return and he was killed. I had a letter from him a fortnight before he was killed saying he'd seen a native up on a hill throwing a boomerang out over a cliff. The priest had shown them on the mission and a few months later they were throwing them out in the highlands, 4000 feet above sea level.

Ed. That interest of people in other countries is in complete contrast to the attitude of Australians. Do you have any theories on that?

Jacky. O well I do have, because the old Australians had very little time for the aboriginals. Anything connected with the aboriginals they wouldn't touch. I often found myself quite embarrassed in the early days of my boomerang production. To practice with a boomerang I'd almost get into a paddock where no-one could see me throw. The new Australian people showed more interest than old Australians. I found around showgrounds that 99 out of 100 people had never seen a boomerang, let alone seen one fly.

In Tasmania, I did find an old Australian who was making probably one boomerang a week. He made big boomerangs out of willow and they were beautiful helicopter type boomerangs. He was a fascinating little fellow about 65 or 70 years old, he made these big two feet long boomerangs out of willow and they were very light and they could fly beautifully - all helicopter type boomerangs. Go out past 25 metres. There's another old fella who'd be one of the top authorities on boomerangs in the whole of Australia. He's never been mentioned anywhere.

Ed. What's his name?

Jacky. He's a fellow called Billy Moore - he's a man well in his 70s and he still chases a boomerang like a 10 year old boy. He lives with a pack of dogs near Calac on Lake WoolWool. He threw boomerangs in the Middle East during the war. He made boomerangs before the war - he's been making boomerangs ever since. He's been up to my place here and he's got stacks of red gum roots, ply wood and all sorts of stuff. I get a letter every year or two and he could quote you all the old boomerang throwers from Lake Tyers, Warrnambool, all the old black fellas who knew

Ed. Do you know anything about how the boomerang got to USA?

Jacky. Damn lot would have gone from the Olympic Games down here. They were making them in America prior to that because about the time of the Olympic Games we read an article in some magazine where a fella somewhere in USA was supposed to be employing 25 people to manufacture boomerangs. You see nobody had any interest in boomerangs in Australia, it was an unknown quantity. I used to feel sometimes quite stupid on showgrounds when white fellas used to say to me, "Jacky's boomerang come back?" You felt like clobbering them over the scone with it. But at the local Finley show in 1950 or so, over 30 years ago, the show was actually over and a drunken yobbo came up and said "Only black fellas throw boomerangs. I'll give you 5 pounds if you can make it come back:" So we put the 5 pounds up and I did the most perfect throw in front of about 200 people and it came back right over their heads and I caught the damn thing and I said, "Thanks very much. That's the quickest and easiest 5 pounds I've ever made." I've had a lot of fun with the damn things, travelled to various parts of the world.

Ed. How many countries have you visited to throw boomerangs?

Jacky. O God, I've thrown in quite a few countries but the most fascinating was at the Mt. Hagan Show for Michael Somare. I was invited to go up there to throw boomerangs. I was fascinated when they made me the judge of the spear throwing and the bow and arrow competition, and they're lousy mug wollopers with both, because the fella I awarded the first prize to for spear throwing - I fitted an aboriginal woomera to it and threw the spear twice as far as he did, much to the delight of 110,000 natives. They couldn't get over this boomerang that went out 40 or 60 yards, in fact I had one long flier that probably did 70 or 80 yards and right back to the hand.

Couple of years later I went up to New Guinea and as soon as I arrived in Mount Hagan I had to go down and give a demonstration to the boy scouts and from there on went to twelve different schools. I always look back on the highlights of my boomerang throwing time when I was treated like a little hero in all those towns in the highlands of New Guinea.

Ed. Can you tell us a bit more about that trip?

Jacky. I walked across New Guinea from Kerama on the gulf to Kaintiba on the New Guinea border on the third white patrol ever to go right through to Kuku Kuku people (Little Piggy fellas). The first patrol went through in 1968 with 45 police and 150 porters, and they got a shower of arrows on the camp every night. The second occasion was in 1970 when they had six police and about 45 porters and they issued the natives in the villages with steel shovels, steel axes and seeds and transistor radios.

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