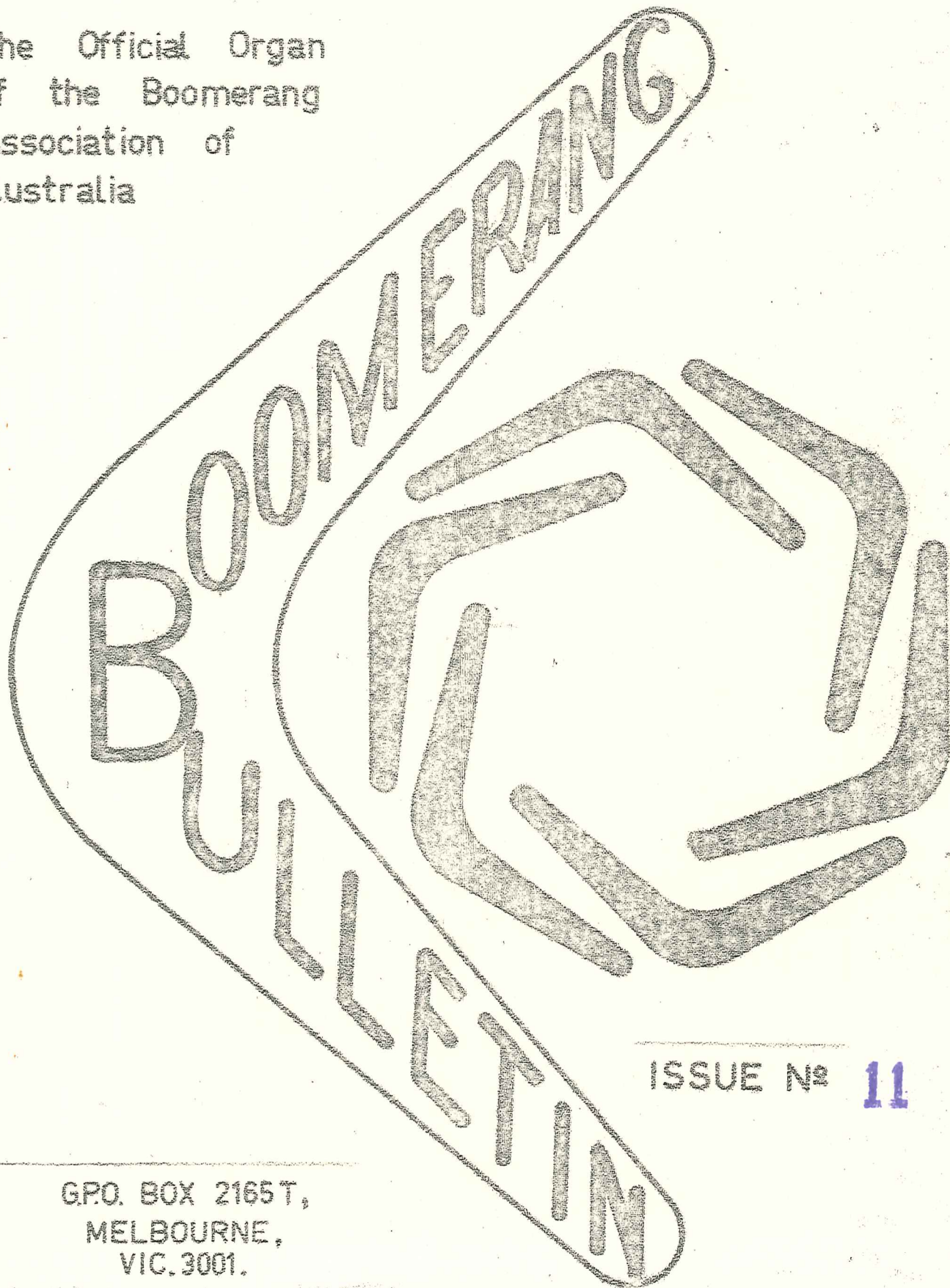


The Official Organ
of the Boomerang
Association of
Australia



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BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
G. P. O. Box 2165T, Melb. 3001

FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT:--

This year the ACM was held at 45 Rose St., McKinnon Victoria, on the 27th. of June. Major items of the meeting are as follows:-

1973
PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dennis Maxwell commenced his report by saying, "It is with thoughts of anticipation and gratitude that I present this report". He then went on to thank Executive and Members for their continued support, gave a summary of competitions held and a review of membership.

From discussion with Mr. J. Patching, manager of the 1972 Olympic team and an expert in Amateur Athletics, the following facts were presented by Dennis regarding Amateur status:-

Anyone who has taken money for a sporting event is a professional unless that money is a reasonable re-imbursment for travel, meal and accomadation expenses, or if in the past the event has been a random affair and of no great amount. All prizes shall be in the nature of souvenirs and where practical, the name of the winner and particulars of the event shall be engraved thereon. No single trophy shall exceed \$50 in value. Money orders may be given as prizes to the value of \$50, but no cash is to change hands.

The Association has previously decided that only trophies will be presented at Championships.

Dennis concluded with; "The future of the Association is obviously in our hands, and I hope that the establishment of Regional Supervisors will improve membership and boomeranging in general.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. James Barrett tabled his report which evidenced a bank balance of \$15:58, after commencing the year with \$29:41 and having a turnover of approximately \$850.

OFFICE BEARERS:

During the year, Mr. J. Robb resigned as Secretary because of business pressures, and Mr. J. Lewry did not seek re-election as Vice President. This year's Executive members were duly elected as follows:-

President- Mr. Dennis Maxwell

Vice Presidents- Mr. Robert Schroeder and

Mr. Ralph Sinclair.

Secretary- Mr. Morris Maxwell

Treasurer- Mr. James Barrett

FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT Continued;

CONSTITUTION:

No motions for alterations were received. However, it was suggested that the financial year be altered from the 1st. of May to the 1st. of March. The situation is to be investigated.

GENERAL BUSINESS - Main points:-

It was decided that the Darlington Point Competition would not be recognised as a World Championship, unless there were International Competitors present.

By letter, Dr. L. Hawes moved that Senator Bonner be invited to become patron of the Association. This motion was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

Arrangements have been made for the Association to produce a book on boomerangs, with the assistance of Mr. K. Simpson who will be Editor and collator for all articles therein.

It was duly moved and carried that Mr. Bob Burns of Melbourne be made our first honorary member. Bob was instrumental in helping Bill, and Eric Onus set up the first set of competition rules in 1962, and worked helpfully to establish championship competitions.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Senior - \$2 Intermediate \$1:50 Junior \$1

As stated in the Constitution, membership fees are to be renewed on the first of May each year.

The Association allows members till the 31st. of the 7th. to renew their membership, and if not received by this date membership lapses. However, the period has been extended to the 30th. of September for this year only.

New members who joined the Association after 31/12/72, are automatically covered till 30/4/74.

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS PROMPTLY, TO
THE TREASURER, B.A.A. G.P.O. Box 2165T, Melb. 3001.

COMING ACTIVITIES

Saturday the 6th. of October--Melbourne,

There will be a junior competition to be called the 'Syndal Technical School Championship 1973', held on the oval at Syndal Tech. Demonstrations will be given by senior members, and anyone interested in further details may contact Mr. Ralph Sinclair on 232-7579.

Sunday the 21st. of October--Melbourne,

On this day, the Eastern Suburbs Championships 1973 will be held at the Blackburn Football Ground. Events will commence at 1:00pm. and run till approx. 5:00pm. For further details, Secretary Morris Maxwell may be contacted on 58-4160.

Saturday the 3rd. November--Darlington Point, NSW.

As notified in the last Bulletin, this is the date of the 1973 Darlington Point "World" Championships. For further details, the Secretary may be contacted, or contact Mr. A. Brooks,

Honary Secretary,
Darlington Point Advancement Committee,
Carrington St.,
Darlington Point, NSW. 2706.

Telephone- Darlington Point 68-4106.

Sometime early next year-- Sydney

Tentative arrangements are being made to organise a competition to be held in 1974 at a suitable location in Sydney. For further details, contact the Secretary, or Mr. Brian Shattell of Sydney, on 637-4723.

Sunday the 3rd. of March 1974--Melbourne,

This is the proposed date for next year's Moomba Championships.

April 1974-- Canberra.

Subject to confirmation, the proposed date for the AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, will be the 21st. of April. (tentative only).

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO SPORT

The newly formed ministry for Tourism and Recreation, has been in touch with the Association to inform us of the following points:-

The Australian Government has made provision in this year's budget for an initial sports assistance programme. \$1 Million has been made available to assist Australian amateur sportsmen and sportswomen, including handicapped athletes, to compete at the national and international levels. This mirrors the Government's concern that no one should be prevented from competing at the highest levels because he or she cannot afford it, or because of some other disability. It is also recognition of the fact that isolation within Australia and in the world context, and hence high cost of fares, is one of the greatest problems facing Australian sportsmen.

The assistance programme allows for subsidisation of fares for approved Australian amateur sportsmen and women and officials to attend approved national and international events. This will account for the major share of the grant.

Under certain circumstances, some subsidisation of fares will also be available for approved overseas sportsmen, sportswomen and coaches who visit Australia on approved tours.

Finally, some funds will be available to assist with administrative costs of conducting world championships in Australia.

In all cases, approval of fares subsidisation will be granted by the Minister for Tourism and Recreation.

Details as to which sporting organisations and championships will be eligible for subsidies have not yet been finalized. However, this shall be done shortly.

In addition to this financial assistance to sports, a number of development projects has also been approved.

The first of these is the formation of an Australian Sports Council which will advise the Australian Minister for Tourism and Recreation on all matters pertaining to sport. Also, within the next twelve months a feasibility will be commenced into the need for and full function of a sports institute in Australia.

DOCTOR HAWES TALKS ON WIND AND COMPETITIONS:

It should come as no surprise to anyone reading this magazine that wind affects boomerang throwing. In fact, no other sport or human endeavour, with the possible exception of long-distance smoke ring blowing is affected to such a high degree by fickle air currents.

Obviously this leads to a bit of a dilemma when trying to stage things like competitions, for one is torn between the practical side of the matter, organizing a convenient time and place etc, and the ideal of having a wind-free locale. There aren't many ideal places around at present, though perhaps the completion of the opera house in Sydney will be a step in the right direction if they'd let us take down some of the light fixtures and remove the seats from the floor area. But until this happens I believe it is a good idea to do a bit of thinking from the standpoint of what a boomerang competition is all about. For what they're worth, here are my views:-

Firstly, while I have the greatest admiration for a boomeranger who can cope with wind, I have a measure of distain for one who relies on it. I suppose that is because one often sees the words 'Aim upward and into the wind. . .' printed on instruction sheets that accompany 'non-boomerangs. Clearly, if you aim upward enough, or into a wind that is strong enough, anything will come back to you, even a bunch of grapes or a potato. But to my way of thinking, this isn't what boomerang throwing is.

Secondly, I think that it is a mistake to go to a competition with the idea of winning, or if one does win, of deluding oneself into thinking that it is significant. I can say, in all sincerity, that many of the competitors in Canberra were a lot better (especially the young ones!) at throwing and catching boomerangs quickly than I was. Happily I struck a patch of calm weather which the others didn't share and brought home a beaut trophy; but no illusions that my throwing was in any way different from that of others under the same conditions.

The prime purpose of any competition, it seems to me, is a good excuse to get together every now and then, share stories and admire some good boomerangs and throwing techniques. Over the years I've found that people who throw boomerangs are exceptionally wonderful people in every sense of the word. (There is perhaps one exception to this, but he'd be the south end of a north-bound horse in any company, and was probably a lot worse before he took up boomerangs!). In the framework of our far-flung comraderie, a boomerang competition is the ideal activity to bring everyone together every now and then, and the competitive edge adds to this-between drinks and mutual lies about past achievements.

DOCTOR HAWES ON WIND AND COMPETITIONS Continued:--

A third aspect of competitions- and of wind- has to do with the setting and recording of feats of special significance, mainly long-distance throws. And here more than anywhere else, wind comes into the picture in a big way, for, if the records are to have any significance at all, either here or internationally, they must be set under conditions of zero wind. It is no secret that one can gain a tremendous advantage by throwing a heavy slow spinning 'boomerang' that is just about inert aerodynamically, in the lee of a building or embankment so that it is protected from the wind on its outward journey, but rises in the windstream to be blown back in a high and dangerous trajectory to land only God knows where. But this is about as related to boomerang throwing as it would be if an astronaut tossed his boot out of a space capsule and claimed a record for its orbiting the earth.

What are the solutions? There will be as many views on this subject as there are throwers, but I'd like to suggest the following as reasonable:-

(a) That competitions be held as at present, preferably in sheltered sites, the idea being to promote fellowship and throwing techniques rather than to establish records of any lasting significance.

(b) That special record breaking attempts be held separately under absolutely windless conditions for things like long distance throwing, largest number of consecutive catches, the least time to catch it ten times, and so forth. These functions would of necessity be held at dawn or dusk in sheltered valleys, and would not attract or please crowds of spectators. But they would provide, probably for the first time, valid records that would be a challenge to us all.

Lorin Hawes.

ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE are extracts from the 'Modesty Blaise' cartoon strips of a Melbourne newspaper.

These are offered without comment, for the interest of members.

