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EDITOR'S APOLOGY

Years ago, some clever gentleman made a comment about the 'best laid plans of mice and men ... etc' and boy oh boy, it's true! All my good intentions crashed due to an unusual and unplanned series of events. However, I have at last been able to get this edition of our Bulletin together. All I can say is a very sincere apology for the delay and assure you I'll try to get into a regular pattern for the next issues.

1978 Australian Championships: Br.B. Thomas

The Australian National Titles will be held at Aquinas College Oval, Fallon Street, North Albury at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 1st April.

This year, the Juniors will be limited to the six top qualifying throwers at the Moomba Competitions in Melbourne. Any throwers who won events in the previous 12 months will also be eligible. This means that more time and emphasis can be given to Senior throwers; many travel great distances and deserve the opportunity.

A beautiful collection of trophies have been donated by local businesses ... Ian Barker, Pharmacy, Dalgety Travel, Albury and the Trophy Centre.

Members will be asked to consider a change of venue within Albury for future competitions, as we have the offer of the new Lavington Sports Oval, which has all facilities and Grandstand ... a lovely set-up. The only snag is that it is only available on Sundays and so we would have to consider changing our day to a Sunday. Please give it some thought before you come along as you will be asked to vote on it.

With restrictions on the Junior section, we hope to leave more time for other types of events or demonstrations, so if you have any little 'special' event to show us, bring it along.

Albury 1977 Boomerang Championships

Br.E. Thomas

For the second time in the year, Albury proved to be the Mecca for Boomerang throwers by turning on yet another calm day, so that contestants could illustrate their skills without interference from unwanted winds.

Thirteen Senior competitors and 26 Juniors vied for the various titles and trophies.

In the Senior sections the Accuracy Competition was dominated by those two grand old expert Boomerang makers and throwers, Arthur and Les Janetzki. From ten throws, Arthur came in ahead of the field with 26 points, with Les just behind him on 22 points. Those to follow were Billy Knight - 20, Graham Ferguson - 18, Dennis Maxwell - 15, Carol Lewry and Br. Thomas - 12, and Morris Maxwell - 7. (Someone has to come last, Morris!)

The Consecutive Catching Competition proved a very disappointing performance with Rick Dobell, just up in the Senior section, needing only 7 catches to win. Well done, Rick. Dennis Maxwell and Carol Lewry both had 3 catches, and Br. Thomas 2. Two un-named gentlemen from Melbourne scored ducks!

In the Preliminary Rounds of the General Championship, the scores were Dennis Maxwell - 107, Br. Thomas - 92, Carol Lewry - 90, Arthur Janetzki - 79, Morris Maxwell - 66, Les Janetzki - 62, Jack Byham - 56, Graham Simpson - 48, Billy Knight - 38 and Rick Dobell - 38 also. In the finals Round, Dennis scored 95, Carol - 97 and Br. Thomas - 86, making the final results after adding the two rounds together - 1st: Dennis Maxwell - 202, 2nd: Carol Lewry - 187 and 3rd: Br. Thomas - 178. This is the second time Dennis has taken off the Albury Championship. Congratulations, Dennis. And congratulations to Carol on a very fine comeback.

The Junior Accuracy Competition was won comfortably by Gary Ryan, one of Albury's left-hand throwers, with 18 points. Second was Philip Miller from Melbourne with 14 points and third, in a throw off, was Chris Westall of Albury. Peter Maxwell, Dennis's son, and David Nicholson, tied on 12 points with Chris, but lost the throw off. Next closest in the field were Michael Gleeson on 10 points and Michael Ovington on 8 points, both local lads.

The Junior Consecutive Catching Competition saw an outstanding performance by star thrower Chris Westall, who took the magnificent tally of 31 catches. His nearest rival was pocket-sized Michael Gleeson who held 5 catches, followed by three others who took 4 catches: Richard Martin, Greg Jenkinson and Michael Nicholson. Brothers, Gary and Trevor Ryan came in next on 3 catches.

In the Junior General Championship, the top ten performers were 1st: Chris Westall, 86 + 86 = 172; 2nd: Gary Ryan, 58 + 55 = 113; 3rd: Lindsay Knight, 76 + 29 = 105; 4th: Michael Nicholson, 56; 5th: Michael Ovington and Trevor Ryan, 48 each; 7th: Philip Miller, 46; 8th: Richard Martin, 44; 9th: Michael Gleeson and David Nicholson 43 each. Chris threw very well to take out this title, using a small standard-type Boomerang made by those wonderful Janetzki brothers. On most of his throws, he was reaching over 40 metres! Actually, most of the title won at this gathering were done so with Janetzki-made Boomerangs. Dennis did very well with his. Take a bow, Les and Arthur. We hope you never retire!

1977 World Boomerang Championships.

Br.B. Thomas

On 5th November 1977, the ghost of Cyclone Tracy rose from its grave and paid a day-long visit to the tiny hamlet of Darlington Point to harass the many Boomerang throwers gathered there on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River to contest the World Boomerang Throwing Championships sponsored by Ampol.

This year, the organisers held a Junior World Championship to cater for the number of junior throwers who turned out. This was only in the General Championship and junior contestants had to battle it out with the Seniors in all other competitions. This proved to be quite a problem for senior throwers, as one junior thrower dominated the day, namely left-handed 12 year-old Gary Ryan, who won the Accuracy Competition, the Shortest Time for Five Catches Competition, the Junior General Championship, and was second in the Consecutive Catching Competition, which was won by Br.Thomas with 7 catches.

The Senior World Championship was well won by Bunny Read of Wycheproof, with last year's title holder, Br. Thomas of Albury, coming in second and Joe Lewry third. Joe had the misfortune to break Carol's good distance Boomerang on one of the local stalls; this didn't improve his chances. Spectators were very lucky to escape death and damage, as at least twenty Boomerangs landed among them during the gusty afternoon and morning.

The Distance Competition was won by President Jack Byham of Cobram, with an official throw of just over 70 metres. Many throwers thought it was actually much greater. Br. Thomas came in second. Both Jack and Br. Thomas used Boomerangs made in Sussex, England, by that great distance thrower, Herb A. Smith.

Carol Lewry took out the Ladies Championship again with some very fine throwing ... as usual!

The Riverina Championship was won by a comparative new-comer to the sport in Colin Barnes of Hay. Colin was only just out of Hospital and so his effort was even more meritorious. Well done, Colin! Colin's brother, Kevin, was also there competing and used his aluminium Boomerang in the Distance event effectively.

It was great to see Barry Forsyth there. Barry came all the way from Whyalla in South Australia with his family just for the day. Barry threw very well and was unfortunate not to make the finals.

Two well-known identities not to be seen there were Les and Arthur Janetzki. Les turned 77 on New Year's Day and Arthur is 74 and both feel travelling great distances is a bit too much for them, plus the fact that their young sister, Ruby (who is 79 and not in the best of health) worries about them. So if you want to see Australia's two oldest gentlemen throwers in action, you will have to come to Albury for Australian and Albury Championships! Both throw regularly every Tuesday and Saturday afternoons at the Hovell Tree in Albury for about two hours.

The Boomerang Song (By Jeff Lewry, with apologies to no-one).

Whenever I'm out throwing Boomerangs, there's always some peanut who'll drive past and shout 'My Boomerang Won't Come Back', so in self-protection, I composed this song. Tune is much the same, but to avoid copyright claims, there is a distinct pause after 'BUT...' in the chorus.

CHORUS: My Boomerang DOES come back,
My Boomerang does come back
It circles around and floats gently down,
Or else screams in and knocks me to the ground, BUT ...
My Boomerang DOES come back!
My Boomerang DOES come back!

I felt quite sure I could throw it at night,
It dented my head like the Australian Bight,
My wife said 'Boy, you've been in a fight'
I said 'No dear, that isn't quite right' BUT
Repeat Chorus.

A bloke came up, said 'Give us a try'
He threw my 'stick' straight up in the sky,
Ten seconds later he collapsed with a sigh,
the Doc now thinks that he mightn't die,
BUT

CHORUS.

You throw it straight up, it'll come straight down,
You throw it straight out, it'll circle around,
A much safer plan, as this guy found,
BUT... CHORUS.

The following report is by Donald Sanders, a Writer with the Associated Press.

The wind was a little too gusty for the sport, but the 102 contestants in the Fourth Annual Smithsonian Open Boomerang Tournament didn't seem to mind.

For 3½ hours, Saturday, they tossed Boomerangs in graceful elongated ellipse patterns before a crowd of 300 to 400 persons on the Polo Grounds near the Lincoln Memorial.

The final event proved to be a cliff-hanger. It was for the most consecutive catches, in which all the contestants were eligible. They lined up in long rows and anyone who missed catching was eliminated.

Finally, it was down to two contestants: Richard Harrison of Monroe La., and Larry Ruhf of Belchertown, Mass. It required almost 20 throws for Harrison to emerge the winner.

Both men threw and caught about 10 Boomerangs apiece, then were asked to catch each other's Boomerangs, then to do one-handed catches, then left-handed catches, and finally catches for accuracy. The wind then came up and neither was very accurate, but Harrison came closer on their second throw.

"I don't think we have anyone in Australia who can throw Boomerangs the way they threw them", said Philip Flood, Australian Minister and the No. 2 man in the Embassy, who awarded some of the prizes.

The contest, in various age classes, included events in accuracy and catching, throwing to a peg for accuracy, fast catching and consecutive catching.

The event has been run for seven years and, for the past four, by Benjamin Ruhe, formerly of the Smithsonian and now Public Affairs Officer at the National Archives.

He became interested in Boomerangs when he worked as a Jackeroo, or Cowboy, in Australia in 1956 and has just published a book called 'Many Happy Returns'.

Other top prizes for over-all performance went to Joe Daugherty of McLean, Va.; Al Gearhards of Lownington, Pa.; Eric Darnell of Sharon, Vt.; and the 'Many Happy Returns' award to Gary Owens of the University of Maryland.

Gearhards and Darnell make and sell Boomerangs and Harrison runs a mail-order business in Australian Boomerangs.

Other winners included Aaron Arnow, Gaithersburg, Md.; Jon Wise, Washington; Mark Becker, New Carrollton, Md.; Bill Brogan, McLean Va.; Thomas Porter, Washington; and Nicholas McAuliffe, Amesbury, Mass.

SWAN HILL FOR 1979:

A suggestion has been made that we hold the 1979 Australian Championships at Swan Hill. More news about this in the next Issue.

NEXT BULLETIN:

I've got a few items on file for the June 1978 issue, including a legendary tale written by our President, Jack Byham. I will be relying heavily on input from members for Bulletin material, so don't forget to pass on news, views and comments. Just stick them in an envelope and address it to me (Hamish Robb, High Street, Wedderburn, Victoria, Australia, 3518).

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

There are still a few members in the 'red'. Have you checked your receipts lately? If you would like a BAA receipt, how about sending a cheque?

N.B.:

Don't forget the special event to mark April Fool's Day. Let's see who can produce the 'most ridiculous Boomerang ever thrown' and/or the 'most ridiculous method of throwing' for the very serious 'You Must Be Joking' event.