



December 1996

No. 92

Corny, clever, crazy or beautiful: Olympics logo divides the experts



*Merry
Christmas* ❄️❄️❄️



Gwen Wooten, 68, mulls over the new Sydney Olympic logo at Darling Harbour yesterday.

Picture: DAVID WHITE

Up and running . . . the three-boomerang "runner" logo makes its debut over Darling Harbour.

EDITORIAL 92

There are a few matters to discuss in this editorial. Let me start off by wishing the sincerest condolences to all the Martin family on the recent death of our very good friend and thrower, Dave Martin. Dave died on 20th October from cancer at the age of 67. There is a tribute article in the following pages.

Recently the new emblem for the Sydney 2000 Olympics was released. It is a running man with the torch, and the running man is composed of three boomerangs! This is a tremendous exposure for our sport. At least people will be more inclined to want to talk about boomerangs now. If you get a chance, let them know.

In the last two competitions in NSW we had two of our longest throwing competitors finally achieving their long-held dream of taking out an Aussie Round Championship. Ken Arthur, 75, won the Blacktown Championship in September, while novelty boomerang specialist, Tony Butz, won the Blue Mountains Championship in November. Congratulations to both throwers.

I would like to pen a word of thanks here to Ted Bailey for his unremitting work in promoting boomerangs in the various ways he does. The sport needs a dedicated soul like this. His BOOMERANG NEWS is a marvellous production of what is happening in boomerangs around the world. If you aren't a contributor yet, then you should be. Keep abreast with world happenings with Ted. Many of our articles in the Bulletin come from Ted. Thanks again.

The final message of this editorial is one word: SUPPORT. We are a small sport. Let's all pull together and support each other as much as we can. If someone organises a competition, make a special effort to be there. Speak positively about each other to other people. Forget the weaknesses we all have. Let them know what a great group of people boomerangers are!! You may even entice some to join us. Send in those membership fees on time (or early!). We don't run on a vacuum. *Which reminds me...your 1997 fees are now due!!* **Happy Christmas!!!!**

Br.Brian M.Thomas, CFC, EDITOR.

Action on Aboriginal artefacts

THE vexed question of important Aboriginal artefacts appearing at public auction received a thorough airing at a lunch in Sydney last week. It was organised by Reconciliation in Business, an informal group that brings members of the Aboriginal and white communities together to share information on issues relating to business, sponsorship and employment.

Lawsons and Sotheby's, which regularly sell tribal and Aboriginal art, have agreed to an informal arrangement under which Lydia Miller, executive officer of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit of the Australia Council, will inspect Aboriginal items before they go on sale.

The auctioneers will also place the Australia Council and the NSW Land Council on their distribution lists for catalogues that include Aboriginal items.

The difficulty for cataloguers of tribal art is assessing the significance of particular items to individual communities. While most auctioneers are aware of sacred objects and do not offer them, the importance of historical material to Aboriginal communities is hard to establish without specialist help. It is believed most Aboriginal art offered at auction will be unaffected.

Sotheby's in Melbourne was obliged to withdraw some artefacts



PETER FISH

BRIC A BRAC

on the eve of a sale last year, and then had to negotiate privately with the sellers of the objects and the Aboriginal community that wanted to buy them. Similarly, items from a NSW museum were withdrawn from a sale at Tingha, near Glen Innes, on June 15. In both cases, the material was ultimately bought on behalf of Aboriginal land councils.

Ed Russell of SA suggests it would be helpful to beginners to know that the best wood to start making a boomerang with is 6 mm 5-ply and to make your boomerang with a 90 degree angle about 430 mm from tip to tip. Thanks, Ed, for the useful hint.

COMING EVENTS 1997

19th January..Leopold-Geelong 4 Wheel Drive Expo and Mud Bash..a senior competition plus events for novice throwers. Contact Bruce Carter (03) 9300 2374

Sunday, 2nd February .. Seamist Victorian Championships at Seamist Palamino Stud..a senior comp plus novice championship. Contact Bruce Carter (03) 9300 2374

Sunday, 2nd February .. NSW State Titles at Oxford Falls..starting 8 a.m.!!Contact: Br.B.Thomas (02) 9369 0675. Sponsor: BONT SKATES. Fred Hollows Trophy.

Sunday, 2nd March ..Central Coast Championships at Gosford at 10 a.m. Contact:Br.Thomas. Arthur Janetzki Trophy.

Sat. & Sun. 22nd and 23rd March..Australian National Championships at Knox Garden Reserve at KNOXFIELD. Contact: Rob Croll (03) 9887 5085 Janetzki Trophy.

Sunday, 13th April .. Eastern Suburbs Championships at Waverley at 9 a.m. Contact Br.Thomas. Bunny Read Trophy.

Sunday, 4th May .. Janetzki Albury Championships at Xavier College, Albury, at 8 a.m. Contact Br.Thomas.

Sept. or Oct.,..Blacktown Championships. Contact: Geoff Gray (02) 9629 3531.

Sunday, 9th November ..9th Blue Mountains Championships at Mulgoa at 9 a.m..Contact: Br.Thomas. Peggy Thomas Memorial Trophy.

I recently purchased some novelty boomerangs from a French firm by the name of ARTABOO. I am pleased to report that all the boomerangs flew well and were well finished, being made of good Finnish birch ply. I am pleased to say that I can recommend this firm should you be interested in purchasing some of their novel shapes.

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ARTABOO - TARIFS PUBLICS



SR	FE	WD	P	SIR
MCS	B5		REV	
B4	CS	D	VIT	GG
C4	CV	O		C1
FA	MSR		EX	C04

REF	NOM	PORTEE	DESSCRIPTIF	NIVEAU	DECORATION	PRIX*
SR	Spécial Rattrapage	~ 25 m	Le plus facile à lancer et à rattraper		Guirlande/dragon	70 FF
MCS	Mini Chauve-Souris	10-12 m	Faible portée. très précis	TRES	Couleurs	70 FF
B4	Brother 4	~ 20 m	Vol circulaire très précis	FACILE	Salamandre/serpent/kangourou	80 FF
C4	Clown	~ 15 m	Tripale		Clown/ninja/musicien	90 FF
FA	Faucon	~ 15 m	Multipale. forme originale. lancer droit		Bois naturel/flamme	110 FF
FE	Félin	~ 20 m	Multipale original. polyvalent		Peinture	140 FF
B5	Brother 5	~ 25 m	A lancer fort. aime le vent		Salamandre/serpent/kang./abo	100 FF
CS	Chauve-Souris	~ 25 m	Vol circulaire. n'aime pas le vent	FACILE	Couleurs	140 FF
CV	Cerf-Volant	~ 20 m	A lancer haut. droit et pas trop fort		Couleurs	150 FF
MSR	Mini Spécial Rattrapage	~ 20 m	Très précis. vol circulaire. lancer vif		Guirlande	60 FF
WD	Wind'Eau	~ 20 m	Multipale. aime le vent. lancer fort		Bois/dauphin/abo	140 FF
D	Dune	~ 35 m	Vol circulaire. précis. lancer fort		Damier/flash/rose/abo	120 FF
O	Originel	~ 20 m	Inspiré de l'équerre. gare au rattrapage	SPORT	Bois naturel	120 FF
P	Poulpe	~ 15 m	Multipale. lancer droit. n'aime pas le vent		Bois naturel/peinture	120 FF
REV	Réversible	20-25 m	Vole sur les deux faces.		Couleurs	160 FF
VIT	Vitesse	20 m	Lancer fort et droit. gare au rattrapage	COM	Couleurs	170 FF
EX	Explorer	40-60 m	Initiation à la distance. peut se lester	PE	Couleurs	160 FF
SIR	Sirène	50-70 m	Pour les gros bras. supporte le grand vent	FI	Sirène	210 FF
GG	Grande Gueule	70 m et +	Lanceurs très confirmés. peut se lester	TION	Couleurs	180 FF
C1	Clown	3 à 5 m	Boo d'intérieur ou de jardin. pas de vent		Ninja/musicien	30 FF
C04	Clown	1 à 2 m	Boo d'intérieur exclusivement	INTERIEUR	Ninja/musicien	30 FF

* les prix s'entendent à l'unité et TTC

Tous les boomerangs ARTABOO sont en bois : bouleau de FINLANDE contreplaqué aviation.
Création, fabrication et décoration à la main dans notre atelier.
Toutes les références (sauf GG) existent pour droitier ou gaucher.

Pour toute commande, joindre le règlement - 20 FF de frais de port. Adresser à : **ARTABOO**
« Pillelardit »
40120 LACQUY
Tel 58 93 93 54/Fax 58 93 92 10
FRANCE



(Queensland preferably).

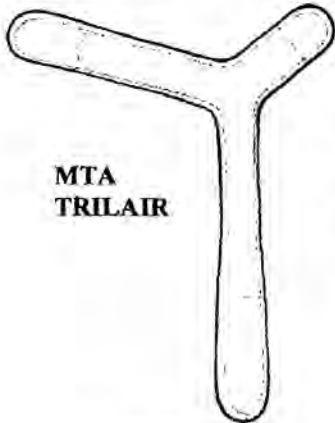
Finally, does anyone have any info on the Australian Boomerang Association - a contact address at least, I think the one I have is incorrect. Thanks for any help.

Russell Hansen | email: Russell.Hansen@qed.qld.gov.au
QLD Department of Education | or: rhansen@powerup.com.au
Brisbane, Australia

"CLASSIC"



Early Bird



MTA
TRILAIR

LACY SEVEN
AUSSI ROUND RANG



I responded to this message myself, I hope some contact to the Brisbane BAA scene has been established. Minutes after my message Brian Keep wrote a response message from Singapore and I was glad to have an opportunity to exchange some e-mail with him. He wrote, that he is still throwing boomerangs but because of the heat and humidity not more than 20 Minutes at a time.

The RANG-LIST produces 20 to 50 messages a day so I can't really complain about a lack of mail anymore. The majority of participants are from USA, where internet access seems to be more common than over here. The BAA got a link on Harri's webpage, but when you click it, you find only Bruce Carters postal address. I hope our "internet presence" will be a bit more impressive in the near future. Some more links from Ted Baileys home page :

Vincent Gaudin's Boom Plans - Vincent maintains one of the best boomerang web pages of all. Here, you can download plans for specialty type boomerangs.

The boomerang pictures come from this web page.

B AGGRESSIVE - An excellent web page dedicated to the long distance event. This site was constructed by Lorenz Gubler and Tibor Horvath of Switzerland. It has excellent information about long distance boomerangs: history, records, materials, plans, airfoils, science, boom links, and a photo gallery.

Gerhard Bertling's Boom Page - This is a clever and very well done web site. You are greeted with a floating boomerang in motion (using Netscape 2.0). Gerhard includes an online color catalog of his beautiful strip laminated boomerangs and a page for Bumerang Welt, an excellent German language newsletter. There is even an English summary page. Gerhard's web page has addresses of other German throwers.

Sydney 2000 Olympic Games - GUESS WHAT THE AUSSIES PUT IN THE Olympic 2000 Games logo - a BOOMERANG!!!

The new logo can be seen at the top of the page.

If you've got e-mail yourself, please write to me, I will publish a list of BAA e-mail addresses in the bulletin.

My own e-mail address: redgum@compassnet.com.au

Günter Wandtke

Hot Links to the Wonderful World of Boomerangs Boomerangs and the Internet

Your hobby is boomerang throwing ? You've got a computer? Get on the internet !
As a gateway I recommend Ted Baileys excellent homepage with the following address :
<http://ic.net/~tbailey/Boomerang.html> . Here you find these headlines:

**World Boomerang Association / Bailey Boomerangs / Boomerang News / Boom Software /
Boomerang Communications / Boomerang Calendar / Boomerang USA Clubs / USBA .**
You only need to click with your mouse on any of those headlines to have access to a world of
information. But the best feature is a long list with links to other home pages all over the world.
An example of the original text from Ted's web site :

***Finnish Boomerang Association-** The home page of the Finnish Boomerang Association. This
web site has the best list of links of any page. Harri Pietila really does his homework. He finds
and lists just about everything that has anything to do with boomerangs. Definitely make a link
to this page and check it regularly.*

One click on the link printed in blue takes us to Finland where we find a big list of boomerang
makers from all over the world. Some have their own web site, others can be contacted by
e-mail or we find at least a postal address on a seperate list. Recently Harri Pietila was
conducting the official design contest for the new logo of the WORLD BOOMERANG
ASSOCIATION on his web page. It was possible to view all entries and vote by e-mail.
Also from this site you can subscribe to RANG-LIST, an e-mail server, which distributes all
incoming messages to all subscribers. You can post any questions you've got, and receive
expert advice from other subscribers. The other day I received this message:

Russell Hansen wrote:

*Howdy people,
I'm looking for some advice from anyone who's successfully created their own boomerangs.
I'm considering getting either a 9" Bandsaw, a 16" scrollsaw or a
hand-held Jigsaw. Could anyone tell me which would be best for plywood boomerang
construction.*

Also, does anyone know of any suppliers of 'Aircraft' quality plywood in Australia





AUSTRALIA

BLUE MOUNTAINS BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS 1996

at Winbourne, Mulgoa, on 10th Nov.

COMPETITORS	ACCURACY	AUSSIE RD.	FAST CATCH	OVER-ALL
Ken Arthur	26/2nd	7/8th	1 ct./8th	18/7th
B.Porres McRae	18/e6th*	3/10th	DNC	26.5/9th
Marg.Patterson	21/3rd	15/6th	2 ct./7th	16/5th
Shirley Lewry	14/8th	6/9th	DNC	27/10th
Br.R.Shoebridge	18/e6th	12/7th	50.50/3rd	16.5/6th
Peter Lewry	10/e10th	16/5th	63.00/4th	19.5/8th
Terry Patterson	28/1st	46/2nd	3 ct./6th	9/2nd
Tony Butz	11/9th	47/1st	4 ct./5th	15/4th
Br.Mark Varbongoi	10/e10th	0/11th	0 ct./9th	30.5/11th
Gunter Wandtke	19/e4th	33/3rd	34.00/1st	8.5/1st
Br.Brian Thomas	19/e4th	19/4th	48.50/2nd	10.5/3rd

LADIES' CHAMPION: Margaret Patterson

NEAREST THE PIN: Br.Porres McRae 715 mm. JANETZKI BOOKLET.

PERFECT 10 THROW JANETZKI MEDALS: Br.Porres McRae; Terry Patterson.

JUNIORS

Mark Patterson	6/e6th	0/10th
Allan Bailey	17/1st	6/e7th
Megan Patterson	4/e8th	10/6th
Kellie Lewry	2/10th	14/3rd
Wayne Patterson	11/3rd	24/2nd
Sally Lewry	4/e8th	6/e7th
Willis Ata	8/5th	4/9th
Scott Raymond	11/4th	13/4th
Michael Lendrum	6/e6th	11/5th
Tim Lendrum	16/2nd	49/1st

SUICIDE was won by
Michael Lendrum.

GIRLS' CHAMPION: Kellie Lewry.



A strong wind blew most of the day at over 30 kph. MTA and Suicide in the Seniors was abandoned by a unanimous vote. In capturing his first ever Aussie Round title, Tony Butz won the PEGGY THOMAS MEMORIAL TROPHY. Prizes were 20 Lotus Boomerangs made by Terry Patterson and decorated by Br.Thomas. Despite the wind, people enjoyed the day. Once again our thanks goes to the Christian Brothers of Mulgoa for the use of the property and oval. Br.Mark Varbongoi is the first New Guinea native to join the Brothers (in 1955) and this was his first comp.

THE DAVE MARTIN STORY by Br. Brian M. Thomas,



Dave was one of a rare breed. He was a man of God, a very loving family man, a great sport and one very interested in sharing his gifts with others. Generosity was second nature to him. He was the ideal bloke to have for a mate and a friend. And he was a very creative boomerang maker. His loss adds to the void being created in the boomerang world in the last few years with the deaths of Bunny Read, Joe Lewry, John Mauro (USA), Herb Smith (England), Arthur Janetzki and now Dave. We hope that those filling the gaps are just as dedicated to our wonderful sport as these fine men have been. We badly need their type.

Where did it all begin for Dave? He was born in Hunters Hill (Sydney), on 18th February 1930, the only child of lovely Dawn Martin, who is known affectionately to us all as just simply "Ma". Ma is a skilled person herself. She has embroidered well over a hundred beautiful pictures, which are shared among her family and friends. So you can see that Dave was off to a flying start in the skills area with such a talented Mum! His whole life has been spent in the Sydney area. He grew up in the Gladesville and Ryde areas taking part in any sport that was going. He even started into boomerangs at a young age. Other sports soon crowded this out though and the skill was to arise later in life.

Cycling became very important to Dave and he was not only a champion rider, but an excellent coach too. He coached one rider to Runner Up in the Empire Games. Sailing was also another of his keen interests. This even became part of his profession when he built sailing boats specialising in VJs, Herons and Enterprises. It was about this time that Dave saw someone throwing a boomerang again. He inspected the boomerang carefully and then decided he would make one. The VJs had been made from plywood, but fibreglass was now taking over and there was spare plywood available to Dave. He made a beautiful job of it only to find it dived straight into the ground!! When he showed it to the fellow who had been throwing, the chap dissolved into tears of laughter... Dave had made perfect profiles..for a left hander!! That was about 25 years ago. In the years since he has more than made up for that first mistake with top class boomerangs that have been sort all round the world, even making appearances on the worldwide Internet!



Other sports also claimed their fair share of Dave's time and talents. He played soccer till he was 45 and coached junior teams. Cricket, bowls, rugby league and snow skiing were just some of the other areas to which he shed his enthusiasm. In sailing he coached three Australian Champions. Dave was what we call a good all-rounder, yet he was not a big man. He would be classed in the small brigade, being about the same height as Chet Snouffer, but slighter in build. (He never attempted a back somersault when I was there!!)

About ten years ago he decided to try making boomerangs commercially. As those in the trade well know the main skill is not making a good boomerang, but to be able to find outlets through which to sell them. Sadly the 'junky' boomerangs have cornered most of the market, which makes it very hard for honest buyers to get a real returning boomerang. He achieved a breakthrough in this area when he was doing a

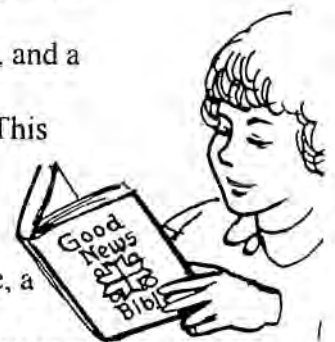
demonstration for B & D Roller doors at Manly Beach, since another top thrower heard about his existence and checked his boomerangs out. This was former Australian Champion Paul Bryden, who opened a Boomerang Shop in the very lucrative Sydney Rocks area, where thousands of tourists pour through every week. Paul, being a thrower, only sold good working boomerangs, so much of his stock was Dave's products. The Didjeridoo Shop in The Rocks also carried Dave's boomerangs. A few years ago Paul's shop disappeared when the whole area was redesigned and rents raised! Paul has since moved to England. Gledswood Tourist Park was another big client of Dave's. Dave's boomerangs are noted for the fine burnt art work that is done on them, and their excellent flight.

The Boomerang Throwing Association of NSW came to Dave's attention through Paul Bryden. This was about ten years ago. However, for some time Dave didn't attend competitions. His most consistent period was between 1992 and 1994. During this time he won the 1993 NSW State MTA title, was Runner-up in Accuracy twice, Aussie Round twice, Fast Catch once and was third in CCWID. This was all done when he was in his mid sixties. He was 67 when he died on October 20th, 1996. His lovely wife, Merle, was often our recording official at these competitions. Merle is a Champion Bowls player in her own right. Dave's throwing career came to an end when he had to have a few operations. He never really recovered from these and finally cancer took hold of his liver and bowels.

Despite his terrible illness Dave continued to think of other people. Two weeks before he died he knew the end was not far off. He summoned the Baptist minister, Karl Faase, and gave him strict instructions about the funeral service. He said he didn't want it to be a sad occasion. Karl was to tell some jokes and the funny side of his life. He wanted people to dress in bright clothes, not black, and he wanted everyone to have the delicious dessert Pavlova after the service, which we all dutifully did! I can honestly say it was the happiest funeral service I have ever attended. A very large crowd attended the Gynea Baptist Church to say farewell to their good friend. The boomerang confraternity was represented by Ken Arthur, Betty Easton and Br. Brian Thomas. The minister pointed out the fullness of Dave's life. His employment covered being a bootmaker with Ma's brother, serving in Chesterfield's furniture store, working in our nuclear re-actor facility at Lucas Heights, making sailing boats, and making boomerangs. He also managed to raise a fine family of two sons, John and Phil, and a daughter Loray. All have children giving Dave seven grandchildren. Fortunately one of the grandsons, Guy, learnt from Dave in the last few years. This means the Martin boomerangs can continue.



In our pagan Australia, religion is not too fashionable. This never worried Dave, a committed Baptist. He continued to remind people of the God he loved, in his instruction sheets for throwing. He included two scripture quotes. Some said they were out of place there. Not for Dave. God was a part of his life and this included boomerang throwing. Now he has made the biggest return of all. He has gone back to the God who made and loved him, and we shall all miss him. Goodbye, old friend.



Br. Brian M. Thomas, CFC, Australian National Boomerang Coach. 1996.



FIRST CITY OF BLACKTOWN BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS ... 8th Sept. 1996.

RESULTS



COMPETITORS	ACCURACY	AUSSIE RD.	FAST CATCH	MTA 100
Geoff Gray	16 / 7th	14 / 11th	46.89 / 2nd	13.25 / 6th
Betty Easton	1.5 / 13th	DNC	DNC	DNC
Br. Brian Thomas	18 / e4th	22 / e8th	59.06 / 5th	18.46 / 4th
Patricia Gray	31 / 1st*	0 / 13th	2ct / 12th	DNC
Adam Carroll	30 / 2nd	29 / e4th	3ct / e8th	29.19 / 1st*
Terry Patterson	18 / e4th	26 / 6th	48.61 / 3rd	0 / e9th
Gunter Wandtke	18 / e4th	39 / 2nd	40.50 / 1st*	19.79 / 3rd
Marg. Patterson	21 / 3rd	34 / 3rd	3ct / e8th	0 / e9th
Ken Arthur	4 / e11th	43 / 1st*	67.63 / 6th	14.60 / 5th
Br. Rod Shoebridge	14 / 8th	25 / 7th	51.48 / 4th	28.20 / 2nd
Tony Butz	4 / e11th	22 / e8th	3ct / e8th	0 / e9th
Keith Andersen	7 / 10th	29 / e4th	4ct / 7th	10.44 / 7th
Peter Lewry	12 / 9th	18 / 10th	3ct / e8th	13.25 / 6th
Shirley Lewry	0 / 14th	8 / 12th	DNC	DNC

JUNIORS

Mark Patterson	6 / 6th	4 / 6th	#
Megan Patterson	10 / 3rd#	10 / 4th	throw
Wayne Patterson	10 / 4th#	6 / 5th	off
Michael Lendrum	20 / 2nd#	33 / 1st*	
Tim Lendrum	20 / 1st#	21 / 3rd	
Scott Raymond	8 / 5th	28 / 2nd	



LADIES' CHAMPION: Margaret Patterson

GIRLS' CHAMPION: Megan Patterson

This was part of the 5th BLACKTOWN CITY GAMES, which has previously been run in 1979, 1981, 1987 and 1991. The aim was to involve people in as many sports as possible over two weeks. This was the first time boomerang throwing was run. On the Opening Day, Sunday 25th August, a competition was held for beginners. Quite a few people learnt to throw and 18 entered the competition. RESULTS: Seniors: 1st Andrew Gray; 2nd Betty Easton; 3rd Julie Borthwick; 4th Bill Borthwick & Shirley Lewry; 6th Kathy Borthwick; 7th Colin Gale; 8th Michelle Foster; 9th Mary Gale.

Juniors: 1st Scott Raymond; 2nd David Borthwick; 3rd Michael Lendrum; 4th Nathan Manadue; 5th Lee Smith; 6th Tim Lendrum; 7th Leon Foster; 8th Jay Younger; 9th Marc Foster.

Blacktown City Games

FIFTH WESTPOINT

BLACKTOWN CITY GAMES



"BE IN IT FOR THE BEAR"

24th AUGUST - 8th SEPTEMBER, 1996





Ready, set, logo for Sydney

I AM one of those people who steadfastly believes that here in Sydney, we will stage the most wonderful Olympic Games of them all.

We live in such a gorgeous city, on the most breathtakingly beautiful harbour in the world.

To the east, our marvellous beaches. Rolling white breakers. Sands of gold.

To the west, the stately grandeur of those mountains of mysterious blue.

Sydney, you've given us everything.

It's like someone presented us with the most magnificent mansion, in which to hold the biggest party of our lives.

The guests are waiting. All we've got to do is put it together. All we've got to do is get it right.

This, of course, is not without difficulty.

We have just seen that in Atlanta.

Poor Atlanta, though. Even if she had managed things better, even if she got it right, she was never going to be a patch on a knockout like Sydney.

The days of Scarlett O'Hara are gone with the wind. Compared to saucy, spectacular Sydney, Atlanta is just a friendly plain Jane who works at the all-night diner.

We certainly got it right with our official Olympic logo, unveiled over the weekend. What a bobby dazzler. What a little ripper she is.

Sometimes we sell ourselves short in this country.

Sometimes we let the cynics and the knockers get to us.

But this logo puts a spring in our steps. It's not just good. It is stunning.

The more you look at this logo, the more it grows on you. The more you like it.

It represents so many things we would like to say about ourselves, without having those things shoved down our throats.

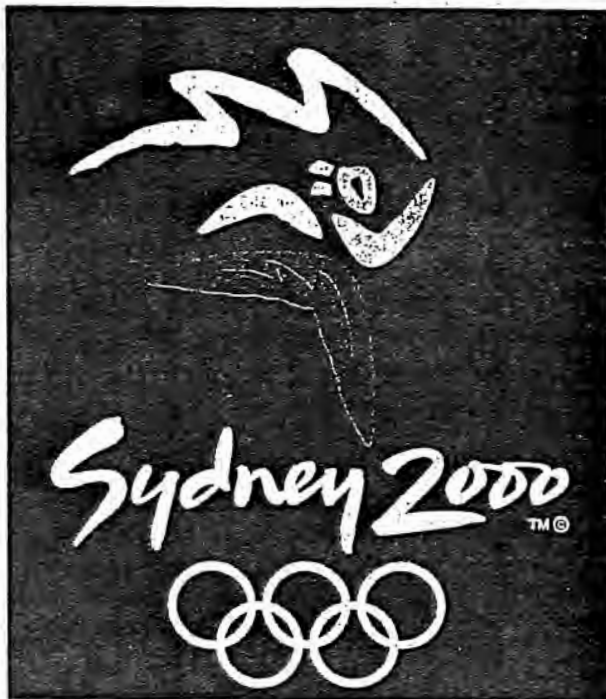
It represents so many things we would like to share with the world.

I cannot imagine a warmer, fresher, more evocative set of symbols.

It simplifies our complexity. It talks of the dreamtime. While it



Mike Gibson



celebrates our beginnings, it bounds into our future.

The athlete made of boomerangs. The torch from the Opera House sails. The ochres of red and yellow, the white, and the harbour blue.

I can't get over it. What a classic it is.

Here at last a symbol that expresses the hopes and dreams of us all, a logo that says Sydney is taking the Olympic torch, with vibrance and gusto, to the world.

The athlete may be a bit thick

around the thighs. But you can't have a skinny boomerang.

This is a strong, young, healthy Australian, stretching out and saying, "Hey, come on and join me," for the run that will take us to Sydney for the Games in 2000.

For the adventure that will take us to the next millennium.

There is no confusion. Nothing to feel guilty about. No reason to cringe.

This is a logo that is friendly and confident and proud. A logo

that unites us. A logo that tells the world who and what we are.

It is a logo that makes us feel good about ourselves.

The great thing about our logo is that it makes you realise yet again just what marvellous things we can do in this country.

If this is the standard we can expect with our Olympic preparations and facilities, we can look forward to a howling good Games.

Our logo exudes talent and energy.

Anyone who has been to our Olympic swimming pool at Homebush will tell you we got it right. Talent and energy have provided us with the finest swimming centre in the world.

Providing we apply ourselves to the tasks ahead demonstrating the same sort of talent and energy, in 2000 Sydney will welcome the world — as I said — to the most wonderful Olympic Games of them all.

It's funny, you know.

For years, we've been arguing about a new national flag. For years, we've tried to work out the sort of flag we'd like for our own.

This logo mightn't be the new national flag, but it embodies so many of those things that we want to say about ourselves.

How it feels to have run on that journey of self-discovery. How it feels to be truly Australian.

Perhaps from the 2000 Olympics, from the experiences, the excitement, the exuberance and the emotion, the spirit of our new flag will emerge.

Perhaps before that.

How marvellous it would be to see it flying over the stadium on that day.

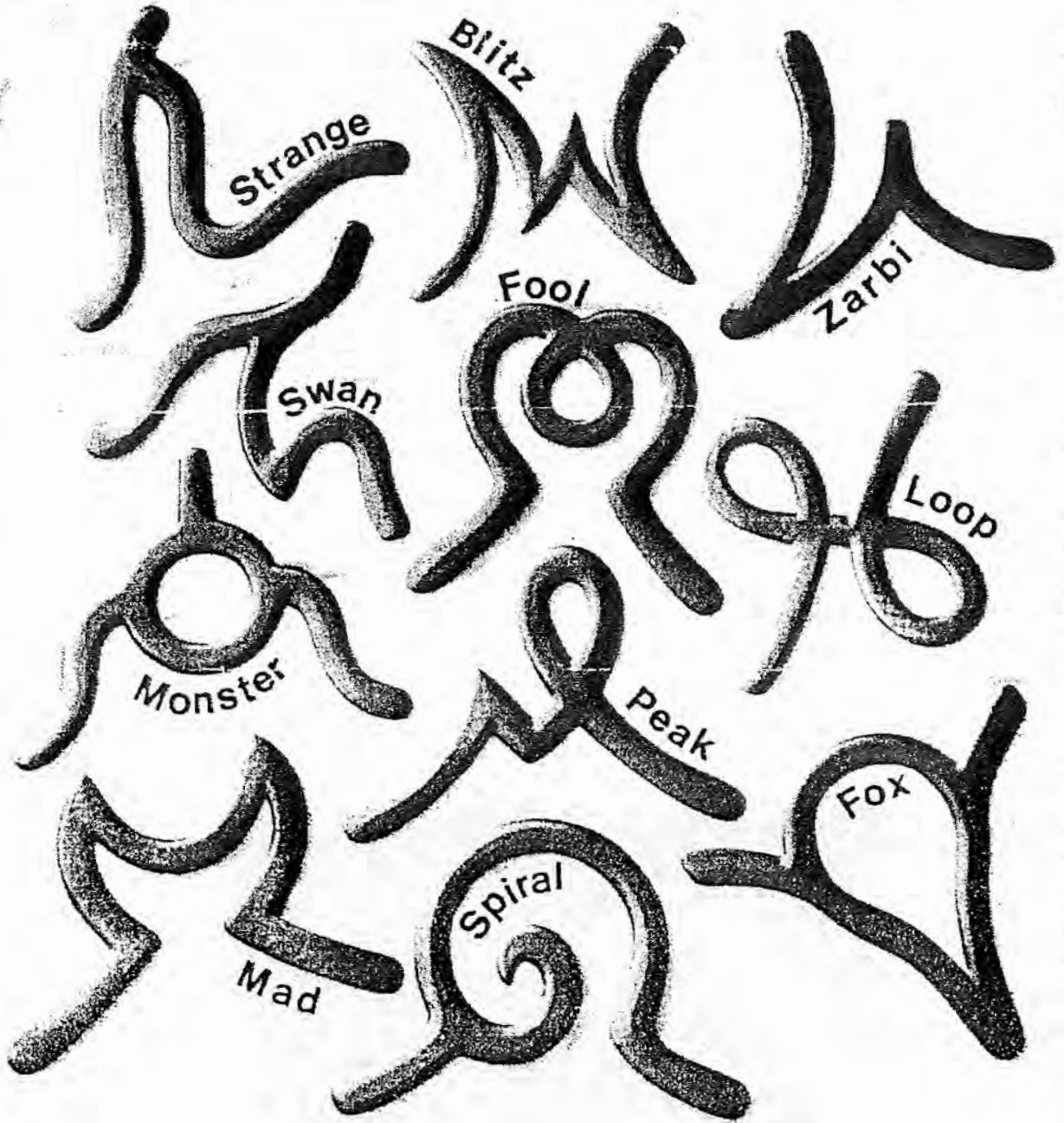
BOOMERANG NEWS

Issue Number 31

An International Boomerang Newsletter

November 1996

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WHAT NEXT ?

FINLAND

Harri Pietilä sent us the results of the 1996 Finnish Open which was held in Kuopio on 21 September. There were 8 contestants in the Novice and 4 in the Open category. Events in the Open category included: Accuracy, Fast Catch, Australian Round and Endurance. USBA 1996 rules and the European Ranking system were used. The competition was very even with Harri Pietilä, Heikki Niskanen, Jorma Niskanen and Jan Ahlfors taking first through fourth placings respectively. Jan has been throwing since 1962 and has only recently learned of other throwers! Also, congratulations to the Finnish Boomerang Association as they are now an official association in Finland. The officials include:

President: Harri Pietilä; Vice-President: Jorma Niskanen; Secretary: Heikki Niskanen; and Treasurer: Tiina Niskanen. FIBA has a WWW home page: <http://astro.utu.fi/~hpietila/boom/fiba/>

FRANCE

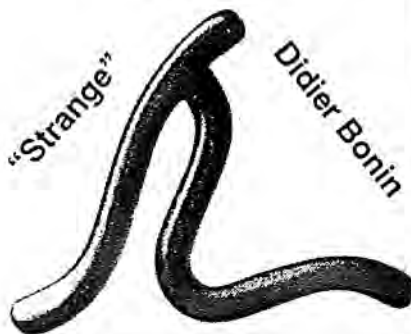
Didier Bonin is one of the most enthusiastic and creative boomerang designers in all of Europe. In December 1995, Didier came up with approximately 60 new and exciting shapes that were as different from previously designed booms as he could possibly make. He eventually narrowed down his inventory to eleven favorite shapes that were the best performers. Didier has decided to

market these as a series to collectors. The eleven shapes are depicted on the cover of this issue of *Boomerang News*. They are moderately priced from \$40 to \$55. Didier spends a lot of time carving and finishing these, so they are well worth the price.

The editor sampled the "Zarbi" and found it to be both an excellent flyer and a jewel to look at. The upper surface has a high gloss finish in air brushed metallic tones. The underside is painted bright orange and is signed and dated. Undercutting is appropriately placed on all three blade tips. The "Zarbi" flies a 30 metre perfect circle and has a quick drop at the end of it's highly accurate flight, making it especially well suited for the Accuracy event. However, you will want to display these rather than risk damaging them on the field.

You can find out more about Didier's "Ultimate Shape" boomerangs, as well as his other fine boomerang products, by writing to:

Didier Bonin
8, Place Centrale
21800 Quétingney
France



"Zarbi" by Didier Bonin

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This publication is produced approximately monthly. Every issue is packed with 8 pages containing all the information you need to know to keep current with the ever changing world of boomeranging. The distribution of BN currently stands at 137 USA and 66 overseas subscribers. Eight issues of "Boomerang News" costs only \$10 in the USA; \$12 in Canada and \$20 overseas. You can subscribe by sending payment (make check or M.O. out to Ted Bailey) with your name, address & phone number to:

Ted E. Bailey
P. O. Box 6076
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

email: tbailey@ic.net
<http://ic.net/~tbailey/boomerang.html>

Boomerangs in Antiquity

by Ben Ruhe

Just how old is the boomerang? Simple question, but the answer is not so easy.

First of all, let's be clear about the subject. The boomerang encompasses two distinct objects---the killer missile stick and the more benign, aerodynamically different return boomerang. The oldest missile stick yet found was discovered in a cave in southern Poland and made of mammoth tusk ivory. It has been dated to 20,300 years before present. The oldest returner comes from a Wy-

rie Swamp peat bog in South Australia and is 10,000 years old. Actually, nine were found, three of them complete, along with the stone tools used to make them.

That's the physical evidence so far. But is the boomerang in fact older, and if so how much older?

Rather than digging in the ground, as archeologists typically do, the tentative answer comes from elsewhere---the world of art, that is to say incised rocks, or petroglyphs, and wall paintings.

Margaret Nobbs of Hazelwood Park, South Australia and her dating specialist, Dr. Ronald Dorn of Arizona State University, Tempe,

investigated petroglyphs from the Olary province of South Australia. The site is 60 some miles from the mining town of Broken Hill. They found many carvings at Karolta and nearby, among them arcs the exact shape and size of certain missile sticks. In a personal communication, Nobbs said one pair of arcs yielded radiocarbon AMS dates of 42,100 years, the other 43,140 plus or minus 3,000 years. Elsewhere in the area these boomerang-like arcs were dated in the 30,000 year range.

The dating was achieved by testing the varnish that has coated the rocks over the centuries. Dr.

Dorn believes the dates quoted are minimum ones, and the actual dates may be significantly older.

So, are these arcs the oldest representations of the boomerang missile stick yet discovered, or are they simply abstract geometric designs? It is impossible to know at this point.

George Chaloupka, curator of rock art at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, and an internationally acknowledged expert in the field, has clearer evidence to work with. He studies wall paintings, of which there are a vast array in the Northern Territory, as well as in the Kimberleys to the southwest. These paintings range in age from 50,000 to 8,000 years old, the so-called Pre-Estuarine period in northern Australia when that continent was still linked by a land bridge to New Guinea on the north because of the ice age. The land bridge is now submerged un-

der the Arafura Sea. There are many styles of painting found, beginning with hand stencils and impressions of grasses. The next of several succeeding styles down through the millennia show large animals and humans (so-called Bradshaw figures) in graceful silhouette brandishing what are unmistakably boomerangs. Boomerangs keep appearing in subsequent styles and in fact one of these is known as the Simple Figures With Boomerangs Style because of the ubiquitous presence of the device.

Over the centuries, the types of boomerangs depicted has been very wide, ranging from acutely angled beaked models to conventional throwsticks to small, well angled objects that may well be returners. Accurate dating of the oldest boomerang images is a problem because they were typically executed in ochre paints containing no organic material that

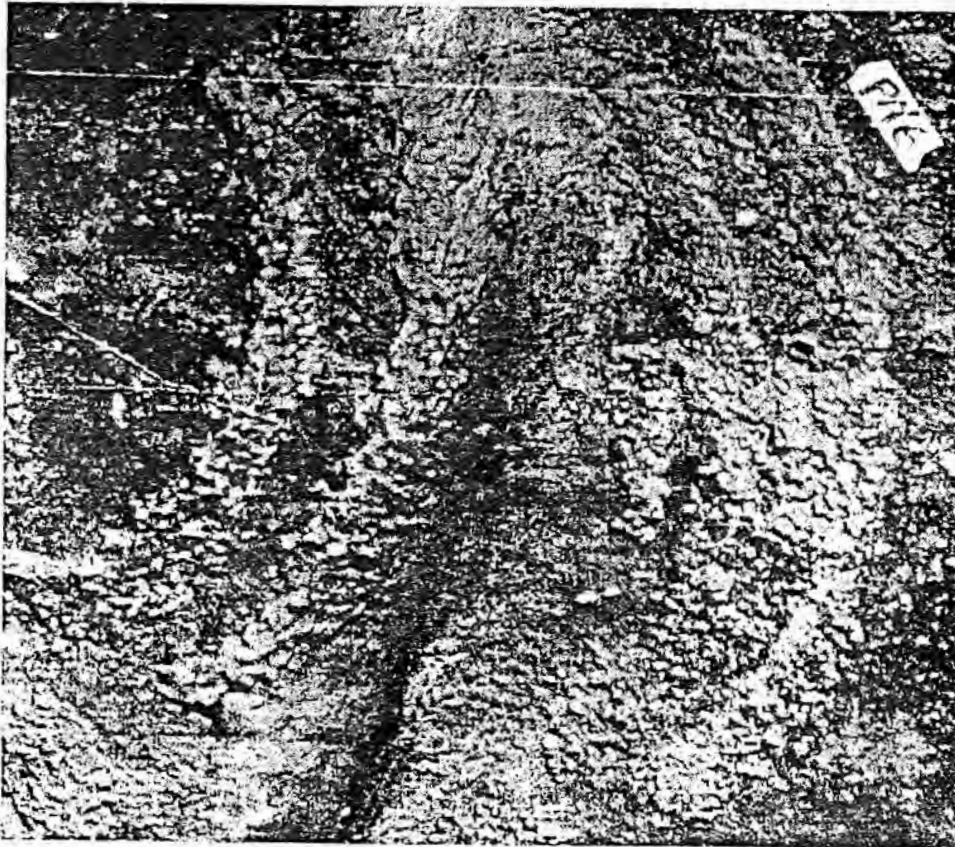
can be used for dating purposes. However, the number of sites is so great, their geographic range so extensive, and the archeological evidence on various cultures so detailed, Chaloupka is prepared to say something rather radical on the subject.

In a personal communication to the author, Chaloupka comments: "As the boomerang stencils in Arnhem Land represent perhaps all of the basic types of this weapon (the boomerang) recorded in historical times across the Australian continent, it is possible that some of the stencils may represent returning boomerangs.

"The accurate dating of these stencils is problematic as they have been executed in red paint containing no organic material that could be used in dating. However, they first appear in the early Pre-Estuarine styles, so that circumstantial evidence suggests they may be 20,000 years old or earlier."

Returners 20,000 years old or older! That at least doubles the age of the Wyrie Swamp finds and is quite a startling scientific surmise.

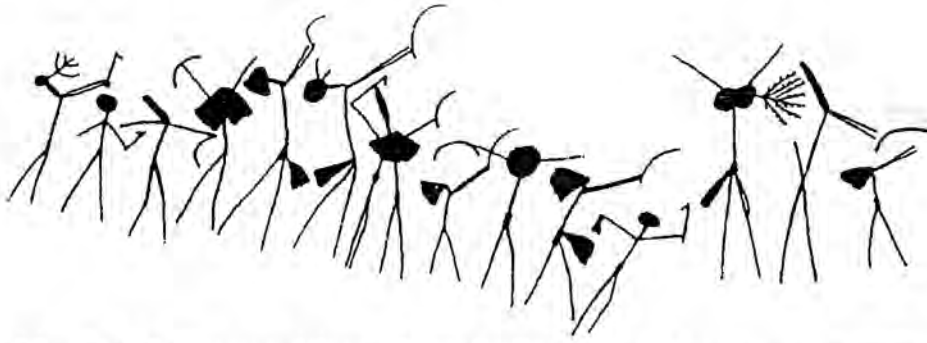
Chaloupka in his large, beautifully illustrated book *Journey in Time: The World's Longest Continuing Art Tradition* (Reed Books) points out that all the more



Two pairs of "boomerang" arcs in This petroglyph from Olary province, South Australia are dated at 43,140 & 42,100 years before present. The dating accuracy is $\pm 3,000$ years.



Coastline during last ice age



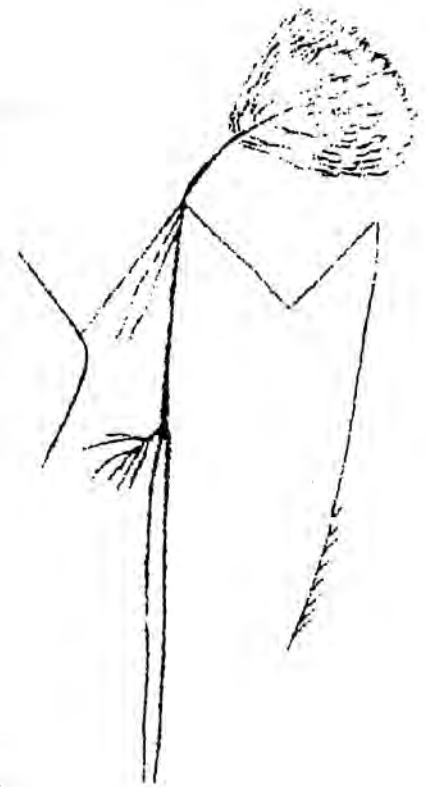
Many of the compositions of simple figures with boomerangs style depict scenes of conflict. The antagonists, armed usually with fighting picks and boomerangs engage in hand-to-hand combat.

Location: Dangurrung.

prominent Australian forms of the boomerang, found in recent times to be unique to different parts of the continent, were present during the Pre-Estuarine period in Arnhem Land and in the Kimberleys and that they also occurred in New Guinea over the now submerged land bridge to that large island. This is documented in the rock art of the tiny Chasm Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria, where there are perhaps more boomerang stencils than in the plateau region.

Stencils recorded in Teluk Berau (MacCluer Gulf) in the far northwest of Irian Jaya, the western half of New Guinea, suggest a common origin for the boomerang. Rock paintings recorded at 37 sites during the Frobenius Institute expedition to the MacCluer

Gulf in 1937-38 first suggested this link. Chaloupka himself conducted an exploratory investigation in the area and found the stencils noted by the Frobenius scientists as well as previously unknown wall painting sites in the Kaimana region some 120 miles south of the MacCluer Gulf. "This is a virtually unknown and archeologically unexplored area," says Chaloupka. The Bisitari Bay art in its complexity is more akin to the Arnhem Land Plateau paintings than the MacCluer art, he comments. He urges detailed study of these finds, noting that an Arnhemlander could have as easily ranged afield to Bisitari in the north as to the Kimberleys in the southwest, where the wall art both in age and styles is very similar to

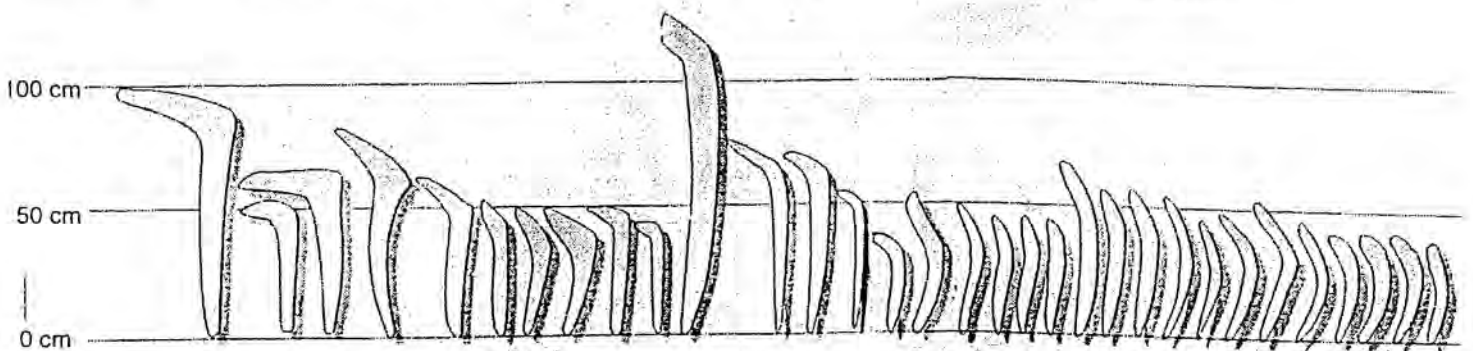


Another simple figure with a man holding a boomerang in one hand and a spear engaged in a spear thrower in the other.

Location: Maddjurnai

that of Arnhem Land.

In short, a whole promising area of research into the origins and antiquity of the boomerang--- both missile stick and returner--- is here indicated.



An array of stencilled boomerangs and boomerang-like objects arranged on the basis of general similarities. In this sequence, all of the more prominent Australian forms of this weapon can be identified.

Astonishingly, all the weapons found in historical times to be unique to different parts of the continent were present during the Pre-Estuarine period in Arnhem Land. That they also occurred over the now submerged landbridge to New Guinea is documented in the rock art of the tiny Chasm Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria, where there are perhaps more boomerang stencils than in the plateau region. Stencils recorded in Teluk Berau (MacCluer Gulf) in Irian Jaya suggest a common origin for this weapon.



The late Dave Martin (back) with his son, Phil, and grandson, Darren, holding typical top quality Martin boomerangs. His other grandson, Guy, continues to make these.

FAREWELL, DAVE MARTIN, A GREAT BOOMERANGER.