

# Boomerang Association of Australia

PRESIDENT JACK BYHAM, COBRAM  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: BR. B. M. THOMAS ROBERT SCHROEDER  
TREASURER: RALPH SINCLAIR  
SECRETARY: MORRIS MAXWELL, 45 ROSE STREET  
MCKINNON, VICTORIA 3204 AUSTRALIA

BOOMERANG BULLETIN No. 21. SEPTEMBER 1979

## CONTENTS::

- Page  
2.... ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT;  
Our first International function.
- 3.... BOOMERANG THROWING;  
An article by Carl Naylor of New York  
who has put into words the spirit of  
the boomerang art.
- 4.... MOOMBA CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT;  
This year, an attempt at a double function.
- 6.... AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS;  
A "comeback" of a well known name in  
boomerang circles.
- 9.... THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE ;  
A brief outline of proposed demonstration  
tour and matches.
- 10... SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP;  
A battle against the elements.
- 11... FIRST CITY OF SYDNEY CHAMPIONSHIPS;  
A significant step in development of  
Australian competitions.  
Also, growing Aboriginal interest.

## COMING EVENTS ::::

ALBURY CHAMPIONSHIPS;  
At Aquinas college grounds.  
On Sunday 30th. September.

DARLINGTON POINT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ;  
On Saturday 3rd. of November.

Please note that the local committee are leasing sites for various stalls etc.  
A fee of \$10 per site is required and anyone interested, for the selling of boomerangs et. should contact  
Mrs. Pauline Hunter, Secretary D.P.A.C.,  
12 McAllister St., Darlington Point, 2706.

\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1979 \*\*

This year's meeting became the first official International function of the Association: attended by Marjorie Gerrish, Jo and Carl Naylor, and Ben Ruhe of the United States, and Max Hoebe from Holland.

Chaired by President Jack Byham, the meeting featured an eloquent speech by Ces Burwell of Queensland and a proposal by Ben Ruhe of Washington for a team challenge round of exhibition events.

Results of more regular matters were:-

All office bearers re-elected to positions of 1978.

Membership fees for 1980-81 remain the same as this year being:-

Senior, \$5	Junior, \$3	Family, \$7
Life, \$100	Sustaining member, minimum	\$20.

A fee of \$2 was introduced as an annual subscription for non-members within Australia to receive copies of the "Boomerang Bulletin"

\*\* IN MEMORIAM \*\*

It was a great loss to the boomerang world when JOE TIMBERY passed away on the eighteenth of November last year, at the age of 66, Joe was one of the most widely known exponents of the boomerang art. Brother of the old Aboriginal King of La Perouse, Herbert Timbery, Joe came from a family of boomerang throwers and makers. His two daughters and son learnt the art from him and carry on the tradition. A memorial tribute for Joe was made during the Annual meeting by Duncan MacLennan of Sydney.

GEORGE HALL passed away on the seventh of May, at the age of 67. He was not a boomerang enthusiast but has given valuable assistance over the past few years during the Woomber and National Championships. He had also started to take on other duties for the Association. A socially conscious person, George was always "the life of the party" and helped to brighten up the functions he attended. The world is short of people like George but his humour and enthusiasm will remain with us.

## BOOMERANG THROWING.

by Carl Naylor Brooklyn, U. S. A.

To me, one of the mysterious aspects of the boomerang, is the fact that only a few people from diverse cultures, over a long history, have found it deeply and persistently appealing. Even today when thousands of boomerangs are bought each year by tourists, and nearly everyone recognises the familiar shape, we are a very small band of true enthusiasts, scattered around the world, who really understand and enjoy it, and care about its history, development and future. For most the boomerang is superficially experienced, easily forgotten, vaguely remembered.

Most museum collections gather dust in basements. The literature is fragmented, virtually non-existent. Aside from the work of Felix Hess, the boomerang has received very little serious, scientific scrutiny, certainly nothing appropriate to its aerodynamic complexity.

I must confess I rather enjoy all this neglect, since it makes me feel I am a privileged minority. There are not many of us who speak the language or know the terrain. Also you must admit the slow evolution of the boomerang argues the possibility of a dynamic future for it.

Consider Japanese swords for a moment. The craftsmen who made them were an integral part of the culture for hundreds of years, and examples of their finest work are now literally priceless -- official National Treasures owned by the Government. Here is craft raised to the level of art. Unfortunately, the real history of the sword may be almost over. Only a few subsidized makers are left to carry on the old standards, cherish the ancient skills.

If the boomerang as an art object has never reached the level of the Japanese swords, it may be because it has never received the dedicated attention it deserves. I can see no logical reason why a boomerang has less potential for aesthetic quality and complexity than a sword.

Most of us, of course, are more concerned with the sport, and the craft of the boomerang, than with art. But even the sport is deceptively simple. A child can learn to throw in a few minutes, and enjoy the magic of the return and the pleasure of the catch. And yet the challenge of throwing for combined distance and accuracy, under different wind conditions, is easy enough to hold the sustained interest of adult athletes. Beyond that is a persistent and deep satisfaction familiar to the devoted thrower, but impossible to fully describe or explain.

No special training or expensive equipment is necessary. All one needs is a shaped piece of wood, decorated as you wish or not, some space and

time. In a world of crowded space and hectic time, it seems to me the boomerang teaches the value of creative leisure and elbow room.

We have a sport for the future. In an age of teams and computers and violence, the boomerang teaches civilized competition, individual performance, more contemplative, more innocent pleasures; more awareness of nature, more consideration for others. You can't throw in a crowd. In an age of crowds, we have a sport for human beings.

In our time we have seen dreadful and destructive vehicles rocket through space and across our skies. The boomerang's arc is a parabola of innocence, of playfulness, of hope.

We hope that Al Gerhard's theory of the boomerang proves out; that the boomerang is indeed "a cone projection of a sphere". For then the boomerang would symbolize the circle of perfection, and beyond our fun and games, we might allow ourselves to dream again of peace and brotherhood. We might see in flight of the boomerang man's essential humanity, his longing to be whole, his yearning for universality.

OOOooooOOOooooOOOooooOOO

MOOMBA 1979.

Held at Flinders Park Melbourne opposite the Olympic Pool

This year the competition was run on the second Sunday of Moomba. As well as this a public lesson day for beginners was held on the first Sunday of Moomba.

The public lesson day was to give people who had not thrown a boomerang the opportunity to, and to possibly encourage them to compete the following Sunday. Over the day we had 8 different throwers arrive and give assistance in tutority. The day may have been more successful had the weather been more favourable. But I personally feel that two Sundays in a row are difficult to attend.

The Championships were held in good weather with some variation in wind strength, but generally excellent for a comp. We had 14 seniors in the open and 16 juniors competing.

The Junior Accuracy competition was won by Peter Maxwell with 24 points. Second was Michael Nicholson 18 points, and third was Michael Ovington on 17 points.

MOOMBA JUNIORSHIPSHIPS continued...

The Senior Accuracy competition saw Br Thomas and Andrew Webster a first upper drawing on 20 points each, with Chris Henzgen third on 19 points. In the throw off Br Thomas scored 10 points and Andrew scored 4 for second place

The Junior Specialized Catching comp. resulted in Michael Ovington taking 20 consecutive catches, followed by David Nicholson with 17 consecutive catches, and Micheal Nicholson with 9 consecutive catches Michael Nicholson took 5 catches in 59.0 secs to take out the shortest time for 5 catches competition.

The Senior Catching event was won by Chris Henzgen with 31 consecutive catches, Geoff Rawson was second with 30 consecutive catches, (its good to see Geoff back) and Albury young senior Chris Westall was third with 26 consecutive catches

The shortest time for 5 catches was won by Chris Henzgen with a brilliant effort of 41.0 secs which I believe sets a record at Moomba. Well done Chris for your great double.

Following is a listing of the results of the Junior General Comp. Heats.

J. Knight 8,	P. Baz, 12	R. Stanfield 14,
D. Venturoni 18	C. Riccardi 24	F. Riccardi 36.
L. Nelson 38	L. Knight 39	T. Ryan 47
M. Nicholson 50	D. Nicholson 51	M. Ovington 57,
P. Maxwell 64	S. Knight 78.	

Congratulations Sharon for consistant throwing and a good win.

The Senior General Competition Heats saw N Phongsavan score 8, P. Knight 10, P. Tong 22, A. Horlock 26, T. Touchin 27, B Boulton 35 A. Webster 48, R. Dobell 58, R. Croll 59, C. Henzgen 59, C Westall 62 D. Maxwell 74, M. Maxwell 78, Br. Thomas 81, G. Rawson 86, and B. Knight 87.

Billy Knight has won the title twice before and the competition was really set for a tight finish. Geoff Rawson had a disasterous start in the heats with 27 points, but came back strong in the second round. Br Thomas scored steadily which left the contest in Billy Knights hands. Bill could not rise to the occasion and Br Thomas took the title

Final Scores.

Geoff Rawson 155, Bill Knight 158, Br Thomas 169

We were honoured with the presence of Mrs. Marjorie Gerrish from Oregan. and Mr. Roy Wore M.B.E. who assisted with the presentations

OOOooooOOOooooOOOooooOOOoooo

\*\* AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1979 \*\*

This event was highlighted by the presence of International visitors and competitors from several of the United States and Holland. We had good Australian representation with competitors from South Aus. Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The weather remained fine throughout the day and ideal for the sport.

JOE LEWRY of Albury eclipsed all comers in the main event to become the new AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION.

SHARRON KNIGHT of Melbourne performed very well to take out first place in the Junior General Championship. Sharron is the first girl thrower to hold the JUNIOR AUSTRALIAN TITLE.

The senior ACCURACY comp was taken out by BR. THOMAS now of Sydney, who also achieved the CLOSEST RETURN. The highest JUNIOR ACCURACY was achieved by LINDSAY NELSON of Melbourne, closely followed by PERLA MILLS of Albury who made the CLOSEST RETURN of the Juniors.

BOB BURWELL of Queensland, current record holder, made the most CONSECUTIVE CATCHES and ROBERT CROLL of Melbourne had the shortest time for FIVE CATCHES.

GARY RYAN of Albury made the most CATCHES of the Juniors and MICHEAL NICHOLSON also of Albury made the shortest time for five of the Juniors.

BUNNY READ of Wycheproof made qualifying throws with his Jumbo sized boomerang to take out the LARGEST title.

BOB BURWELL produce a boomerang even smaller than last year's model and its flights qualified to take the SMALLEST title.


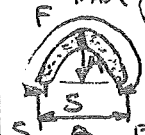
THE LONGEST DISTANCE competition was also won by BOB BURWELL

THANKS go to KEN OVINGTON of Albury who took the organisation of the comps on his shoulders and completed an excellent presentation. Ken also solicited local business houses to donate trophies and obtained a splendid array.

ON SUNDAY MORNING after the championships, a number of throwers gathered at one of the local grounds and with the influence of Ben Ruhe's suggestions of team events a game was developed on the spot which could be called the "Aussie rules marking match". This involved one boomerang being thrown and all in the group forming a "ruck" (disorderly pack) to take the "mark" (catch the boomerang). Whoever catches the 'rang throws it again and so on. The winner is the first person to take a pre-set number of marks.



Graphical details of the competitions follow...

SENIOR  
Competition  
(OPEN)

Competition	General Comp.	Accuracy Comp	Closed to Pin	Consecutive Catching	Shortest Time for 5 Catches	Distance Competition	Largest Boomerang	Smallest Boomerang
	Possible 160 Points	Possible 40 Points	mm	No	secs.	metres	mm 	mm 
1. Jack Burwell	70	13	1470	8	61.8	68		
2. Robert Burwell	86	13		52	59.2	78		74 75 130
3. Chris Heizen	83	2		3	120.0			
4. Andrew Webster	65	2		4	—			
5. Robert Croll	62	8		9	42.2			
6. Duncan MacLennan	42	4		2	—			
7. Bunny Read	61	8		26	70.4		1735 2282 696	
8. Max Hoeben <sup>Hiland</sup>	46	16		2	—			
9. Dennis Maxwell	50	10		4	163.0			
10. Chris Westall	82	21		35	48.0			
11. Leslie Janetzki	52	9		8	80.6			
12. Arthur Janetzki	51	0		5	93.0			
13. Robb Hamish	49	6		14	56.4			
14. William Knight	70	5		2	240.0			
15. Carl Naylor <sup>USA</sup>	32	2		4	160.9	70		
16. Leo Meier	49	6		25	54.1			
17. Jack Byham	46	5		7	61.7			
18. Brother Thomas	62	23	765	19	43.7			
19. John Zuber	54	8		6	69.2	64		
20. Ian Forsyth	16	5		7	54.6			
21. Barry Forsyth	93	3		22	69.4			
22. Rick Dobell	60	5		19	—	58		
23. Ben Ruhe <sup>USA</sup>	55	12		1	—			
24. Morris Maxwell	75	7		5	63.7			
25. Joe Lewry	103	3		2	—	60		
26. Rob Boulton	24							
27. Carol Lewry	73							

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION HIPPS c'td..

JUNIOR  
Competition

	General Comp Possible 160 Points	Accuracy Comp Possible 40 Points	Closest to Pin mm	Consecutive Catching No	Shortest Time for 5 Caught secs.	Distance Comp Metres	Largest Boomerang 	Smallest Boomerang 
1. Lindsay Nelson	47	21	2718	7	117.2			
2. Michael Doughton	48	10	1765	10	100.1			
3. Michael Gleeson	32	1		4	133.8			
4. Michael Nicholson	45	16		13	51.3			
5. Peter Maxwell	73	14	1755	3	153.4			
6. Sharron Knight	75	3		6	121.0			
7. Lindsay Knight	36	7		7	59.0			
8. Jeanine Knight	4	2		1	—			
9. Allan Forsyth	2	0		—	—			
10. Trevor Ryan	49	15		13	77.5			
11. Gary Ryan	40	0		18	55.7			
12. Tresa Mills	20	21	1225	—	—			
13								

oooo0000oooo0000oooo0000oooo

WANTED... A manager for a boomerang farm .....

A note from Lorin Hawes of Mudgeeraba, Queensland.....

I hope to sell my Gold Coast boomerang empire in the near future, and it is likely that the buyer will want to continue its operation while disposing of some of the fairly valuable real estate surrounding it.

While my present employees are extra capable of continuing our production, there is needed someone who can act as P R man, jack of all trades, expert thrower, business manager etc. I would guess that he'd be offered the use of a fairly comfortable 28 square house of five bedrooms, and a fairly reasonable salary.....

ANYONE INTERESTED ?



\*\* THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE \*\*

During the Annual meeting, Ben Ruhe of Washington informed us that he would be able to organise a team of tip throwers from his country if programmes could be organised for a series of "test matches" to be held throughout Australia.

Ben proposes that a number of novelty events take place at each match function. These would take the form of a fast moving programme with only a few participants using appropriate specialised skills in each event. Conventional competitions would take place with the number of throws per contestant reduced to save programme time.

A problem arises in presenting a programme that is of great spectator value and still produces conventional results and perhaps orthodox records. A practical solution may be to conduct alternate demonstration and competition matches on separate days at each venue or have several demonstration only events leading up to a few competition matches in major centres.

An alternative suggested by Lorin Hawes is that there could be just one major event as this would attract a lot of interest to be concentrated in the one spot. He sites an example venue "in the shadow of Ayers Rock" This would certainly provide a spectacular backdrop for the presentation, and "if the contest was staged for a single spectator -i.e. the camera, then the standard of throwing would be better because there would be no hurry to get it over with before the crowd left - and all contestants could throw in roughly the same wind conditions." This may take a few days filming but could work out cheaper for sponsors involved.

There are a mass of arrangements to be made before any such event can take place and efforts of members during the next few months will determine whether or not it will take place next year.

Ben has suggested a team of six contestants could be selected from the American enthusiasts. To match this, applications are now called for from experienced throwers who would be able to spend a month or so touring with the American team.

0000 000000000000000000000000

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION.  
1979

On a bleak (coldest for 7 months) and blustery (wind about 25 km. per hour) day the competitions attracted (with some arm twisting) a total of 10 senior and 9 junior competitors.

The junior competition turned out to be almost a Williams family affair, as between the three of them they took first and second place in all 3 events. Alan won the accuracy and catching, but was beaten by sister Christine ( a reluctant entrant) in the championship. To obtain a score in the catching competition, points were awarded for attempts that resulted in touches. No catches were taken by juniors! emphasizing the conditions and inexperience. Christine's less powerful throw suited the conditions better, to earn her accuracy points from which her entire score came in the championship.

Bunny Read from Wycheproof and Carol Lewry from Albury made the long journey across and helped to show the locals the skills of senior throwing and catching in the wind. They also gave valuable assistance with judging. Count back systems were used to break ties in the accuracy and catching competitions. Experience in the local wind and a battle-scarred Lewry hook ballasted with a few doses of glue helped the local supervisor take out the Senior Championship

Detailed Scores.

B. Forsyth	444	044	644	000	844	50	
	744	000	000	022	524	30	80
C. Lewry	000	000	024	024	224	20	
	024	022	000	024	024	22	42
B. Read	000	000	000	024	024	12	
	022	024	000	022	022	18	30

Junior Accuracy.

1st.	Alan Williams,	Whyalla	8 points.
2nd	Christine Williams	"	2 "
3rd	Martin Mathews,	"	0 "
			(scored in throw off for third)

Junior Catching.

1st.	Alan Williams	10 points.
2nd	Simon Williams	8 "
3rd	Martin Mathews	4 "

Junior Championship.

1st.	Christine Williams	43 points.
2nd	Alan Williams	25 "
3rd	Martin Mathews	18 "

Senior Accuracy.

1st	Richard Smith,	Whyalla	10 points
			(3 scoring throws)

FIRST CITY OF SYDNEY BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS,  
1979

Seventeen Seniors and twelve Juniors turned out for the first Sydney Boomerang Championships, which were held at the Drummoyne Oval on Sunday 22nd April. The weather proved hostile to most throwers throughout the day, although a few were lucky enough to experience some calmer patches of the turbulent breeze.

In the Accuracy Competition, Robbie Burns of Sydney easily won the comp. with a score of 21 points. Next came Tony Butz 14, Leo Meier 14, Br. Thomas 12, Billy Knight 12, Bob Burwell 11, Jack Byham 10, Russell Schultz 10, Eddie Silady 8, Br. Ray Dowding 8, Bruce Kyle 6, John Zuber 5, Duncan McLennan 4, Ian Nichol 3, Br. Dennis Hernon 2, Barry Kyle 2, and Br. Kevin Lewis 0. Nearest to the pin was taken out by Eddie Silady, nephew of Steve Silady. Eddie's son Shane, also won the nearest to the pin in the Junior section, but he was 40mm closer than his father landing the boomerang 1829 mm from the pin. The Junior Accuracy Competition was won by 10 year old Craig Gowan of Christain Brothers College Balmain, with 10 points. Second was Terry Poulos and John Jankovic both on 8 points.

The wind played havoc with most throwers in the Catching Competition. The greatest number of consecutive catches that could be managed was 7 by Leo Meier and Tony Butz. Leo won the throw off. Next best were Bruce Kyle, Robbie Burns and Br. Thomas, all on 4, Bob Burwell, Eddie Silady and Billy Knight managed 3. Leo Meier struck a good patch in the weather and did the Shortest Time for Five Catches in 42,06 secs. Next was Br. Thomas on 1min.15.99 secs closely followed by Tony Butz on 1min.16.90 secs. Billy Knight was the next best performer with 1min.27.54 secs.

The Junior Catching Trophy went to Craig Mackay of C. B. C. Balmain, who managed 3 catches in his five throws.

Scores in the General Championship in order of throwing were: Bob Burwell 86, Tony Butz 16, Eddie Silady 48 Duncan MacLennan 46, Br. Thomas 70, Billy Knight 25, Russell Schultz 49, Bruce Kyle 51, Jack Byham 53, Leo Meier 44, John Zuber 59 (John lead the first round of throwing with 45, but crashed in the second round), Robbie Burns 66, Barrie Kyle 42, Br. Ray Dowding 17, Br. Kevin Lewis 15, Br. Dennis Hernon 20. The last three throwers fought out the Novice's Championship with victory going to Br. Dennis Hernon, who had his first throw of a boomerang on 22nd April, 1979!!.

In the finals throw off Bob Burwell proved far too good and scored 92 points in very difficult conditions to give him a total of 178. Well done Bob.

Sydney Championships contd.

Second place getter was Br. Thomas, who scored another 70 (consistent! !)  
to give him a total of 140, and third was Robbie Burns, who scored 42  
to give him a total of 108.

In the Juniors victory went to Darren Aurisch of C. B. C. Balmain, with  
34 points. Next was Craig MacKay on 31, then John Jankovic 26, Craig  
Gowan 23, Neil Swanson and Greg Dyer 19, Shane Silady 18, Patrick Grace  
and Menios Loulial 15, and Peter MacKenzie, Manuel Delia and Terry Poulos,  
who tried but failed to score.

President Jack Byham presented the many trophies donated by the B. A. A.  
Duncan MacLennan who gave \$100.00 as well as boomerangs - thanks  
Duncan, and Qantas, and Lorin Hawes.

A feature of the awards was the Best Novice Thrower trophy, which was  
won by Br. Dennis Hernon of Queensland. We must try to get as much  
new blood into the game as possible.

The other very pleasing feature was the presence of two aboriginal throwers:  
Ian Nichols in the Seniors, and Patrick Grace in the Juniors.  
Many thanks to the organisers of this first Sydney Championships, Duncan  
MacLennan, Bruce Kyle and Br. Thomas, and to those throwers who  
turned up to make it the success that it was.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS contd...

Senior Accuracy, cont.

2nd	Carol Lewry,	Albury	10 points (2 scoring throws)
3rd	Ian Golding,	Whyalla	4 points

Senior Catching.

1st	Carol Lewry	5 cons (7 in first 10)
2nd	Bunny Read,	Wycheproof 5 cons (5 in first 10)
3rd	Richard Smith	4 cons

\* Senior Championship

1st	Barrie Forsyth,	Whyalla	80 points
2nd	Carol Lewry,		42 "
3rd	Bunny Read,		30 "

\* Final round not thrown