



Boomerang Association of Australia

BULLETIN No. 20

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
March 1979.

Special Note from Secretary:

Development of the Association has generally been slower than other organisations of similar status. Three of the basic aims have been Historical research, Scientific research and Sporting development. Quite a lot of information has been collected in the research fields and several books written recently by members and associates, cover these areas. The Association has been most active in Sporting Development. There are now several annual functions in Australia and a few similar events held in other countries. There will be an International contingent at this years Australian National Championships. Marjorie Gerrish, Ben Ruhe and Carl Naylor from the United States, and Max Hoeben from Holland will be attending.

We hope that some preliminary arrangements will be made toward International events in the not too distant future.

Now we need to know exactly what support is available from members and associates.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING IN ANY WAY, OR WOULD SIMPLY LIKE TO BE INFORMED OF EVENTS, PLEASE SEND ME A NOTE TO LET US KNOW THAT WE HAVE YOUR SUPPORT.

IF I DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU, IN RESPECT FOR YOUR PRIVACY, NO FURTHER NOTICES WILL BE SENT.

Coming Events.

Australian National Championships and Annual General Meeting at; Aquinal College grounds, Fallon Street, North Albury N.S.W. on Saturday the 7th April 1979. Commencing 10a.m.

South Australian Championships, at Eyre High School, Grundel Street, Whyalla Norrie. S.A. on Saturday 5th May 1979. Commencing 10a.m.

Sydney Championships, at Drummoyne Oval, Drummoyne, N.S.W. on Sunday the 22nd April 1979. Commencing 11a.m.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978.

A rough account of a fine day....

by Morris Maxwell.

April fool's day in Albury started off with dead calm conditions that would appear ideal for boomeranging. But one had to be alert for anything up to a 180 degree change in direction as the "local body of air" drifted one way for a few minutes, slowed down to still and then wafted back in a different quarter. At one stage I heard Ralph Sinclair comment over the P.A. about a "slow motion willy-willy". And sure enough, at one end of the oval, a piece of paper was going round in circles.

To celebrate the date, a special event called the "You must be joking" competition was held to determine such vague achievements as the "Most ridiculous boomerang thrown" and the "Most ridiculous method of throwing". Unfortunately not a lot of explanation or promotion about this event had been available. So the whole thing turned out to be quite ridiculous but a lot of fun for all who participated. Quite a few unusual designs and shapes were forthcoming, ranging from question shapes ?, to highly decorated and composite models with rotating cross types mounted on conventional shapes. Amazingly most of these flew quite well. As for the other part of the competition, I was busy making a fool of myself in wetsuit, bowler hat and flippers, when a "double decker" throwing team in the form of Ralph with one of his students on his shoulders came into view. Their throwing was alright but Ralph was staggering after some heavy manouvering to try to make a few catches.

Prior to the event, I had conscripted the services of Mesdames Forsyth and Read and Miss Catherine Parkman to act as judges. I might add with no previous warning or explanation of exactly what they had to judge. They entered the spirit of things and made a decision which "fooled" everyone. Apparently they considered all who participated were quite brilliant and presented each of us with a marsh-mallow frog. (At least I think that is what it was. Anyway I appreciated mine; not many trophies you can eat.) Thank you ladies.

Now on to the regular events:--

Accuracy Competitions.

Top scoring Junior for the event was Trevor Ryan with 19 points. He was closely followed by Chris Westall on 18 and Gary Ryan at 15 points.

The Open competition saw Dennis Maxwell make 28 points to equal the current record held jointly by Br. Thomas and Chris Westall. (Are you blokes trying to form a special club?) Runner up was Br. Thomas with 26 points and Bruce Kyle, ardent enthusiast from Sydney, on 23 points.

One of our famous veteran throwers from Albury, Les Janetzki, made the most accurate return.

Catching Competition.

In the Junior competition we had a dead heat for the first time in the "Time for five catches" competition. The familiar name of Chris Westall and Trevor Ryan both had the time of 58 seconds. Official Judge, Carol Lewry, decided to give them a throw off, timing them for 3 catches. Once again they took the same time. So another throw off was held and Chris took the title. Chris also won the Junior consecutive event with 12 catches.

In the open section another very familiar personality, Br. Thomas, holder of the current record of 35 seconds came first in the timed event with 38 seconds. He was closely followed by Robert Croll, young star from Melbourne, who timed 39 seconds.

Third place on 44.5 seconds was none other than the champ, Bob Burwell of Queensland. In the consecutive event Bob created a new WORLD record with 144 catches. (One could say he "grossed" a good number). Incidentally, there have been a few obscure claims in the past for catching records. However the Association records only those achievements which satisfy the criteria of qualifying

Australian National Championships

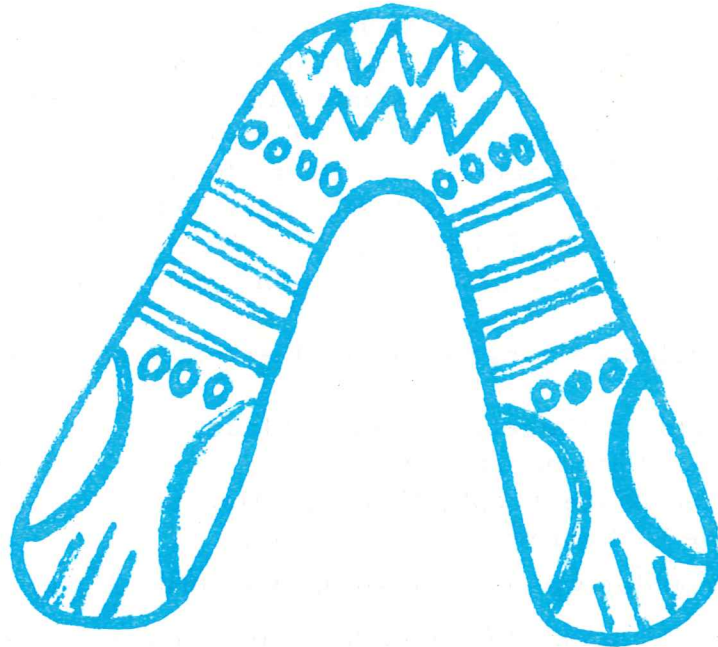
continued..... catching..

range, catching areas etc. in accordance with accepted rules. The records recorded here have also been achieved under competition conditions.

Runners up were Robert Croll with 80 catches and Joe Lewry on 55. Both of which have been records before last year when Bunny Read broke his own record with 112 catches.

Smallest and Largest Thrown.

First a word of explanation:-- For the size of any boomerang to be recorded in this event, it must be thrown from within the centre circle, pass over the 20m. range and come to rest within the outer accuracy circle, ie. within 7.5m. of centre. After disappearing for a couple of hours to compete in a grand final tennis match, Br. Thomas returned to clean up both competitions. His large model measured 1168mm across the tips and his small one is a new WORLD record size of only 93mm across the tips.



(Diagram from Br. Thomas, actual size sketch.)

Longest Distance

Held towards the end of the day in rainy calm conditions. There were the usual hassles in setting up and running this event but the results at least showed some reliability. Bob Burwell took the title again using the same boomerang he had last year, the recorded distance was also 86m. President Jack Byham always likes to have a go at this competition and came second with 76m. Third place went to Br. Thomas on 56m.

Junior General Championship.

Won by, (if you hadn't already guessed) Chris Westall, with 178 points for both heats. It may be some relief for Juniors to know that Chris' will be too old for Junior comps. next year. But the rest of us may be hard pressed to keep up with him. Second here was Lindsay Nelson, A Syndal Tech. (Melb.) student. His score was 132 points. Michael Nicholson, last year's champ came third with 108 points. This year the Junior entry was restricted to the top six Moomba and title holders during the past 12 months. With this arrangement we had nine starters. The rest of the "field" with preliminary

heat totals were:-

Gary Ryan 64, Andrew Travis 55, Trevor Ryan 53, Barry Akehurst 50,
Paul Hickey 40, Michael Ovington 39.

There have recently been a few comments to the effect that restrictions will cause Juniors to lose interest. Personally, I think it could increase interest in all other comps. as these now provide opportunities to qualify for the National event. Now if the reader has other comments, I hope you don't leave them till next time we meet. Please write right now to the Editor and have it put in print.

Open General Championship.

Bob Burwell makes the "hatrick" by taking the title for the third year in succession. His total score was 194 points. In the preliminary heat of two rounds, all of Bob's throws passed over the 40m. range, with seven accurate returns and seven catches. His preliminary score total for the ten throws was 101 points. In the final rounds Bob went for reduced range, with throws between 30 and 40 m. This paid off with accuracy scores for each throw and eight catches totaling 94 points.

Runner up was the versatile Br. Thomas only one point behind on 194 points. total and with 90 in the preliminary and 104 in the final.

Third place went to Barry Forsyth, from Whyalla Norrie who totalled 116 points. A fine effort from Barry, especially after driving so far for the event.

Preliminary heat totals for the other contestants were as follows:-

Greg Jenkinson 24, Rick Dobell 59, Ian Taylor 28, Joe Lewry 78,
Arthur Janetzki 44, Les Janetzki 59, Bunny Read 83, Robert Croll 53,
Morris Maxwell 70, Dennis Maxwell 69, Jack Byham, 48 Bruce Kyle 42,
Duncan Maclennan 33, John Zuber 48, Glen Williams 24, Derek Lamb 62,
Bob Boulton 40, Graham Hartney 32, Ralph Sinclair 65.

Acknowledgments.

This year was an elaborate range of trophies made possible with donations from:-

Mr. John Harrold of Dalgety Travel, Albury.

Mr. Ian Barker, Pharmacist, Albury.

Mr. Jack Burton of the Trophy Centre, Albury.

"The Lighthouse", lighting centre, Albury.

Engraving of the trophies was done again by Mr. Mike Egan.

Once again the staff of Aquinas College have made their grounds available, and the tuck shop ladies supplied refreshments.

Mr. Hugh Neeson from Melbourne looked after the registration of competitors and helped with recording results.

Miss Carol Lewry spent all day judging various events.

Miss Catherine Parkman helped with recording results and preparation of award certificates.

Mr. Brian Maginnity supplied accomodation for interstate attendees.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Report by Secretary.

Major results of this year's meeting were:-

Executive election- all office bearers retain positions.

Alterations to Constitution - none received.

Membership fees for 1979-1980 are:- Senior \$5., Junior \$3., Life Membership \$100.

Family Membership \$7., Sustaining membership donation \$20.

During the meeting, President Jack Byham became our first life member.

Venue for next year's Australian Championships to remain at Aquinas grounds on the first day of April.

Annual General Meeting cont.

Elected to organising committee for next year's ANC's are:-

Br. Thomas, Carol Lewry.

Elected to the rule book committee are :- Carol Lewry , Rick Dobell, Morris Maxwell, and Tony Butz has volunteered as reader.

Elected to committee for International development are:- Duncan MacLennan and Morris Maxwell.

Elected to committee for recording record achievements are:- Bob Croll, Derek Lamb, and Greg Jenkinson.

THE MELBOURNE MOOMBA COMPETITIONS. 1978

A hot air balloon, labrador dogs, birdmen, rock bands, an octopus machine there were some of the parts of the colourful backdrop to the 1978 Moomba Festival's Boomerang Competitions. The weather was unusual for Melbourne - throwing conditions were almost ideal .'

Albury throwers dominated the Junior Sections, and their star thrower Chris Westall won the Shortest Time for 5 catches (49.5s.); Closest to the pin (290mm); Accuracy 228 points and the general contest 122 points. Trevor Ryan won the Consecutive Catching with a score of 12.

In the Senior Section the wimmers were as follows:-

Shortest time for 5 catches; Br. Thomas 36.1 seconds.

Consecutive Catching; Bunny Read, 112 catches; a new Moomba Record.

Accuracy: Br. Thomas, 28 points.

Closest to the Pin. Morris Maxwell, 466mm.

General Championships Br. Thomas 168 points.

Special Mention must be made of the wonderful efforts recorded by the American thrower, Chris Henzgen, who took 32 consecutive catches, and 52.9 seconds in the Time for 5 Catches.

Congratulations to the organisers who ran things in a very smooth and efficient manner. The continuous running commentary over the P.A. system kept the spectators right up to date with the action, and did much to hold the interest of those who had not seen a Boomerang Contest before.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1978

This was the second official South Australian Meeting, and it was held in Whyalla, on the Spencer Gulf, and was made possible by the determined efforts of the local B.A.A. Co-ordinator, Barrie Forsyth. The events were sponsored by C & E Hairdressers (Juniors) and Ampol Petroleum (Seniors).

The weather conditions were much better than those at the inaugural competitions in 1977. It was disappointing that no contestants from outside Whyalla took the field, however those whom took part had a great day of competition.

Results:

Junior Section.

Consecutive Catching: 1. Ian Golding 6 (a new record). 2. Martin Mathews
3. Randall Mathews.

Accuracy: 1. Alan Williams 18, 2. John Maffea 12, 3. David Smith 10.

Junior Championship: 1. Ian Golding 61 (a new record) 2. Alan Williams 38.
3. Randall Matthews 26.

Senior Section.

Consecutive Catching. 1. Barrie Forsyth (new record) 2. Richard Smith 5.
3. Geoff Staker 2.

South Australian Championships

Continued.

Accuracy

1. Alan Nield 16. 2. Geoff Staker 15. 3. Mike Bosworth 14.

Senior Championships

1. Barrie Forsyth 128 2. Richard Smith 118. 3. David Short 44.

Performances of particular note were those of Ian Golding, who took away the Junior title in his first contest. He looks like developing into a top class competitor. And Richard Smith, whose exuberant and spectacular catching was a real crowd pleaser.

HOW ABOUT GIVING S. A. SOME SOLID SUPPORT NEXT YEAR AND HELP BARRIE GET THE SPORT MOVING. I'M OFFERING HIM A TROPHY TO BE AWARDED TO THE CONTESTANT WHOSE HOME BASE IS THE FURTHEST FROM WHYALLA. Editor.
