

BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO: 3 MAY 1971 5c

Here we are again, Issue Number 3, and we think you'll find it interesting. The Annual General Meeting is to be held this month, and details of the time and place appear on page 6. The main features this month are as follows:

- Page 2 The Art of Boomerang Throwing. This is the first of a series of articles by Jeff Lewry.
- Page 4 The Moomba Victorian Championship Scores.
- Page 5 Boomerang Construction and Coaching with Youth Groups. An extract from the report to the B.A.A. on this activity.
- Page 7 Notice of Motion. Proposed amendments to the Competition Rules.

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THE ART OF BOOMERANG THROWING by Jeff Lewry, Bowna, N.S.W.

Boomerang throwing is not particularly difficult to master, but the boomerang must be thrown so as to leave the hand almost vertically, and spinning rapidly. It is for this reason that beginners must all learn a basic style, and as proficiency develops, so will an individual style.

The first problem is to get a good returning boomerang - the B.A.A. helps by allowing manufacturers to endorse their boomerangs as returners, provided the B.A.A. flight tests have been completed successfully.

Choose a boomerang of medium size and weight; large heavy boomerangs generally fly further, but are more difficult to throw and catch. If possible get an experienced thrower to "pelt" the boomerang of your choice while you watch what he does, and how the boomerang flies. The flight path should be fairly circular, and there should not be excessive variation in height as the boomerand completes its orbit.

A glahce at the diagrams in this article will show that arm action is the main point to watch, so concentrate on using your arm only to throw a boomerang; the action is different from that used to throw a stone. In throwing a stone the idea is to get as much force as possible into moving the missile; in throwing a boomerang the idea is to be quick rather than forceful so that the required spin is obtained. Energy is used, but only as much as can be put to good effect.



This diagram shows the grip; use only the first two fingers and the thumb, the flat side of the boomerang is flat on the palm of the hand, and the "V" pointing behind the thrower with the point of the "V" tucked well into the bend of the elbow. This puts tension on the wrist and helps prevent the wrist rolling over and causing the boomerang to be thrown flat, (i.e. horizontal). This action also has the effect of opening the fingers slightly; which is a good thing, as will be shown

This Newsletter is produced Quarterly by the Boomerang Association of Australia.

President: Geoff Rawson, 66, Whittens Lane, Doncaster. Vic Secretary: Morris Maxwell, 45, Rose Street, McKinnon. Vic Editor: J. S. Robb, 14, Elliot Street, Knoxfield. Vic Next the arm is raised from the shoulder to the "hold" position. taking care to keep the arm and the boomerang in one vertical plane so as to prevent the body twisting.



To throw the boomerang, bring down the upper arm smartly, and at the same time straighten out the elbow so that the boomerang is released about eye-level, and stands vertically in the air.

Snapping the arm straight in this way makes it impossible to hold on to the boomerang due to its inertia: so if you shut your already partially open fingers....remember

...? the boomerang will actually pull itself free past the web of skin next to the thumb and over the top of the index finger, thus giving it plenty of spin ... the most important point.

If raising your arm to throw leans you back on your heels, making you feel off balance, simply stand on your toes; then when you release the boomerang your weight will come back on your heels.

If you are really having difficulty learning to throw, try walking forward and throw just as your left foot comes forward.

Good luck and good throwing. Later issues will cover such topics as aiming, throwing in windy conditions, and competition throwing.

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The first day of may is fee day, and the current rates are Senior Members (Over 16) \$1.00

Intermediate Members (11-16) \$0.75 Junior Members (Under 11) \$0.50

If you've forgotten to mail your fee, nlease remember today

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MOOMBA VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The day was Sunday, February the 28th., and it was windy, with a capital "W", and the wind seemed to change strength and direction every few moments! Nevertheless the 24 competitors who took the field had a lot of fun, and the large crowd were well entertained.

The scores will give some idea of what the wind did to the throwers, so here are the preliminary rounds, throw by throw:

G.	Hay	6.6.4.6.4.	(26)	8.4.10.8.0.	(30)	(56)
D.	Maxwell	6.8.6.0.0.	(20)	14.6.0.8.8.	(36)	(56)
J.	Hammer	0.8.8.0.8.	(24)	6.8.8.8.0.	(30)	(54)
G.	Rawson	0.0.8.6.12	(26)	8.0.12.8.0.	(28)	(54)
B.	Williams	0.8.8.0.0.	(16)	6.8.8.8.6.	(36)	(52)
J.	Fricker	6.6.6.0.6.	(24)	6.0.6.6.6.	(24)	(48)
R.	Schroder Sn		(25)	0.0.8.0.8.	(16)	(41)
R.	Sinclair	0.6.0.6.6.	(18)	6.0.0.0.8.	(14)	(32)
L.	Janetzki	0.0.0.0.0.	(0)	8.8.0.8.8.	(32)	(32)
M.	Maxwell	8.0.0.0.6.	(14)	0.8.8.0.0.	(16)	(30)
P.	Lewry	5.8.0.8.0.	(21)	0.0.0.0.8.	(8)	(29)
	Hoffman	4.6.2.0.0.	(12)		(12)	(24)
Ĵ.			: :	6.6.0.0.0.	1 1	
-	Lewry	0.0.6.8.0.	(14)	0.0.0.6.0.	(6)	(20)
R.	Schroder Jn		(10)	0.0.6.0.0.	(6)	(16)
G.	Fricker	0.6.0.0.0.	(6)	0.8.0.0.0.	(8)	(14)
A.	Janetzki	0.0.0.0.0.	(04	0.0.4.0.10.	(14)	(14)
H.	Robb	6.0.0.0.0.	(6)	0.0.0.6.0.	(6)	(12)
B.	Firench	0.0.0.6.6.	(12)	0.0.0.0.0.	(:0)	(12)
A.	Hay	0.0.0.0.4.	(4)	0.0.6.0.0.	(6)	(10)
	Vasco	0.0.0.0.0.	(0)	0.1.0.4.4.	(9)	(9)
	e Warren	0.0.0.0.0.	(0)	0.0.0.0.4.	(4)	2 41
	Cook	0.0.0.0.0.	(0)	0.0.0.0.0.	(0)	(0)
W.	Knight	0.0.0.0.0.) _ (/ - () 03
	Kurane	0.0.0.0.0.	(0)	0.0.0.0.0.	(0)	(0)

At the end of the preliminaries five throwers were to take part in the finals, since there were tied scores for 56 and 54. A sudden wind shift made it necessary to rematk the arena, and then we saw these scores in the final throws:

G.	Rawson	0.8.8.8.10.	(34)	9.6.8.8.8.	(39)	(73)
G.	Hay	0.6.8.6.8.	(28)	6.10.10.12.0		(66)
B.	Williams	6.6.6.0.8.	(26)	0.10.8.8.0.	(26)	(52)
D.	Maxwell	6.6.6.0.0.	(18)	0.8.8.0.8.	(24)	(42)
J.	Hammer	0.0.0.8.0.	(8)		(0)	(8)

Congratulations to Geoff Rawson, the 1971 Moomba Victorian Boomerang Champion.

Many thanks to the Apexians who acted as judges and range stewards, to our sponsors, and to all the B.A.A. members and their friends who assisted in making the day such a success.

BOOMERANG CONSTRUCTION AND COACHING WITH YOUTH GROUPS.

In our last issue we mentioned that B.A.A. members had been involved in coaching boomerang construction and throwing at a number of youth camps and sports clinics. The B.A.A. has a a detailed report upon these activities, and a part of this report is reproduced below as an item of general interest, and perhaps as guidelines for any other B.A.A. members who may become involved in similar activities. It is really a check list highlighting the more important aspects of conducting this kind of session.

i) Working Conditions

Check out what work areas, tools and facilities are available.

If proper workbenches are not available, lengths of 2x3 secured to table trestles provide an excellent substitute - provided there is at least 1 G-clamp per student.

ii) Tools

2-round cabinet rasps, (8" minimum, with handles) are ideal tools. Younger students tend not to respect the sharpness of Surform-type planes! There should also be at least 1 G-clamp per student.

iii) Glass-paper

A medium to coarse glass-paper is quite adequate for finishing purposes. Allow about half a sheet per student.

iv) Ages

There is no need to set an upper limit, but it is desireable to have a lower limit of 10 years. Children younger than 10 have a tendency to tire quickly!

v) Sex

This is not a male-only activity. Girls respond just as readily as boys, and produce first class work.

vi) Group Size

8 - 10 students per supervising adult seems to be a reasonable maximum. For groups larger than 10 get another B.A.A. member to help, or obtain the services of a competent adult, (Handicraft teacher or the like).

vii) Time Allocation

3 hours total time is an acceptable normal.
Allocate about 1 hour 20 minutes to "workshop activities" and the remainder to flight-testing

and practical throwing. The "workshop activities" time includes talking time, i.e. making instructions, Boomerang history, boomerang use and distribution, competition throwing, safety, how to throw, the B.A.A., etc..

viii) Useful Aids

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- a) Large Flip-charts illustrating what to do step-by-step, safety, how to throw, etc.,
 - b) A number of boomerang samples illustrating the various construction steps. Notes inscribed in a dark texta-colour on each sample help.
- c) spare tools.
- d) A few Band-aids!

ix) Things to check with the organisers

- a) Working facilities.
- b) tools?
- c) is adult assistance available if needed?
- d) do they have first-aid facilities?
- e) do they have an adequate throwing area?
- f) who is to provide the boomerang blanks?

NB with reference to the boomerang blanks, the size and type will depend upon the person doing the instructing.

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We hope these notes will provide some useful and interesting data, and will be pleased to answer any queries members may have regarding this type of activity.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Boomerang Association of Australia will be held a 3, Biscayne Avenue, Syndal, Victoria, on May 26th., commencing at 8.00 p.m. All members are asked to attend.

Apart from the election of officers for our 1971-1972 year, there is a motion regarding the alteration of commetition rules to be discussed. (see mage 7).

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NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion has been submitted to the B.A.A. for consideration at the Annual General Meeting. It concerns amendments to the competition rules as follows:-

The existing accuracy sircles, qualifying distance circle, and range circles will be expressed in metric measure as follows:

Accuracy Circles; 2.5, 5, and 7.5 metres radius Qualifying Distance; 20 metres radius Range Circles: 30 and 40 metres radius.

An additional Accuracy Circle of radius 10 metres be added.

The accuracy scores will be as follows:

Within the 2.5 metres radius circle 8 points Within the 5 metres radius circle 6 points Within the 7.5 metres radius circle 4 points Within the 10 metres radius circle 2 points

Boomerangs that bridge the lines marking these accuracy circles will be awarded the average of the scores for the two circles concerned, i.e. 7,5, 3, and 1.

A catch within the 20 metres radius circle will be awarded 4 points. A catch outside the 20 metres radius circle will be awarded 2 points.

A boomerang travelling beyond the 30 metres radius circle, but not beyond the 40 metres radius circle will be awarded a bonus of 2 points provided the boomerang is caught, or lands within the accuracy circles, or is caught within the accuracy circles.

A boomerang travelling beyond the 40 metres radius circle, will be awarded an additional 2 bonus points to those mentioned above provided it is caught, or lands within the accuracy circles, or is caught within the accuracy circles.

The notice of motion set out on page 7 is proposed by Morris Maxwell and seconded by Dennis Maxwell.

The diagram below illustrates the proposed amendments:

