

“The Pioneer”

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STROUD INTERNATIONAL BRICK AND ROLLING PIN THROWING CONTEST

“50th” Anniversary



(Local Identities – Lyndell Davey & Don Russell in 1976)

Stroud International Brick & Rolling Pin Throwing Contest is an annual event held between the four townships of Stroud in the world - Stroud in Gloucestershire, England; in Oklahoma, U.S.A.; in Ontario, Canada, & here in NSW, Australia.

The first Contest - with Brick throwing only - was held in 1960 between Stroud, U.S.A. & Stroud, England, when it was discovered that both towns had Brickworks in common, & it was felt that this would be a novel way to cement relations between the two towns. In 1961, having realised the existence of 2 other Strouds, in Canada & Australia, the contest involved the four countries, again with Brick throwing only. At the suggestion of Stroud, Australia, it was decided to introduce a rolling pin throwing contest for the women in 1962. It is interesting to note that all rolling pins used in the contests since that time have been made in this area & shipped overseas. Competition bricks are especially made 5 lb. Bricks, & the rolling pins are 2 lb. in weight, & both are generally thrown in a discus style. The current Brick throwing record is 142'6", & the rolling pin throwing record is 156'4", held by England & U.S.A. respectively. Note that Imperial measurements are used to conform with the other countries. Principal competition involves 6 person teams with points scored 10 to 1 by the top 10 individual throws. Gold, silver & bronze medals are awarded to the first 3 places in each event. Team points are then compiled, with a trophy being available for the winning team.

Our day here in Stroud, Australia commences with a street procession through the main street to the Showground, where all festivities take place. The Contest is officially opened at 12 noon. As this year marks the **50th anniversary** of the Stroud Australia event, the Official Opening ceremony will, on this occasion be performed by the original Chairperson of the Brick throwing Committee – Mr Lance Chapman.

After the opening ceremony, a programme of events is conducted. These items vary from year to year in an endeavour to provide an interesting and varied day's entertainment for all attending. While this programme is taking place, elimination heats are being conducted, & the International teams chosen. The culmination of the day is the International team event at 3.00 p.m. Australia's results are then telephoned to America, where results on an International level are compiled, & telephoned back to participating countries. All types of refreshments are available on the ground on the day, as well as many & varied market stalls & amusements for the children.

This is really a fun day full of enjoyment for the whole family, and will be conducted on Saturday the 17th July this year, commencing with a huge street procession at the earlier time of 10.30 a.m.

Special Thanks go to Judy Pereira (committee member for approx 38 years) for providing this article.

Denise Haynes - 'R & R' Property - 02 4994 9123

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