

INTERNATIONAL COMANCHE SOCIETY AUS TRIBE

AGM/GM Coffs Harbour NSW

17th to 19th September 2010



Comanche members with their wives, partners and friends arrived into Coffs Harbour at all times of the day in both aircraft and road vehicles. The weather was forecasted as not being very favourable but it didn't stop the truly hardy amongst us with some even jumping in their cars or catching commercial flights to join in a weekend of fun and activities in Coffs Harbour and the surrounding town of Bellingen.

The Coffs Coast made up of regional centres some claiming to have the most pristine beaches and other areas of State forests and reserves is located on the mid north coast, halfway between Sydney and Brisbane making it a great choice for our AGM and get together along with some careful planning from John Ward we enjoyed catching up again.

After checking in at the Aanuka Beach Resort we all caught up for a "meet and greet" followed by dinner. So glad John had arranged one of the function rooms as it meant we could all mingle about without disturbing other guests. We were able to welcome and enjoy the company of a few new members and catch up with others we had perhaps not seen for a time.

Saturday morning brought with it sunshine but unfortunately our Whale Watch Cruise had to be cancelled due to rough seas. Nobody seemed to mind some in fact were a little thankful as we all climbed into a small bus and three smaller vehicles and headed off to the charming town of Bellingen sitting in the heart of the valley on the banks of the Bellinger River. Bellingen has quite a history, reflected in the remarkable buildings that line the streets. We broke into smaller groups some with shopping on their minds while others were just content to wander around the large market area. We all met up for lunch at a delightful small cafe and enjoyed the ambience, good coffee and chatter.

With sustenance on board we once again surged into a converted Butter Factory with its tiny quaint shops and eatery. Beautiful wooden items made from local timber displays, along with glass and silk products all set in a heavily treed and flowered gardens which once was a thriving butter factory and perhaps once one of the life bloods of Bellingen.

Later we all managed to get back to Coffs Harbour quickly freshen up and travel in two bus trips the short distance to the Pet Porpoise Pool for an interaction with some of its prize residents. We were met with champagne, nibbles and a friendly welcome from the staff at the pool where John, Candice and Mel explained a little of what goes on at the pool to preserve the lives of its residents. We took an escorted walk around and viewed the dolphins and seals swimming in their pools reacting on commands from their trainers.

Then came what I had dreaded "KISS THE SEAL!" A few of us tried to sneak past but got caught and after much persuasion did let a very well behaved seal wack a kiss on our cheeks. Funnily enough it wasn't that bad and I must admit I have had worse kisses. Photos were taken for everyone to show their children or grandchildren who will most probably ask WHY!

The seals and dolphins performed a short show all under the guidance of their trainer Kimberley. More photos were taken where we gently placed our hands on the dolphins feeling their velvety bodies. This was nice even if a little wet. Dinner followed in the garden area and later back at the resort we toasted our day and said farewell to those who were leaving early the next morning.

Sunday we awoke to cloudy skies and the forecast of closing in weather. Another couple of aircraft left straight after breakfast while the remaining left after the AGM later in the morning. The weather did in fact close in with a deluge lasting for more than a week. Luckily all got out that wanted to! Our flight home was wet, windy and even cold by the time we reached Tyabb in Victoria.

Many thanks must go to John Ward for arranging the weekend where despite last minute changes due to the weather we all had a great time together with our new and not so new Comanche friends.

Safe and enjoyable flying.

Irene.



Attendees.

Barry & Sandra Payne	ZK-BAZ	Waimate New Zealand
Tony & Jan Vanderspek	VH-TSJ	Bendigo Victoria
Ian Thomson & Irene Lawson	VH- MMN	Tyabb Victoria
Jeff Wittig & Deanna Knutson	VH-JGW	Wangaratta Victoria
Ken Munn	VH-CSV	Hay NSW
Jeff Hutchinson	VH-YER	Broken Head NSW
Spider Webb	F1 Rocket	Nanango QLD
Bruce Fanning	VH-BVF Guest of John Ward) QLD	
John Ward	Drove from Swan Hill Victoria	
Manfred & Allison Melloh	Drove from Berowra NSW	
Gary & Elaine Murphy	Drove from Swan Hill Victoria	
John Michell	Drove from Tamworth NSW	
Jeff & Diane Bell	Drove from Balina NSW	
Ken & Vickie Lapham	Drove from Tamworth NSW	
John Moore	Drove from Strathfieldsaye Victoria	
Jim Barry	Commercial flight from Swan Hill Victoria	
Graham Bunn & Glenda Smith	Commercial flight from Melbourne Victoria	
Peter & Margaret Webb	Coffs Harbour NSW	