

Comanche Fly in.

Dubbo 10th – 12th October 2003.

Approx 26 Comanches arrived throughout the day from all over the eastern states of Aust. to a windy but warm Dubbo Airport from where we were escorted to our accommodation at either the Cascades Motor Inn or the Blue Gum Motor Inn.

After much noise and once again catching up with dear friends we were taken by coach to the Narromine Aero Club for an escorted tour by Peter Treseder of their wonderfully presented museum and on to dinner in the club.

Saturday: Breakfast in the dining room at our accommodation and onto the coach for a guided tour of the Western Plains Zoo. Up close and personal with many animals gave us all a perspective of approx 1000 creatures from Asia, Europe, Sth America and Aust all housed in the 300 ha complex. Our party was large enough for some to stray away but later re-united for a light lunch by the Savannah room and shop. A cake, compliments of Tom's birthday was shared by all and the calories keep getting stacked away. After lunch the coach took us back to the Matilda Inn for the AGM, the election of office bearers for the next twelve months and general discussions etc. after which we were taken back to our accommodation for a quick freshen up.

The evening started with a coach trip and a Macquarie River cruise both quite eventful as our coach with 65 persons on board at one stage arrived in some unsuspecting residents back yard followed by the cruiser running aground mid river. I told you we ate too much cake earlier! Any way all ended well as we moored up for a bone shaking hay ride onto the Dundullimal Homestead, the oldest slab house still standing in Aust. The homestead would have been grand for its time with rooms being added and extensive out buildings inc stables all of which have been well cared for by Pat & Peter Dargin who gave us the history and insight into its era.

Also on the property was where our roast dinner and dessert and a copious supply of local wines followed by a talk on the local area awaited after which a few danced and sang the night away to the great music from Cheryl and band.

Sunday : Breakfast once again in the Cascades dining room followed by the presentations of a Kimberley photo competition. Jim Barry won the hosts award with a great photo of the Bungle Bungles and Fred Morgan won the most popular with his photo of Althea at El-Questro. Peter Brown donated the prizes of wine from Brown Bros. At breakfast our past President passed the batten over and our tireless treasurer Manfred thanked all especially our hosts for the weekend Rob Jacobson, David Miller, Ron and Loyalty Roberts, Lionel Simpson and his very talented wife Cheryl.

Once again we were shuttled out to the airport for a quick farewell and into the cloudless skies homeward bound. A great fly-in around wonderful friends!

Irene Lawson.