

International Comanche Society - Australian Tribe.

GOLD COAST FLY-IN 26,27.& 28th October 2007.

Friday 26th October 07

A weekend of fun in the sun was what we were expecting as that is what Queenslanders say the Gold Coast is all about. Well the fun was right but the weather was really a little mixed up. Arriving mid afternoon on Friday the Gold Coast presented itself clear and hot if not a little windy. As others arrived some late into the night the weather had turned somewhat brutal. Thunderstorms and even a close Tornado called upon our very resourceful flyer's wits to find any and many ways to get there safely. Ken has put together a summary of attendees and their modified travel arrangements. (Refer page 3)

After booking into the Twin Towers Resort and making our way to dinner at the buffet grill we caught up with fellow flyers and great friends. The noise accompanied the usual swapping of stories and events since our last meetings going well into the evening as others kept arriving with tales of their way in through the storms.

Saturday 27th October 07.

We awoke to clear skies with little sign of what the night before had confronted us with, and after breakfast the AGM was held. We had to share the room with tables set for a wedding later in the day. One Dr., who I cannot mention found the decorations too tempting while another member produced an item making sounds best described as coming from some matrimonial bed.

Success at the AGM with all positions being filled for the year to come left us little time to board the bus and Aries Tours for a trip firstly to Mt Tambourine. Mt Tambourine is behind the coastal plains of the Gold Coast where a series of hills and plateaus rise steeply. Mt Tambourine is the most northerly plateau rising 600 mts above sea level. We stopped for lunch dining at Heritage Winery before traveling a short distance down the plateau to the Gallery Walk for coffee, shopping or just browsing taking in the



delightful scenery. It was back on the bus and another very pleasant drive back to the resort arriving around 3.30pm.

After a short rest and clean up we resumed our positions back on the bus this time for the Australian Outback Spectacular, a \$23m, 1000 seat unique and exciting evening dinner show capturing the grandeur of the Aust outback. We all donned akubra like hats and made our way through a three course BBQ dinner accompanied by drinks. The show was certainly a night to remember with its stockmen, animals and bush tales all recommended to anyone traveling up that way.

Later that night the skies again opened up with thunderstorms hanging around till morning.



Sunday 28th October 07.

Sunday morning and fond farewells till next time as most flyers wanted to fly out ahead of another front of unsettled weather. Some decided to stay on to which we spent a pleasant day with John and Jan traveling by bus with the locals to Surfers and back. That night around six of the members that had stayed on dined out under yet another stormy night.

We would all like to thank Ken for arranging a succesful weekend despite adverse weather conditions. Members with their families and friends flew in from as far away as Tas , Vic.& Nth Qld.,while others flew part way before continuing by road vehicles or just plain drove in but what ever the mode of transport it was a great way to spend a couple of days with a common interest, flying a “Comanche”!



Hats are not for everyone!!



Awards:

Tactical Twister	-	Tornado	-	Ken Munn
Gamblers Award	-	Casino Twins	-	Jeff Wittig & Roger Lenne
Garden City Award			-	Peter Little
Avis Rent a Car Award			-	Ken Laphan . / John Michell
Paparazzi Award			-	George Mills
Early Bird Award			-	Ian Thomson
First Fly.In Award			-	Richard Goddard
More flashes than Nicole Kidman			-	Nigel Wettenhall

Attendees:

Holdsworth	Car	
Sneesby	Car	
Melloh - Manfred & Alison	Car – from Sydney / Alison airline home	
Morgan - Fred & Marcia	FLG	Made it to YBCG
Veronica Hallett		
Webb - Spider & Yvonne	EOH	Made it to YBCG
Goulding - Roger & Lorraine		
Mills - George & Maree	EDW	Flew in late Friday to YBCG
Paratz - Lawrence & Kerrie	airline	Left ORT at YMEN due Wx
Thompson - Ian & Irene	MMN / airline	To YMUR
Macknight - John & Jan	airline	Left MAS at YMEN due Wx
Wettenhall - Nigel & Margaret & pax	MAB	Flew in late Friday night between storms
Michell – John	Car	
Forrester - Bill & Myra	Car	
Lapham - Ken & Vicki	Car	
Read - Tony & Angela	Car (planned)	
Ward – John	LGQ	Left a/c at Coffs Harbour – picked up by Manfred
Barry – Jim	CDB	Left a/c at Coffs Harbour – picked up by Manfred
Jeff Wittig & Deanna Knutson	JGW	Made it to Casino – rented car
Lenne - Roger & Linda	MCY	Made it to Casino – rented car
Munn – Ken & pax	NWH	Made it to Lismore – rented car
Little - Peter & Renee & pax	CVD	Made it to Toowoomba – rented car
Goddard – Richard & pax	Car (planned)	His first ICS fly-in

We had a total of 49 for dinner Friday, 41 on the bus trip and 54 at the Australian Outback Safari. Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd were very good and provided a key to the northern gate and a dedicated parking area for our aircraft (14 expected). However:

- Only 5 aircraft made it to YBCG: FLG, EOH, EDW, MMN & MAB
- RSX, TON & SAS stayed safely in their hangars at YMUR.
- Lawrence decided on Thursday to come by airline and left the Aerostar VH-ORT at YMEN.
- John Macknight also left MAS in Melbourne and flew up by Airline due to maintenance not being completed
- John Michell, Bill Forrester, Ken Lapham and the rest of the Tamworth contingent decided early on to drive (due wx) Very smart.
- Jim Barry & John Ward were at YSCH for a few days before and decided on Fri am to leave their aircraft there. We contacted Manfred and got them a lift
- George & Maree Mills flew up to YBMC on Thursday (difficult trip due wx) and flew in to YBCG after dark (between Thunderstorms).
- FLG & EOH arrived at lunchtime. Thunderstorms then hit from about 2pm onwards.
- Peter Little flew up staying west of the storms (very smart move) – got to Toowoomba and drove from there.
- Jeff Wittig & Roger Lenne flew in company and got as far as Casino before landing in a thunderstorm. Rented a car and drove up from there.
- Ken Munn was just ahead on them in the 400 and landed during the tornado that wrecked a small town outside Lismore. He also continued by car. We all marveled at the film of the tornado on the evening news.
- Nigel Wettenhall flew up late (9pm) and arrived between thunderstorms – with lots of lightning bolts just north of the airport – though he didn't get wet until on the ground at YBCG. We then had to pick up Tom who came in late via Jetstar.
- Ian Thomson flew into YMUR on the Sunday before the fly-in.

As a result – everyone who said they were coming – DID. Neither rain, nor hail nor tornados can stop an ICS member making it to a fly-in !

Ken Holdworth- Irene Lawson