

ICS AUSTRALIAN TRIBE 2004 SPRING FLY-IN
Maroochydore, Queensland 3,4,5 September 2004

Friday 03.09.2004 - A total of 24 Comanche Aircraft from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, along with 71 members and guests attended the Maroochydore fly in.

We were made most welcome by the Maroochydore Airport management and staff. The Tower were kind to us and awarded arrival prizes to six of our fleet.

The Maroochy Aero Club made their club rooms and facilities available to the society for the whole of the fly in. Our parking marshal was Roger Goulding of Nanango, who did a most professional job.

We stayed at the Ginger Mountain Motel at Buderim. Lynne the manager went out of her way to look after us, excellent food, restful setting.

Friday night our Bus Captain, Stan Browning got us down the mountain to the Aero Club alright but had a bit of trouble getting us back again - perhaps it was a weight and balance problem.

Marvelous time was had by all at the BBQ at the Aero Club - President Brendan Scolini and Catering Manager, Marty Mace and members did an excellent job. Very kind and friendly people. Brendan made it clear we will always be welcome there, drop in anytime. Barney Davoren presented each pilot-in-command with a bottle of wine from his vineyard.

Manfred Melloh was presented with a survival manual on 'How to kiss a crocodile and survive', in anticipation of our visit to Steve Erwin's Australia Zoo the next day.

Had a little difficulty getting back over the final hump of the mountain, but when we all lent forwards we made it.

Saturday 04.09.2004 - Pauline Griffiths, our bus tour guide from Maroochydore Tourist Information (was one of Steve Erwin's school teachers in the early days) - lovely lady and very informative. Off to the Eumundi markets, through Coolum, past Yandina. Eumundi, a dairying and timber district in the past is now famous for its markets. After a browse around the markets and morning tea etc; it was off back down the highway to Steve Erwin's Australia Zoo where we were made welcome by the staff. We saw Steve Erwin, lunging crocodiles, deadly venomous snakes, massive pythons that can crush one to death, gentle koalas, kangaroos, possums, wombats, birds and many other animals. It was very well laid out, excellent facilities, exceptionally clean and tidy, educating and entertaining. Manfred got coy and would not wrestle 'Cheeky' the lady crocodile - said he needed more time to read the manual.

After the zoo back to the motel for the Annual General Meeting.

Dinner was with the fishes and sharks at Under Water World where we took in a seal show.

Bob Kennedy, guest speaker expanded his talk on GPS to include his experiences as Marcia and Fred's Flying Instructor, however, he did let Fred off lightly though, considering what Bob had to go through to get Fred there.

Steve Brookes, Airport Manager, and his wife met up with Prof. Gardiner again after many years.

Adrian Fitzgerald (Maroochy Tower) presented the six awards to the winners of the arrival prizes and kindly invited anyone interested to visit the control tower on Sunday morning before departure. The visitors to the tower the next morning were most appreciative of their experience.

Sunday 05.09.2004 - Farewell until we meet again at Mount Gambier, South Australia in March 2005. Departure for home.

Special guests - Bob and Margaret Kennedy
 Prof. Robert Gardiner and Roslyn Gardiner
 Barney Davoren
 Roger and Lorraine Goulding

Report by
Marcia and Fred Morgan.