

ICS Australian Tribe

Merimbula NSW 19th – 21st March 2010



Friday 19th March 2010

The splendour of the picturesque towns and pristine waterways and beaches of the Sapphire coast of SE NSW delighted all aboard the twelve Comanches and one F1 Rocket who flew into Merimbula in anticipation of a relaxing, fun-filled weekend with friends for the 2010 autumn fly-in.

For those who flew from the south and west the strong tail wind made the trip a quick one. Landmarks such as Gabo Island, Mallacoota, Mt Kosciusko and Dartmouth Dam seemed to wiz by. Visibility over the mountains was at times impaired by smoke due to the controlled burns of the DSE.

Travellers from the north were relieved to leave behind further rain and many enjoyed spectacular coastal scenery. The thrill of navigating Victor 1 was a highlight for Ken and Vicky Lapham.

Roger, our coach captain for the weekend, made several trips back and forth from Merimbula airport to The Black Dolphin Motel, which was to be our home for the next couple of days. Bringing ICS members, their families and friends together is always a joyous and noisy occasion and this was no exception. Over a couple of pre dinner drinks we all began to catch up on what each had done since we had last met. Having recently purchased a Comanche aircraft again, it was wonderful to have Jim & Annie Duff back on our flyins.

Dinner that evening was at the Golf Club, a short run down the road. The chatter and laughter continued well into the night. Good food and great company! A shuttle bus took us back to the motel with the last lot of stragglers leaving around 10.45.

Saturday 20th March 2010

Merimbula charmed us again with sunshine which made the conditions ideal for exploring the coast with its beauty and historic significance. Luckily Manfred, Alison and their friends Harald and Sharon travelled by car which boosted the number of seats by four. This enabled the whole group to travel together in convoy.



We headed off in a southerly direction through Pambula to Eden. Eden boasts one of the deepest ports along the coast. This feature facilitated a thriving whaling industry in the early 1900's until the late 1960s. We boarded The Cat Balou, a tourist ferry, and thoroughly enjoyed a cruise around Twofold Bay.

Our cruise, hosted by Rosalind & Gordon Butt, took us around the two folds of the Bay which was surrounded by the Ben Boyd National Park and State Forest. The highlights included the history of the whaling port, Boyd's Tower, Edrom Lodge and several whaling station sites. The Naval/multi purpose wharf, woodchip mill, mussel farms and a large fishing fleet were pointed out by Rosalind as she told us of the area and its history. Morning tea of soup and cheese biscuits seemed to hit the spot.



In a particularly sheltered and pretty bay we noticed a rather luxurious large home nestled close to



the shore. The building, established by the Boyd family, and now called "The Seahorse Hotel," looked rather appealing. Roger, ever ready with his mobile, quickly had us booked in for lunch. The impromptu change of plans was welcomed by all. The Seahorse Hotel proved to be a great place to dine, either in the dining room, on the terrace or under the trees on the shores of Twofold Bay. A mental observation was made and it put on our lists of "We must come back here one day!"

Later in the afternoon we stopped at the Eden Killer Whale Museum built to house the artefacts, equipment and information about Eden's whaling days. Exhibits included The life of the Davidson Whaling Station built in 1857, the wrecked ship 'Laurence Frost' as well as tales of how the killer whales showed the way for the Davidson vessels protecting them from harm and rounding up the whales to assist the whalers. A video was shown of the current days and the Humpback and Southern whales migration south each year. Sadly we were not there during the Sept to Nov period when this happens. Some of the group explored this quaint little town, soaking up the ambiance of a by-gone era.

We arrived back at Merimbula mid afternoon. This allowed for a little free time. A few took a walk around the inlet through lush vegetation and onto the rocks down to Bar Beach. Others took a direct line to the coffee shops, while some rested up after a pretty full on day.



Our evening meal was at Wheelers Seafood Restaurant where the extensive menu was enough to satisfy all tastes. The only disappointment of the night was expressed by Brenton, John Macknight's co-pilot. This quiet, 'ever patient with the oldies,' young man was quite miffed that he wasn't on the table served by the rather vivacious, attractive and available young waitress. The old fellows weren't complaining though!

Sunday 21st March 2010

Sadly our weekend was nearly over. Once again the bus was loaded and headed for the airfield where the ICS General Meeting was held. After fond farewells and much looking to the skies the pilots started boarding their aircraft late morning and a slow and at times slightly turbulent flight followed for those heading in a westerly direction. It was so slow that Trevor and Lyn wondered at times if they were actually flying backwards.

Thanks go to Roger, Lynda and Irene for choosing the spot and making our Merimbula Fly-in possible and enjoyable. Thanks also to Manfred and Harry for their vehicles. Without them many more bus trips would have been required. Thanks to Roger for his bus driving skills and to Allison for her photography.

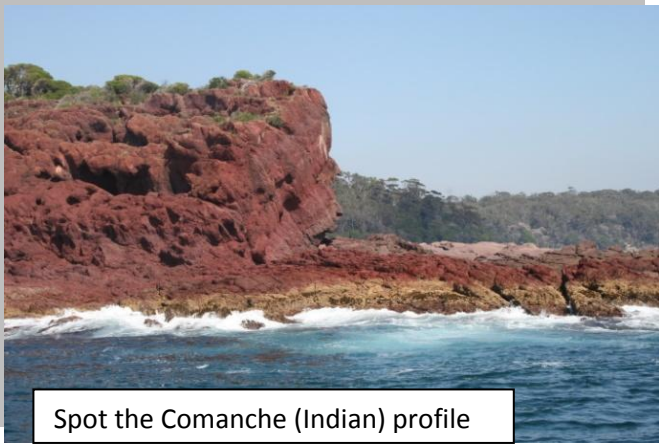
Comanche owners, from diverse backgrounds, come together for a short time just to enjoy each other, their aviation interest and their experiences in life. Lifetime friends bonded together!

Lynda Lenne

Attendees:

Jim & Annie Duff
Ian Thomson & Irene Lawson
Ken & Vickie Lappham
Roger & Lynda Lenne
Spider Webb & Yvonne Robinson
Tony Vanderspek
Trevor & Lyn Nixon
Jeff Wittig & Deanna Knutson
John & Jan Macknight
Brenton Muir
Gordon & Shirley Pickering
Tony & Angela Read
George & Marie Mills
Geoff & Eunice Modra
Manfred & Allison Melloh
Harald & Sharon Wilson

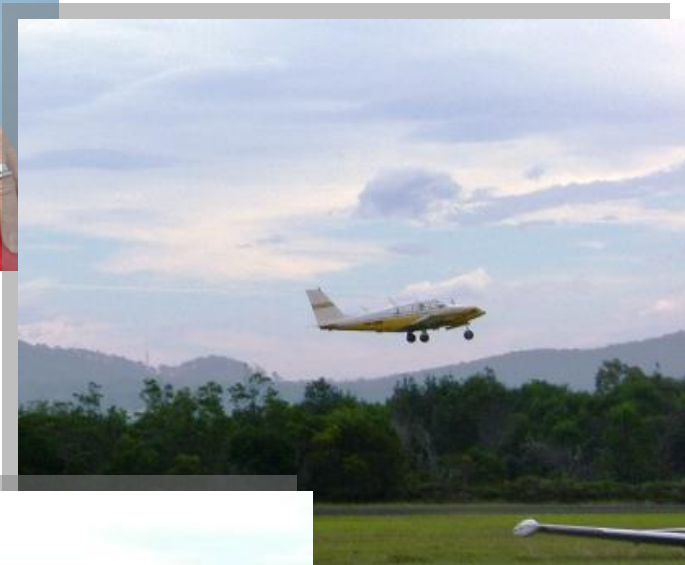




Spot the Comanche (Indian) profile



Great Mates



See you all next time