

MURWILLUMBAH/KINGSCLIFF FLY IN REPORT OCTOBER 2014

Arrivals.

Following good reports from our harried organiser, some 18 Comanches landed at YMUR, while 2 pilots elected for the more rarefied (and expensive) option of YBCG.

Some late arrivals on Saturday, and the member who made the effort to arrive for the meetings on Sunday, while they missed out on the passionfruit sponge, tea and bikkies on Friday, certainly increased the attendance to one of the best turnouts in recent memory. Our numbers were also bolstered on this occasion by the attendance of 2 couples from across the Tasman, and our "honorary" Tribe member from Portland, Oregon, who also made the journey with his partner and one of her friends for some Down Under travel.

Friday evening, October 10th.

A short bus ride or car drive from YMUR to Kingscliff saw all present directed to their respective accommodations in good time to prepare for the sundowners and a meal in Salt Bar & Bistro at Mantra Kingscliff. A cool but pleasant evening was had by all, before being lulled to sleep by the sounds of waves gently cresting Salt Beach, and the occasional cry of the stone curlews calling.

Saturday October 11th .



Next morning as the sun rose and the black cockatoos flew along the coastal scrub, we congregated in small groups for breakfast, mostly on the Terrace at Mantra. Then it was back aboard the bus for a drive south along the coastal road to the Tweed River Art Gallery, and our guided tour of this magnificently sited and well designed gallery which now houses a very significant tribute to a regional artist and national treasure, the late Margaret Olley. To have the opportunity, through the generosity of several benefactors and the artist herself, of re-creating parts of her home and studio, as well as the provision for an Artist in Residence, has allowed generations of visitors a window into an artist's personal domain and into some of her visions for artistic expression not previously available to many of us, especially in Australia. Our special thanks to our guide that day for her enthusiasm and her ability to share her knowledge with those in her charge. The entire Gallery with its many facets is a credit to the community members who worked hard to bring it to fruition, and who continue to serve their community and its guests with such dedication.



Tweed Valley Panorama from the Coffee Shop at Tweed Valley Gallery

Then it was all aboard once more for the journey down river to the settlement of Tumbulgum, and the delights of the Tumbulgum Tavern, (or the Tumby Pub to locals), our host's favourite local watering hole. After some liquid AND solid refreshment, handled very efficiently by both bar and kitchen staff given the size of our party AND the number of other guests present, we all enjoyed some social time together before the return to Salt Village and a break before the evening's festivities. Some walked on the beach, while others read, talked or just lazed by the pool until it was time to get ready for the evening.



By 7 pm, all had gathered at Seasons Restaurant at Pepper's Resort across the road from Mantra for a delightful 3 course meal with plenty of time for social intercourse about all things Comanche, flying, families and friends. The attendance by some previous members(Peter and Marg Webb) and their family, who had been very active participants in the past before Peter took to boats!, gave many of us the opportunity to reminisce, especially about the Fly-in they hosted at Coffs Harbour some years ago.

Sunday October 12th .

As luck would have it, those who needed to head south later that morning were faced with deteriorating weather of the VERY nasty kind, so several members departed even before most of us had breakfasted, and so had to apologise for missing the AGM & the GM which followed. It is a not infrequent occurrence that weather forces some members to curtail their participation at our fly-ins, but such are the pressures of some of our busy lives that delays due to weather cannot be tolerated, and even an instrument rating is no guarantee that flights may proceed without significant interruption.

"BETTER TO BE ON THE GROUND WISHING YOU WERE UP THERE, THAN IN THE AIR WISHING YOU WERE STILL ON THE GROUND!"

A very interesting set of meetings occurred, (minutes and reports separately provided), at which the matters of parts design, manufacture and distribution were well reported, decisions completed and the executive committee empowered to proceed with further parts as required by our Tribe members, depending on costs and production agreements.

The location of the 2016 International Convention was agreed to be held at Queenstown, NZ, hosted by our Kiwi members, and held in association with the Easter dates of "Warbirds over Wanaka" in 2016 (late March - see detailed meeting minutes). A provisional program will be circulated shortly to allow regional members to plan their attendances, and to consider a trans-Tasman fly away to present a collective gathering of the Tribe on new Zeland soil. (I kid you not, it is a reasonably easy set of flights from NSW-Lord Howe-Norfolk-NZ and return for a truly memorable flying experience, and one I am happy to repeat! Any questions can be answered by those of us who have done it already.) Our American Tribe leaders prefer us NOT to directly advertise this Convention activity until after the next Convention in 2015, BUT as that will be barely 6 months prior to the time for NZ, we felt that the Tribes need to know some details now to adequately prepare forward planning for such an important event. Your committee has this well in hand.

So to our next GM and Fly-In - it is now planned for the Launceston area of Tasmania in mid-March 2015, dates to be confirmed, but expect either March 13th or 20th.

Watch this space.

Jan van der Spek

PS If any members have suitable personal photos to add to this report please forward in medium size to me at membership@comancheflyer.com.au Jan