

Spring Fly-In and AGM Maroochydore 2015

Australian Tribe, International Comanche Society.

“Thought this was s’posed to be the Sunshine Coast!!!” – oft heard on Friday Oct 30th as planes dripped from the sky from either over OR under wet and cloudy skies.

With a good representation of planes belonging to Australian Comanche members, we were also pleased to receive a visit from Barry and Sandra Payne in ZK-BAZ, their beautifully restored PA-250 in its distinctly NZ-style colour scheme. Some regional members chose to drive in, and our busy Convention Team for Queenstown, Alan Breen and Julie South, also made a trans-Tasman visit, albeit via commercial flights. Our Honorary Tribe Member from Portland, Oregon, John van Bladeren and his partner Kathy Baker, had also travelled across the BIG DITCH to be with us this time, and it was great to be able to spend time with them again. We hope to catch up in Queenstown next.

Friday October 30th.

Grey dripping skies greeted all pilots who managed the flight arrival that day, but as far as we know, no-one was unable to access the coast in their own aircraft despite the dismal conditions. Just a further reminder to us all NOT to plan a meeting in that part of the country later than mid-September (see last year’s event at Kingscliff for similar problems of access on the Friday!), due to the unreliable weather patterns with storms of unacceptable risk at times!

Unfortunately, the weather also dictated a change of plans for the evening BBQ meal, which had been planned to be lagoon-side on the beach at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort, but had to be moved indoors. After some minor issues with seated numbers, everyone had an enjoyable and substantial buffet BBQ meal, and had plenty of time for catch-up chatter, tales of travels and the usual “plane stories”! Some of these went well into the evening, while others, especially those who had travelled the furthest that day, retired a little earlier.

Saturday October 31st.

Sunshine greeted us EARLY next morning – with no daylight saving in the northern state, it probably is just as well with this part of the country so much further east than major centres further south!

While it was still cool, the day was very enjoyable, with a leisurely tour to Montville in the hinterland, before enjoying a delightful 3 course lunch at a local French-style restaurant (Le Relais Bressan), with a fabulous chocolatiere on site. This made for wonderful

Jan van der Spek

Membership Secretary ICS AUS