

# International Comanche Society (Aust Tribe)

Wagga Wagga NSW October 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2008

By Deanna Knutson

## Fly-In & AGM



### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Another early morning start as we head to the farm for a light bit of work on our new house in progress.

Upon arrival we found an open gate and sheep in with the cattle. Some of the cattle had wandered onto the house block and there was a flood around the water trough. We found a note from a neighbour requesting that we herd the sheep down to his property for shearing that same weekend. No time to work on the house, we took a couple of deep breaths and accept that life on the farm is never predictable, but we wouldn't trade it off for any other life.

By 2pm we left Wangaratta in JGW tracking 026 for the short 93 nautical miles flight taking approx 40 minutes. Clear skies with little wind made the short flight very enjoyable and it wasn't long before we sighted the Wagga Wagga township. Wagga Wagga is a rich agricultural area located on the Murrumbidgee River at the intersection of the Sturt and Olympic Highways, mid way on the rail line between Sydney and Melb. It is the largest inland city in NSW with a population of approx 57000 people. Wagga Wagga was proclaimed a town in 1849 with its name derived from the language of the Wiradjuri aboriginal tribe meaning crows or where crows assemble. From the air we can clearly see this large sprawling city and countryside is also suffering from the lack of rain which has engulfed the rest of the surrounding land. A good long asphalted strip presented itself in the warm afternoon sun and it wasn't long before we were greeted by Nigel and Marg Wettenhall, who had flown in earlier and local aero club member Geoff Kidd. One by one we watch as 16 planes (including two non Comanche's) arrive while Manfred and Allison made the long drive by car from Berowra.



In the comfort of a local hangar along with pre-dinner drinks and snacks we met members of the Wagga Aero Club and caught up with friends. As evening and dark approach we enjoyed a fabulous barbeque prepared and served by the aero club.

After some special words of welcome from the club president Peter Middleton and as by now the night had brought with it a cold crispness we were taken into town to our accommodation at The Lawson Motor Inn on Tarcutta St. This was to be our extremely comfortable home for the next few days. Incidentally Geoff Kidd along with his delightful wife Jeanine are owners of The Lawson and they understand the quirky requests some pilots have. Only joking fellas!

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008.**

Daybreak brought the warm sun of what was to become a hot clear day and after breakfast in our rooms we departed by bus at 9.30am. With twenty eight on board we headed north 84 kms. away



to Temora. The countryside along the way was dry and colourless but for the purple fields of Pattersons Curse. Some farmers had managed to cut their wheat while others wheat crops looked rather sad. A farmer's life today is passion with some doing it very hard. We arrived at the township of Temora for a quick drive through as today's agenda was the Temora Airshow and Museum. The display at the aviation museum is exceptional being first established in 1999 it has developed an impressive reputation for its display of military aircraft with

historical significance to Australia. Its line up includes Aust only two flying Spitfires and the oldest Tiger Moth still flying in the country. A Wirraway, World War 11 Hudson, Gloster Meteor F8 and others are all airworthy and flown on a regular basis. The Airshow that followed provided all that attended a great day with the smell of aviation fuel to boot. Any person who has an interest in aviation should get along to this must see event which performs on a regular basis. After a pleasant and relaxing afternoon we were back on the bus and after a quick clean up and change of clothes at the Motel we were once again back on board this time for a 15 min drive to Wagga Wagga Winery for dinner. Our group of 30 dined in this drop log constructed building decorated with antique treasures from the area. Dinner was a cook your own BBQ as this proved to be something the guys could do whilst the girls guarded the open bottles of the local drop. Plenty of stories and lots of laughter followed by a short presentation by our chief Jim Barry. Jim acknowledged Richard Goddard and crew for flying more than 1300 kms from Narangba Qld. He also thanked Geoff Kidd from the Wagga Wagga Aeroclub for organising the weekend. A special welcome to our new members Gary and Elaine Murphy from Swan Hill and also to Graham and Glenda Bunn from Coldstream and later we were taken back by the bus to The Lawson for a good night's sleep.



## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Another clear warm morning presented itself whilst we enjoyed a full buffet breakfast in the conference room followed by the AGM. (Separate report) A group photo was taken and as most pilots were eager to fly home the taxi service to the airfield was rather brisk. Fond farewells were made and promises to catch up again soon amidst the noise of engines running.

Thanks again Nigel, Marg, Geoff and the Aero club for making the weekend another great one!

Our weekend of excitement did not end there as upon landing at Wangaratta, JGW still with its bugs attached was locked away. A quick wash and with lunch in hand we went off to the farm for some work on the new house. Our newly shorn sheep greeted us and proudly presented the first farm born lamb at Cararragarmungee. It's amazing what a good shear will bring out! The biggest smile was on Roger the Ram's face and I had doubted his ability up to then.

Deanna Knutsun. VH- JGW



### Attendees

Nigel / Marg Wettenhall  
Jim Barry  
John Ward  
Jeff Wittig / Deanna Knutsun  
Ian Thomson / Irene Lawson  
Mike / Kay Smith  
Jeff Hutchinson  
Rob / Ros Cumming  
Richard / Mr Goddard  
Gary / Elaine Murphy  
John Michell / Bill Forrester  
Trevor / Lynn Nixon  
Tony / Angela Read  
Graham / Glenda Bunn  
Roger Lenne  
Guests of Richard G (3)  
Manfred / Allison Melloh

### Comanche's :

VH-MAB  
VH-CDB  
VH-LCQ  
VH -JGW  
VH-MMN  
VH- MCW  
VH-YER  
VH-ALT  
VH- EDW  
VH- DRD  
VH- ADD  
VH- UAW  
VH-MEG  
VH- PBH  
RV7  
Cessna 310  
Motor vehicle

Deniliquin NSW  
Swan Hill Vic  
Swan Hill Vic  
Wangaratta Vic  
Mt Martha Vic  
Shepparton Vic  
Broken Head NSW  
Henty NSW  
Narangba QLD  
Swan Hill Vic  
Tamworth NSW  
Rand NSW  
Sandringham Vic  
Coldstream Vic  
Tatura Vic  
Brisbane QLD  
Berowa NSW