

# Kimberley Dental Team 2014 Update

Wow what a year! With three Kimberley trips in 2014 now completed the service delivery to remote communities this year has been amazing. Thank you very much to the more than 60 volunteers who contributed their time and energy this year. Our teams met all targets and outcomes set by the Oral Health Improvement Unit to satisfy KDT being supported under the National Partnership Agreement.

## Celebratory Dinner

In celebration of \$1million of dental care the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirrisson held a special KDT Dinner at the Mosman Park Bowling Club on Friday, October 10. More than 160 volunteers, Rotarians, friends and supporters enjoyed the wonderful views, a lovely dinner and live entertainment from the Madjiti Moorna Choir, singers of aboriginal songs, and rock-n-roll dance band REZZA.

The evening was awesome and an opportunity to thank the huge number of volunteers, supporters and sponsors behind the scenes and to also celebrate the milestone of having provided more than **\$1 million** worth of dental care over the past five years to Australians in our most remote regions and vulnerable people through KDT Southern.

Jan and John were also honoured to receive the Rotary International award of being named Paul Harris Fellows in recognition of outstanding commitment to the community. We thank the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirrisson for their untiring support of KDT and its volunteers.



## KDT Southern

We have recently purchased an Isuzu ex Queensland Government Dental Truck, which needs refurbishing, and the necessary stock and equipment dedicated to KDT Southern and have resumed visits to Uniting care West's Tranby Homelessness Service and Tuart Place in Fremantle. KDT is currently speaking with disadvantaged Youth services to see how we can provide a service to these young people. If you have some free time and would like to be involved please be in contact.

## Overview of the August 2014 Trip

This last trip saw us visiting towns and communities right across the Kimberley and providing a very high level of dental care to 376 people. We visited and provided dental services at BRAMS, Beidon, Pandanus Park, Jarlmadangah, Fitzroy School, Bayulu School, Yiyili, Halls Creek, Warmun, Ringer Soak, Balgo, Billiluna and Mulan.

## August 2014 Teams

**Week 1:** As we were travelling from Broome we were able to provide a small team for a half day at BRAMS while the rest of the team provided a morning at Beidon and the afternoon at Pandanus Park. Dividing into two teams meant the KAMSC truck could work at the Fitzroy School and another team visited Jarlmadangah on Tuesday and Bayulu on Wednesday. Thursday was spent at Yiyili and we were into Halls Creek by the evening ready for a full day on Friday.

*Dr Andrew Heap, Dr Laura Brough, Dr Jilen Patel, DA Sue Kelly, DA Kylie Clarke, Helen Heap, Jyoti Arora, Jan and Jan Owen*

**Week 2:** The incoming team via Kununurra were based in Halls Creek for most of the week with teams at the hospital clinic and also the KAMSC truck at the school. A small team traveled out to Ringer Soak working at the school and clinic. On Thursday KDT travelled north to Warmun for 1 ½ days work before heading back to Kununurra.

*Dr Brian Koch, Dr Jane Lee, Dr Jilen Patel, DA Carmen Onderwater, DA Katrin Oesterwinter, Jyoti Arora, final year dental student Sian Hopkins, Jan and John Owen*

**Week 3:** Our final week for 2014 was spent at Balgo, Billiluna and Mulan, the Kutjungka, where the team visited the schools and also set up in the medical clinics. In all we examined 131 people, many of them children, and provided oral health education, fissure sealing and extensive treatment where needed. Considering the more than 1,500 kilometers involved in getting from Halls Creek to Balgo and then back across to Broome this is an astonishing result – and it was a lot of fun.

*Dr Brian Hurwitz, Dr Nam Nguyen, Dr Jilen Patel, DA Mylita Power, DA Sheree Syson, OHT Chelsea Bain, Jyoti Arora, Jan and John Owen*

As always, on our August Trip, alongside the dedicated hard work, the hours of paperwork at the end of each day, and the long distances travelled everyone had a great deal of fun, sharing memorable meals, camaraderie and the awesome Kimberley landscape. Highlights include team members meeting and in some cases catching up again with community personalities.

Check out the August photos on the News Page.

## Statistics

In August KDT provided oral health education and dental services for 376 people, with a total of 1602 ADA itemised services. The totals for our Kimberley trips in 2014 include 1242 examinations, 351 extractions, 581 restorations, 175 scale and cleans, 7 partial dentures, 147 fluoride/remineralising treatments and 1,353 fissure seals.

## 2015

In 2015 KDT teams will focus mainly on children, providing the 2 yearly school visits and ensuring freedom from dental disease in as many children in the region as possible. The majority of visits will be in May and in June with the possibility of a short trip in August.

**A big thank you** to our fabulous volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom these results could not be achieved.

Jan and John Owen

**Kimberley Dental Team**

[www.kimberleydentalteam.com](http://www.kimberleydentalteam.com)

