

Kimberley Dental Team April 2015 Update

It's almost time for the volunteers of the Kimberley Dental Team (KDT) to be returning to the Kimberley to provide dental care to people of the region. As with last year, the KDT Broome Base house will be our start and end point for each of the trips, with teams coming in and out through Kununurra when we are in the East Kimberley.

The three trips in 2014 trips achieved an amazing amount of dental care and education and the reduction in urgent need in adult populations allows us to focus more fully on the children in communities and at the Fitzroy and Halls Creek schools in 2015. In all we will be providing 7 weeks clinical work and approximately 45 volunteers are involved including John and Jan who are scheduled every week. This will be broken down into 3 weeks in May and 4 weeks from mid June instead of the usual August visit.

Meanwhile, during the summer months, KDT Southern has been active around Perth and surrounds providing 11 sessions of dental service to UnitingCare homeless shelter, Tuart Place the Forgotten Australians, Mercy Care Aged facility and Foyer Oxford youth services. We also provide oral health packs on request to homeless shelters, health centres, playgroups and schools most notably Wanneroo and Narrogin schools.

To date this year UnitingCare West had two Friday morning clinics and two evening Family clinics, Tuart Place had one Monday morning clinic, Mercy Care had three Wednesday morning clinics and Foyer Oxford had three Saturday clinics 11am-3pm a total of 11 sessions in all. A further 13 sessions are scheduled for the rest of the year.

KDT Southern is always looking for dentists and assistants to help out so if you have a free morning or evening and would like to be involved please contact us – apart from the amazing outcomes achieved for these vulnerable people it's always a lot of fun and usually involves lunch.

The KDT Southern Isuzu (ex Queensland Government Dental Truck) has been refurbished by KDT supporter Graham Whiteside and will be ready for use by KDT Southern in June.

KDT is very fortunate to have local aboriginal woman Robyn Long as our KDT Oral Health Officer. Robyn lives in Halls Creek and has been a great supporter of the team since 2009. She brings a special and invaluable set of skills to the Team.

KDT continues to work in partnership with the WA Healthy Schools Project and their Kimberley WAHSP Officer Trish Pepper on the Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids toothbrushing program and will continue to provide thousands of toothbrushes to Kimberley school children each year. Thanks to the Rotaract team for happily repacking toothbrushes into classroom ready packs – see their photo below.

A big thank you to our fabulous volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom KDT could not continue providing this service to people in need in our community.

Follow our 2015 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen

Kimberley Dental Team

www.kimberleydentalteam.com

