

KDT Update August 2016

We have recently completed our third KDT Kimberley trip for 2016. It is cold in Perth !!!

The August trip started from Broome on 8th August

August 2016 Teams:

Week 1. The team came in through Broome and on Monday we provided a service at Broome Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS) and also had a team go to Milliya Rumarra Rehab Centre. Tuesday we set off on a dental road trip and visited the communities of Bedunburra and Pandanus Park where we were kept very busy especially when the children came off the school bus from Derby. After camping overnight at Willare Roadhouse we set off for the community of Jarlmadangah, 86km south east of Derby. The team set up in the community clinic and also visited the school to screen children. Thursday the team travelled back to Broome. Friday KDT ran another busy clinic at BRAMS and also sent a team to the high school to provide dental health education and screening to the Clontarf students. We wound up another eventful KDT week with a burger at the Good Cartel in Broome.

Dr Dennis Gregory, Dr Simon Shanahan, Dr Luke Rodman, DA Louise Richards, DT Kim Jouning, Tracy Sandercock, Tanita Marsh, Jan and John.

Week 2. Our final team for 2016 arrived in Broome on Sunday and immediately busied themselves helping to get ready for our coming road trip up the Gibb River Road. The convoy set off on Monday and spent the day driving to the community of Kupingarri at Mt Barnett where we were to camp for three nights. Tuesday we travelled a further hour north east to provide a service at the Gibb River Community and to screen the children and Wednesday the team worked at the Kupingarri clinic treating community members and children identified as needing care at a school screening. Thursday we packed up and drove back to the community of Mowanjum where we provided an afternoon clinic before setting up camp at the Derby caravan park and enjoying dinner at a local restaurant with Derby DHS dentist Dr Thillini Wijewardane. A well attended morning clinic at Mowanjum followed on Friday before driving back to Broome to start the pack down process. In the evening the team enjoyed a Cable Beach sunset and viewing the wonderful Stairway to the Moon.

Dr Andrew Heap, Dr Rod Jennings, DA Ruth Warden, DT Afrodity Fotiou, Sue Worsley, Peta Knapton, Jan and John.

So ended another great year in the Kimberley. In 2016 KDT provided oral health education and dental services at 1033 visits in the Kimberley; 978 examinations, 357 extractions, 400 restorations, 177 scale and cleans, 120 fluoride treatments and 850 fissure seals and twelve partial dentures. This was over seven clinical weeks with 12,000 kms of road covered.

As we approach the end of our eighth year of KDT, we continue very strong professional relationships with ADAWA which provides two scholarships to assist our final year students, as well as the recipient of the UWA, John Pritchard Memorial scholarship which supports a student in the Kimberley. DHS with the provision of materials and use of their clinics in Balgo Hills and Halls Creek, KAMSC with the use of their invaluable dental truck, BRAMS, WACHS, and our corporate Sponsors. We have ongoing support from Rotary, the International College of Dentists, Dental Partners/ Maven Dental Group and DentiCare and the WA Oral Health Improvement Unit of the WA Government. KDT was again the recipient of two Awards in 2015-2016, the CBA Staff Community Award for the second time and the ADAF Wrigley Award for the third successive time. KDT was shortlisted in the final 10 of the Impact 100 Awards for WA for our School Children Tooth Brushing Program.

Evidence of the effectiveness of the tooth brushing and tooth paste program, Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids, is now very clear in our treatment profile towards prevention (see below). It is now firmly embedded in the hygiene and health mantra of eye, ear and oral health. Trish Pepper in Broome continues to administer the program through her vast network of teachers and health workers.

KDT Southern:

As well as oral health education and dental treatment in the Kimberley our KDT Southern teams continue their activities in the Perth metropolitan area with visits to UnitingCare and Family Foundations since the

August trip and several other sessions scheduled before the end of the year. A big thankyou to our core of volunteers who help out at these sessions. If you would like to be involved in KDT Southern activities please email us to express your interest and availability and find out about the roster and scheduled visits for 2016.

The KDT model in both the North and the South, continues to demonstrate that from 2009 when our initial services were almost 100% surgical (extraction of teeth) with no restorative care, to now, thousands of patients and many, many, thousands of teeth, only require and receive non-invasive preventive care including fissure sealants, topical fluoride applications and prophylaxis/scaling, with our aim that all patients receive dietary advice, dental health education and instruction with demonstration of brushing. To supplement this, we have always and continue to supply all patient's households with toothbrushes and tooth paste for all the occupants of their house and always provide and show their relevant problem or our concerns diagrammatically using our [provided], Strong Teeth, Strong Body, Strong Mind, booklet.

The Team spirit and untiring passion of our KDT volunteers and supporters is what makes this all possible – thank you.

Follow our 2016 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen AM

Kimberley Dental Team

www.kimberleydentalteam.com