

KDT Update May June 2017

Having just completed a 3-week KDT Kimberley trip we are now preparing for a return to the region on the 5th August for two weeks.

The first trip for 2017 was later than usual start due to many of our dental volunteers attending the ADA Dental Congress in Melbourne in May. The trip started from Broome on 28th May.

May/June 2017 Teams:

Week 1. The team came in through Broome on Saturday and we set off to Halls Creek on Sunday morning with the KAMS dental truck, and our three KDT vehicles and accommodation van. The teams had a very busy week at the hospital dental clinic and in the KAMS truck at the IGA Clinic and smaller teams went to Ringer Soak Community on Tuesday and Yiyili Community on Thursday. We enjoyed some great meals together and treated the team to a trip to China Wall on Wednesday and a memorable sausage sizzle at Caroline Pool on Friday evening.

Dr Tim Clair, Dr Gavin Clarke, Dr Amer Patel, DA Ruth Warden, DA Sheralee Holmes, DA Dimity Carroll, Alex Easton, Geoff Owen, final year dental student Luke Newman, Jan and John.

Week 2. On Saturday morning the team set off for Broome leaving John, Jan and Ruth to prepare for the incoming team who arrived Sunday afternoon after a seven hour drive. Following an overnight stay in Halls Creek we headed south down the 370km of the rough Tanami Road on the Monday public holiday and arrived in Balgo Hills community. On Tuesday a team set up and had a very busy session at the Balgo clinic and the other team examined children at Luurnpa school and set up a clinic in the afternoon to treat those in need. Wednesday one team returned to the Balgo clinic and the other travelled across to Mulan on the edge of Lake Gregory to screen the school children at John Pujajangka-Piyirn school and then run a busy session at the clinic before driving back to Balgo to regroup and then with the whole team on to Billiluna. Thursday as well as screening children at Kururrungku school there was a well attended dental session at the clinic, the only problem we had was being harassed by the community camel. On Friday after a short morning session we hit the road returning to Halls Creek in time for sunset and to enjoy dinner at the Kimberley Hotel. Only two flat tyres this week to repair.

Dr Ian McAtamney, Dr Daniel Lavery, Dr Clare Lin, DA Ruth Warden, Dr Ann McAtamney, Tracy Sandercock, Alex Easton, Jan and John.

Week 3. Our final KDT week was spent visiting Warmun Community including screening children at the Ngalangangpum school and treating community members and then back in Halls Creek at the hospital clinic and opposite IGA with the KAMS truck. A small team returned to Frog Hollow, Purnululu school to screen and then treat children identified as needing care. The team left Halls Creek at midday on Friday and travelled to Fitzroy Crossing for an overnight stay before heading back to Broome on Saturday arriving in time to catch the afternoon flights home for the team members.

Dr Brian Hurwitz, Dr Millicent Woon, Dr Garry Hibble, DA Louise Richards, DA Sandra Elliot, DA Robyn Kilgour, Sue Worsley, final year dental student Juliana Ng, Jan and John.

While we are still finalising the statistics it appears that In May/June KDT provided oral health education and dental services for approximately 558 people; 533 examinations, 180 extractions, 303 restorations, 145 scale and cleans, 57 radiographs, 54 fluoride treatments and 671 fissure seals. In all, this represents approximately \$197,600 worth of free dental care, assistance and advice.

Thanks again to Maven Dental Group and Denticare for their generous sponsorship of KDT. Maven Group participating volunteers were Dr Amer Patel and Ms Dimity Carroll in week 1 and Dr Gary Hibble and Ms Robyn Kilgour in week 3. Dr Carolyn Mathews and Ms Katrina Northey will be joining us during the August trip. Thank you to the Academy of Dentistry International for donating to the toothbrushing program, to the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirison for their ongoing support and to Rotaract for packing our toothbrushes into classroom ready packs

Thank you to the Australian Dental Association (WA Branch), for their ongoing support of KDT in general and especially for awarding two final year dental students with very significant financial support with Remote Area Student Scholarships to assist with their remote placement.

KDT teams always work very hard but in a great friendly and happy team environment sharing many memorable moments. We cover thousands of kilometers in a region twice the size of Victoria. Halls Creek teams enjoy our visits to China Wall and sundowners at Caroline Pool while those on the Kutjunga week enjoy barbecues around the campfire along with the excitement of being in the outback. Broome based teams share wine, cheese and gorgeous sunsets at Cable Beach.

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

The KDT Board is very happy to report that the Team has comfortably completed and undertaken all of the requirements for our 2017 Grant through the WA Oral Health Improvement Unit. Thank you to the WA Oral health Improvement Unit for continuing to support KDT through National Partnership Agreement Grants.

Follow our 2017 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen
Kimberley Dental Team
www.kimberleydentalteam.com

