

Kimberley Dental Team April 2018 Update

Our Kimberley program for 2018 will be starting in a few weeks and preparations are well underway to ensure everything runs smoothly. Our KDT HQ in Broome makes an excellent start and end point for most of the Kimberley trips, with some teams flying in and out of Kununurra while we are in the East Kimberley.

There are two trips scheduled, providing five clinical weeks. The three weeks in May will centre around Halls Creek and include visits to Ringer Soak, Billiluna, Balgo, Mulan, Yiyili, Warmun and Frog Hollow. We will spend another few days in Halls Creek at the beginning of our July trip and then move to Fitzroy where we will visit the communities of Bayulu, Junjuwa, Muludja, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park. Approximately 40 volunteers are involved including John and Jan who are scheduled every week.

KDT Southern continues to provide a dental service to UnitingCare homeless shelter, Tuart Place - the Forgotten Australians, Foyer Oxford Youth Services and the mental health hostel Devenish House. In addition we continue to provide oral health packs on request to homeless shelters, health centers, playgroups and schools across the state. Recently KDT supplied 600 toothbrushes and toothpaste for Johns visit to Project Yeti in Nepal and educational booklets to Dr Stephen Herriott who is piloting a new program in the Solomon Islands.

To date this year we have visited UnitingCare West one Friday morning clinic and one Monday evening Family clinic, and Foyer Oxford, one Saturday clinic: a total of 3 sessions in all. A further 7 sessions are scheduled for the rest of the year. Our thanks to Sue for helping manage our KDT Southern clinics.

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, at least occasionally, please contact us. We achieve amazing outcomes for these vulnerable people and its always a lot of fun, usually involves lunch. If you would like to be involved please email Sue to express your interest and availability and find out about the roster and scheduled visits for 2018 and 2019.

KDT continues to work in partnership with the WA Oral Health Improvement Unit and WA Country Health Service through the Kimberley Population Health Unit. Trish Pepper, KDT's Broome representative works on the Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids toothbrushing program and provides thousands of toothbrushes to Kimberley school children each year. Thanks to the Rotaract team for happily repacking toothbrushes into classroom ready packs which are very well received in schools.

We continue to have had very generous support from the Australasian section of the International College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirison and the Commonwealth Bank Employees Fund for our ongoing three year youth program. A very generous anonymous donor has also given an undertaking to donate \$20,000 per year for the next three years to provide broader services and a final year dental student award.

In April Jan travelled to Geraldton to speak to the Rotary District Conference about KDT and the role that Rotary has played in our program since 2012.

A big thank you: As always we thank our great and passionate volunteers, our past and current dental students and our corporate sponsors and supporters, Maven Dental Group, Denticare, CBA, SDI and Dental Health Services without whom KDT could not continue providing this service to people in need in our community.

Jan and John Owen
Kimberley Dental Team

Follow our 2018 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page and see our team photos on the [KDT website](#).