

Kimberley Dental Team April 2019 Update

We are very excited to announce that this is our 10 year Anniversary since the inception of KDT. Various celebrations are planned including getting the original clinical team back together for the 1st week in August.

There is also a celebratory event for all KDT supporters at the Royal Perth Yacht Club on Friday evening 16th October. More details to follow.

The KDT steering committee are considering a promotion of the KDT Oral Health Program, possibly a Guinness Book of Records challenge for the most kids brushing their teeth at one time.

Suggestions included:

- At a Dockers game at Optus Stadium, sponsored by the Dockers.
- Video links to kids brushing their teeth at Kimberley schools.
- Announce at our 10 Year Celebration.
- Promote on social media.

Our Kimberley program for 2019 is set to start in a few weeks and preparations are well underway to ensure everything runs smoothly. As usual our KDT HQ in Broome will be the 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 this year, providing five clinical weeks. The three weeks in May will centre around Halls Creek and include visits to Ringer Soak, Yiyili, Billiluna, Balgo, Mulan, Warmun and Frog Hollow. We will spend another few days in Halls Creek at the beginning of our August trip and then move to the Fitzroy Valley where we will visit the Fitzroy Valley District High School and the communities of Bayulu, Muludja, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park. Approximately 40 volunteers are involved in our 2019 teams 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.

To date this year we have visited UnitingCare West for Friday morning clinics and Monday evening Family clinics. A further 5 sessions are scheduled for the rest of the year. Our thanks to Sue for helping manage our KDT Southern clinics. We achieve amazing outcomes for these vulnerable people and its always a lot of fun, usually involves lunch or dinner afterwards. 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 the rest of 2019 and 2020.

KDT continues to work in partnership with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer 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 Rotaract for their regular commitment to forming a team to happily repack thousands of toothbrushes into classroom ready packs which are very well received in schools and clinics.

The WA dental students have been actively supporting KDT. Students raised \$3,000 for KDT from the Rottneest swim and the proceeds of fundraising bake sales. 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 and well respected donor, has also given an undertaking to donate \$20,000 per year for three years to provide broader services and a final year dental student award.

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 and SDI without whom KDT could not continue providing this service to people in need in our community.

Jan and John Owen AM
Kimberley Dental Team

Follow our 2019 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook page](#) and see our team photos on the KDT website.

