

KDT Update May 2021

We have just completed a very busy and enjoyable 3-week KDT Kimberley trip and are now preparing, with fingers crossed, for a return to the region on the 24th July for two weeks.

May 2021 Teams:

Week 1. Having missed 2020 we were delighted to collect our first team from the airport in Broome and to enjoy a sunset picnic on Cable Beach followed by Bushby Pizzas. Sunday morning we set off to Halls Creek with our three KDT vehicles and accommodation van. The teams had an extremely busy week working at the school, Yuri Yungi Aboriginal Medical Service and at the hospital dental clinic. A small team went to Ringer Soak Community on Tuesday and the whole team to Yiyili Community on Thursday. Children in both these community schools were screened and where permissions could be obtained treatment carried out. Many adults also sought treatment and were very grateful for the opportunity to have their pain relieved. We celebrated the return of KDT with some fun filled evenings and delicious meals together concluding with a memorable campfire and sausage sizzle at Caroline Pool on Friday evening.

Dr Andrew Heap, Dr Ashlee Bence, DA Sandra Elliot, DA Louise Sertorio, Sue Worsley, David Owen, final year dental student Richard Tien, Jan and John.

Week 2. In second May KDT week we visited Warmun Community where we spent Monday and Tuesday. The children at Ngalangangpum school were screened and those in need treated along with many community members. With the amazing support of the school staff we were able to facilitate general anesthetic appointments at PCH for children in need. Most of the team drove back to Halls Creek on Tuesday afternoon and we worked at the Halls Creek Hospital clinic for the rest of the week. On Wednesday a small team visited Frog Hollow, Purnululu school to screen and then treat children identified as needing care and adult community members in need. After a morning clinic with all hands on deck the team, except Jan and John, left Halls Creek at 1pm on Friday and travelled to Fitzroy Crossing for an overnight stay before heading back to Broome on Saturday.

Dr Rod Jennings, Dr Cletus Fimmel, DA Sandra Elliot, DA Karen Bowman, Ashleigh Owen, final year dental student Brigitte O'Brien, Jan and John.

Week 3. On Saturday the incoming team arrived in Broome, and then left Broome on Sunday morning for the a seven hour drive to meet us in Halls Creek. Following an overnight stay in Halls Creek we headed south on the Tanami Road arriving in Billiluna in time to screen all of the children at Kururrungku before school finished. We also ran a small session at the community clinic for several people who were waiting at the door for our arrival. On Tuesday a dental clinic was set up at the Billiluna medical clinic and we were able to treat children identified as being in need and many adults before packing up and driving further 108 km south to Balgo late that afternoon. On Wednesday a team set up and had a very busy session at the Balgo clinic and the other team examined children at Luurmpa school and set up a clinic in the afternoon to treat those in need. This year we scheduled an extra day at Balgo which allowed us to finish all children identified as needing treatment. Friday one team returned to the Balgo clinic and the other travelled across to Mulan on the edge of Lake Gregory to run a busy session at the clinic before driving back to Balgo. On Saturday we packed up and drove the 514 km to Fitzroy Crossing where we stayed overnight. We arrived back in Broome early afternoon in time to repack for the July trip before the team flew out in the evening.

Dr Moses Lee, Dr Jilen Patel, DA Ruth Warden, DA Ranae Russo, Tracy Sandercock, Jan and John.

Statistics exceeded expectations of the numbers of people treated in May 2021. The teams provided examinations, oral health education and dental services for 469 people. Additionally these services included 126 extractions, 146 restorations, 74 scale and cleans, 56 topical fluoride treatments and 356 fissure seals. In all, this represents \$143,628 worth of free to the community dental care, assistance and advice.

Thank you as always to our incredible current and past corporate sponsors, Maven Dental Group, Denticare, International College of Dentists, SDI, Colgate, CBA Employees Community Grants, the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, the Mc Cusker Charitable Foundation, the Academy of Dentistry International, the Rotary Clubs of Perth, Perth City East and Heirison for their ongoing support, the young Rotaracts 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 Grants for final year dental students, in 2021, Richard Tien, Brigitte O'Brien and Xie Jie Tan. These Remote Area Student Scholarships greatly assist with their remote placement costs. The John Prichard Memorial Prize was awarded to final year DMD dental student, Alice Gregory.

KDT teams continue to engage with remote communities, providing invaluable dental services in a friendly and happy team environment. Volunteers express the pleasure they feel in seeing the difference made by the education program and being able to relieve chronic pain for people who have been suffering. We cover thousands of kilometers in a region twice the size of Victoria and three times the size of the United Kingdom.

As always a very big thank you to our fabulous volunteers and supporters without whom these results could not be achieved over the last twelve years.

We are very happy to report that the Team has worked hard and completed the requirements for our 2021 Grant through the Office of the Chief Dental Officer.

Follow our 2021 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen AM

Kimberley Dental Team

www.kimberleydentalteam.com

