

KDT Update and July/August Trip 2021

We have just completed our second KDT Kimberley trip for 2021 and are delighted to report that we were able to provide a dental service in the towns of Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing as well as visiting 5 communities detailed below.

The July/August trip started from beautiful Broome on Sunday the 25th July

July/August 2021 Teams:

Week 1. Our very excited team arrived in the Kimberley on Saturday and enjoyed a sundowner at Cable Beach. On Sunday everyone was keen to get moving, we packed and travelled the 7.5 hours across to Halls Creek where we were based for the first half of the week. The clinic at Halls Creek hospital was busy with patients on all our clinical days until our departure to Fitzroy on Wednesday lunch time. On Monday a small team including paediatric dentists Dr Patel and Dr Kottege ran a busy Children's Clinic at Yuri Yungi Aboriginal Medical Service (YYMS). On Tuesday the YYMS team set up at Red Hill school to treat children identified from the May visit. On Tuesday evening the team made a mid week visit to China Wall and Caroline Pool where we enjoyed snacks, a sausage sizzle and some spectacular star gazing. After a very busy morning working at the clinic on Wednesday the team drove to Fitzroy, set up camp on a lovely balmy evening and enjoyed dinner. Thursday was a day spent at the Fitzroy District High School screening approximately 95 children and providing oral health education. On Friday we set up a clinic in the school and treated many children who were identified as being in need and parents happy for us to assist. Late afternoon the team enjoyed a boat tour of beautiful Danggu Geikie Gorge. Our camp dinner stir fry cooked on the BBQ plate was a highlight. John and I waved the team off on Saturday morning to head back to Broome, cross over with the incoming team, and catch their evening flight home.

Dr Mark Nathan, Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Naomi Kottege, DA Giorgia Sabbatino, DA Mekalla Cunningham (SDI representative), Tracy Sandercock, final year dental student Xin Jie Tan, Jan and John.

Week 2. Our second team for the July/August 2021 trip arrived in Broome on Saturday evening and enjoyed the sights of Broome before heading to Fitzroy Crossing on Sunday to meet us. The team spent Monday working at the Fitzroy school treating children identified from the previous week. Tuesday we visited Bayulu School to screen children provide oral health education and to treat the children identified as being in need. On Wednesday we packed up camp and headed to Muludja Community where we screened and treated those in need before driving to Derby and setting up camp in the Kimberley Entrance Caravan Park. Mowanjum Community was a Thursday clinic in the community hall where the team put in a busy day. After a half day rest and time spent exploring Derby and enjoying a leisurely brunch we packed up our camp and drove to Willare Roadhouse where we set up camp before heading into Pandanus Park for a busy afternoon clinic. After a relaxing start on Saturday morning we headed back to HQ in Broome in time to unpack and clean gear in readiness for 2022 before heading back to Perth on the evening flight.

Dr Simon Shanahan, Dr Tim Clair, DA Ruth Warden, Sue Worsley, final year dental student Alice Gregory, Jan and John. Unfortunately, Dr Clare Lin (Victoria) and Dr Sue Cartwright (NSW) could not join us due to Covid.

So ended another year providing dental care in the Kimberley. In July/August 2021, KDT provided oral health education and dental services for 288 people. The totals for the two 2021 trips showed that we assisted 777 people over 836 visits; 777 examinations, 184 extractions, 272 restorations, 113 scale and cleans, 97 fluoride treatments, 815 fissure seals, 6 partial dentures and 17 mouth guards. Over five clinical weeks In all, this represents \$90,085.50 worth of free to the community dental care, assistance and advice in July/August and a total of \$229,688.75 for the year. Incredible team work!!

As we complete our twelfth year of KDT, we continue strong professional relationships with ADAWA and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer. This year ADAWA provided three awards to assist three of our four final year students with Richard Tien, Brigitte O'Brien and Xie Jie Tan joining us in 2021. Alice Gregory was the recipient of the John Pritchard Memorial scholarship, which is a generous prize that supports a student in the Kimberley every year. We now have had 38 final year dental students join our Kimberley teams since 2010.

Dental Health Services, continues their support with the provision of materials and use of their clinics in Balgo Hills and Halls Creek, WACHS with transporting our toothbrushing supplies and educational booklets. Support remains strong from the International College of Dentists (ICD), Academy of Dentists International (ADI), DentiCare, Colgate, SDI Limited, OHCWA and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, through National Partnership Grants.

A very special thank you to our Foundation partners, Maven Group, the Rotary Clubs of Perth, Perth City East and Heirison for their incredible support and to Rotaract for happily packing our toothbrushes into classroom ready packs, the McCusker Charitable Foundation, Lotterywest, CBA and Dental Health Services.

KDT teams continue to engage very effectively with remote communities, providing invaluable dental services in a friendly and happy team environment, often in open air clinics.

Evidence of the effectiveness of the tooth brushing and toothpaste program, Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids, is now very clear in our treatment profile towards prevention. Trish Pepper in Broome continues to administer the program through her vast network of teachers and health workers. 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.

John and I always say we can never thank enough our fabulous volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom these results could not be achieved.

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

Jan Owen AM and John Owen AM,
Kimberley Dental Team

