

KDT Update April 2023

After our very successful KDT visits in 2022 we have 2 trips planned for 2023, five weeks in all.

After a very rocky start worrying and wondering about our capacity to cross the Fitzroy River we are now set to start our program for 2023 in a few weeks with many preparations well underway to ensure everything runs smoothly. Our KDT HQ in Broome is the start and end point for our first and last Kimberley week, with all the other teams flying in and out of Kununurra while we are in the East Kimberley due to uncertainty over the Fitzroy crossing.

Our trips for 2023 have changed somewhat in that we have 4 clinical weeks planned in May and 1 in late July. The majority of stock is ordered and purchased through DHS and due for delivery in time for the May trip. Accommodation and flights are booked and communities have been contacted to ensure that the dental teams are welcome to visit. On Sunday 19th March we held our pre trip information sharing get together allowing new team members to meet and ask questions. Teams met and welcomed the seven 2023 UWA DMD Students. This will make a total of 55 final year dental students who have been involved and worked with KDT since 2010.

Assuming our crossing using the new low level crossover in Fitzroy goes smoothly the four weeks in May will mainly centre around Halls Creek and include visits to Bayulu school, Red Hill School and the communities of Muludja, Ringer Soak, Yiyili, Billiluna, Balgo, Mulan, Warmun and Frog Hollow. In July we will visit the communities of Bedunburra, Pandanus Park and Mowanjum in the West Kimberley. Approximately 30 volunteers will be involved in our 2023 teams including John and Jan who are scheduled every week.

KDT continues to work in partnership with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, Dental Health Services and the 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. Many thanks also to Colgate for their very generous contribution of small toothbrushes and paste as well as My First Brushes and paste for a 0-3 program to be implemented by Trish.

We continue to have very generous support from the Australasian section of the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry International, SDI, Colgate and the Rotary Clubs of Perth, Heirisson and City Rotary.

Thank you to our great and passionate volunteers, our past and current dental students and our corporate sponsors and generous private supporters.

Jan and John Owen

Kimberley Dental Team

www.kimberleydentalteam.com

