

KDT Update May Trip 2024

We have not long returned from an excellent 4-week KDT May Kimberley trip. Having made the bold statement that this was to be the last KDT trip we have since committed to a condensed two week trip in May of 2025.

May 2024 Teams:

Week 1. Our first team for 2024 came in on Saturday full of enthusiasm to be in the Kimberley and to start this adventure. A team briefing was followed by a visit to the shops to stock up and then a sunset picnic on Cable Beach. After a smooth and quick pack, we set off on our journey on Sunday morning to Fitzroy with our three KDT vehicles and accommodation vans. On Monday the team travelled to Bayulu School to provide screenings and treatment where possible and needed. Tuesday morning we packed up camp and went to Muludja community school where we set up on the basketball court. Once we finished treatment at the school the convoy set off for 3 hrs to the east to Halls Creek arriving in the early evening. Wednesday to Friday were spent at the Halls Creek District High School where we screened all children and then set up clinic in the kindy classroom. The team also made a visit to Menkawum Ngurra frail aged to provide dental checks for the residents. Thursday night was spent enjoying a sausage sizzle and the wonderful Kimberley sky at Caroline Pool. After a morning spent treating children at the school on Friday the Week 1 team set off after lunch for an overnight in Fitzroy Crossing.

Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Simon Shanahan, DA Karen Bowman, Jyoti Arora, final year dental students Josephine Santoso and Maaz Navood, Jan and John.

Week 2. The outgoing team arrived in Broome in time to meet the incoming team and for their flight home. The week 2 team enjoyed an overnight in Broome before the long drive across to Halls Creek on Sunday. On Monday half the team spent a busy day at the Halls Creek hospital clinic and the rest screened children at Red Hill School and then set up for an afternoon clinic at Yuri Yungji AMS. On Tuesday a small team travelled the 167km to the very remote community of Ringer Soak (Kundat Djaru) where we screened children and provided treatment for those in need before driving back to Halls Creek in time for the famous Moses pizzas. The rest of the week kept us busy with a return to Red Hill school on Wednesday to treat children screened on Monday. The whole team travelled the 110km to Yiyili Community on Thursday. Many adults and children were treated and it was delightful to be back in this community which was the first community we visited back in 2009. Thursday night was spent enjoying snacks and a sausage sizzle at Caroline Pool. After a morning spent working at the hospital clinic and YYMS the team enjoyed a picnic in the park before travelling to Fitzroy for an overnight stop.

Dr Moses Lee, Dr Ashlee Bence, Dr Greg Celine, DA Ranae Russo, David Owen, Ashleigh Owen, final year dental students Audrey Yee and David Hora, Jan and John.

Week 3. The outgoing team left Fitzroy early on Saturday in order to meet the incoming flight and hand over the vehicles to our week 3 team who spent a leisurely evening in Broome and rose early on Sunday to drive across to Halls Creek. On Monday morning a small team set off early to Frog Hollow, Purnululu school and the rest of the team worked Monday morning at the hospital clinic and then set off after lunch to Warmun community where we worked Tuesday and Wednesday at the Ngalangangpum school where we screened the children and treated those in need along with many community members. On Wednesday afternoon the team drove back to Halls Creek and worked at the Halls Creek Hospital clinic and YYMS for the rest of the week. An earlyish finish on Thursday meant that we could enjoy a delicious sundowner at Caroline Pool with a sausage sizzle, chocolate brownies and marshmallows on the fire. For the first time we 'experimented' with no cups and no bread.

Heather Millar, who is the author of our coming KDT memoir, joined the week 3 team. This gave her an invaluable immersive experience of the Kimberley, aboriginal communities and team dynamics.

Heather was able to interview several important local people and team members. Further interviews and team contacts are planned.

Dr Tim Clair, Dr Nick Albatis, DA Mylita Levings, Sue Worsley, Heather Millar, final year dental students Erin Miller and Esther Eichman, Jan and John.

Week 4. Once again team three departed Halls Creek after lunch on Friday to allow a Fitzroy overnight stop and to meet the incoming team. Having shopped and gathered supplies the week 4 team made the long drive across to Halls Creek on Sunday. Following an overnight stay in Halls Creek we headed south on the Tanami Road arriving in Billiluna in time to screen the children at Kururrungku before school finished. We then set up a clinic at the Billiluna medical clinic seeing several community members. We worked at the clinic on Tuesday seeing children identified as being in need for treatment as well as many who were absent when we screened. As well as treating children we saw many adults before packing up and driving a further 108 km south to Balgo late that afternoon. On Wednesday and Thursday, a team set up and had a busy session at the Balgo clinic and the other team examined children at Luurnpa school and set up a clinic to treat those in need. On Friday one team returned to the Balgo clinic and the other travelled across to Mulan on the edge of Lake Gregory to screen children at the school and run a busy session at the clinic. The Balgo team drove across after lunch to help us finish up before driving back to Balgo. On Saturday we packed up and drove the 540 km to Fitzroy Crossing where we stayed overnight and enjoyed an end of trip celebratory dinner at the Lodge. We set off on Saturday morning and after a chicko roll fest at Willare Roadhouse we arrived back in Broome early afternoon in time to clean the vehicles and organise stock before the team flew out in the evening.

Dr John Hearne, Dr Rod Jennings, DA Ruth Warden, DA Giorgia Sabbattino, Tracy Sandercock, final year dental student James Rae, Jan and John.

Our visits to our two Fitzroy Valley schools, Halls Creek and East Kimberley communities were very well received. In total 740 people were seen. As well as examination, oral hygiene instruction and dietary advice there were 134 topical fluoride applications, 437 fissure sealants, 213 extractions, 285 restorations, 101 scale and cleans, 17 radiographs, 706 education units and 171 other – including 13 partial dentures. In all \$235,060.45 of dental services were provided.

Thank you as always to our incredible current and past personal donors and corporate sponsors, Maven Dental Group, Denticare, International College of Dentists, SDI, Colgate, CBA Employees Community Grants, the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, Dental Health Services, the Mc Cusker Charitable Foundation, the Academy of Dentistry International, the Rotary Clubs of Perth, Perth City East and Heirrisson for their ongoing support and every year 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 three final year dental students through the University of WA. These Remote Area Student Scholarships greatly assist with their remote placement costs. The John Prichard Memorial Prize was awarded to one final year DMD dental student. The final three students were supported by Perth Rotary/KDT Student Scholarship, Heirrisson Rotary/KDT Student Scholarship and City Rotary/KDT Student Scholarship. These awards along with ADA support allowed us to mentor and support seven students again this year.

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 acute and chronic pain for people who have been suffering for months if not years.

We are very happy to report that the Team has worked hard and completed the requirements for our

2024 Grant through the Office of the Chief Dental Officer.

Thank you to our fabulous volunteers and supporters without whom these results could not have been achieved over the past sixteen years.

View the [photos](#) from this trip and follow our 2024 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page

