

KDT Perth, Halls Creek and Communities 2012

Winter has been a busy time for KDT with loads of activities in Perth and the Kimberley:

A **Busy Bee** at Owen Homoeopathics (aka KDT warehouse) was held in July. More than 40 people gathered to enjoy a sausage sizzle and refreshments, and pack many thousands of toothbrushes in readiness for the 2013 toothbrushing programs. This was a great opportunity for all kinds of KDT supporters to meet and share KDT experiences.

A partnership with the **Rotary clubs** of Heirisson and Perth has been established. This has already resulted in the development of a formal KDT strategic plan and we are very proud that Rotary WA sees KDT as the iconic project with which they wish to be associated. Thank you to all Rotary personnel and the KDT Volunteers that assisted over the two weekend workshops to develop the KDT Strategic plan. Our next phase with Rotary is to concentrate on KDT governance, funding, administration support and obtaining better, off road vehicle and clinic capability.

August trip: In August we completed our **10th KDT trip to the Kimberley** and have now provided services and advice to 2,514 people, providing 1,801 dental examinations, 1,073 extractions, 675 restorations, 233 scale and cleans, 311 bitewing or periapical radiographs, 158 Duraphat applications and 557 fissure seals on children's teeth (thanks to support from SDI), 158 other services, including many anterior root canal treatments and many anterior partial dentures. In all, this represents almost \$370,000 worth of free dental care, assistance and advice. We should all be very proud of what has, and continues, to be achieved.

Our first week was preceded by a launch of the KAMSC mobile dental truck in Kununurra, by Mr Barry Haase MP, Federal Member for Durack, Western Australia. The launch was held in Sturt Park and KDT were presented a certificate of acknowledgment and lovely gift for our contribution to the building of the truck. The truck has been excellent assisting engaging the communities in "their" clinic.

John and Jan then proceeded to Halls Creek to meet with local people to discuss dental issues, and to set up in readiness for the team. The first team of volunteers flew into Kununurra and drove south to Halls Creek on Sunday the 15th May and the final team helped with the huge pack down task and pulled out of Halls Creek on Saturday 19th June.

The Teams: Our August KDT team was made up of 20 members including Dr Jilen Patel who, thanks to Jilen and KDT receiving a Wm Wrigley's Company Foundation ADAF Community Service Grant, stayed for 2½ weeks assisting John and Jan generally and managing the KAMSC Mobile Dental Clinic. Congratulations Jilen, you and other KDT volunteers, achieved some incredible outcomes in the truck.

Week 1. Dr Sue Springbett from Adelaide, Dr Naomi Kohan, DA Sue Matheson, DA Ruth Warden and final year dental students Lynelle Greenwood and Tiana Melo Howard. Thanks Jilen for saving JRO from an all girls team.

Week 2. Dr John Winters and Mary Winters, Dr Sarah Lam, Dr Elizabeth Klobas, DA Ranae Russo and a second week for the two students.

Week 3. Dr Ho Jin Yoo, Dr Tim Clair, DA Libby Becsi and DA Lyndal de Gruchy

In all, 18 volunteers provided the equivalent of 26 weeks of care.

Clinics: The early part of each week was spent working in Halls Creek with one team based at the hospital clinic and another led by Jilen manning the KAMSC mobile clinic opposite IGA in the main street. Both clinics were very busy with overflow into the allied health room at the hospital at times.

Schools: As with most KDT trips a team visited the younger children at the Halls Creek District High School and Red Hill Schools carrying out screening and dental health education. Teaching guide packs and evaluation forms were discussed and distributed to teaching staff. Children were also

screened at community schools during those visits.

Communities: The team worked out of the medical centres in several communities over the 3 weeks. These include overnight stays at Billiluna, Ringers Soak and Warmun as well as daytrips to Balgo and Mulan by helicopter and by vehicle to Nicholson Block and Yiyili. School children were also screened with many fissure seals applied and toothbrush packs provided.

Fun: And as a counter balance to all this work we had a lot of fun. Evening meals are always a highlight as everyone shares the cooking and clean up as well as a few quiet drinks and many laughs. Our Friday evening sundowners around a campfire at Caroline Pool are a great opportunity to unwind and we even managed to roast a kangaroo tail on our last evening in town thanks to Tim Clair and local woman Carolyn McAdam and her family who came to share a yarn with us. Another highlight this year was the opportunity to look at the art in the previously closed art centre at Ringer Soak. There are some superb pieces of art and several team members have gone home with a memento of their trip to this great little community on the Northern Territory border.

Thankyou to our fabulous volunteers, especially Jilen who has become an indispensable core member of KDT and Suzanne Taylor with submissions and advice and special thanks to local Halls Creek woman Robyn Long who we hope will be joining the KDT Oral Health team in 2013. Thanks also to Donna Hindmarsh, Director of Nursing, and her team at the Halls Creek Hospital and to Yura Yungi Medical Service for their continued support and assistance. Thank you to Peter Frewen, CEO of Jungarni Jutiya and his staff, for allowing us the use of their now infamous, "Troopie".

We thank all of our supporters, sponsors, partners including, Dental Health Services, WACHS, KAMSC and AMS clinics, Dental Supply and Equipment Companies in particular SDI, Dental Associations: NDF, ANZSPD, ICD, the University of Western Australia, Commonwealth Bank, LTM Risk, Wrigley Company Foundation ADAF Community Service Grants Committee, McCusker Charitable Foundation, SkyWest, Kimberley Hotel, Jungarni Jutiya and the numerous members of Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirisson who have extended their friendship and wisdom so freely. To Liz Pattison, thank you for your expert guidance in developing the KDT / Rotary partnership.

The KDT website is in the process of being upgraded thanks to a generous donation by the McCusker Foundation.

This financial assistance from the above, now contributes almost 50% of KDT costs per trip and is greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Plans for 2013 and beyond: Preparation is already underway for 2013 including continued development of the partnership with WA Rotary clubs. As briefly mentioned above, with the help of Rotary, KDT is looking at funding options to obtain vehicles to use in the Kimberley in regions inaccessible by the mobile truck. In addition we are considering the purchase of a mobile dental and hygiene unit to enhance our current oral health education program.

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