

KDT Update June/July 2015

The June/July 2015 trip was a very productive and successful four weeks of clinical dentistry and oral health education in Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek as well as 14 communities.

The trip started in Broome on 15th June

June/July 2015 Teams:

Week 1. Our first week started with a day in Broome. We had one team working at BRAMS and the other at Milliya Rumarra. Tuesday Dr Jane Lee and a team ran a very successful Children's Clinic at BRAMS and the rest of us set off for an afternoon at Pandanus Park. Luckily we fortified ourselves with a steak sandwich at Willare first as after a very quiet start the patient load was immense and we were excited and relieved when John helicoptered in and dropped the Broome team team off to help us. Wednesday saw us travelling to Jarlmadangah where we visited the school and ran a busy session at the clinic. A small team set off from there to Yiramalay School and provided checkups for children and adults before meeting up with the rest of the crew at Fitzroy Lodge. Thursday we pushed on to Yiyili and did class check ups and treated a few adults before travelling on to Halls Creek. Robyn Long joined the team on Friday and we set up the KAMSC dental truck at Red Hill School and also a team at the hospital dental clinic. After a relaxing evening at Caroline Pool we put our son Peter on the bus home to Sydney via Broome, still smiling but vowing to never again fall for the 'it will be fun and not a lot of work' story from his folks.

Dr Brian Hurwitz, Dr Jane Lee, Dr Anu Reddy, DT Sabrina Weaver, DA Sue Kelly, DA Kristy Ross, Peter Owen, Jan and John.

Week 2. After some nail biting moments involving flight delays, a Broome layover and then late afternoon drive down the team arrived in Halls Creek on Sunday evening ready for a busy week. As well as providing a dental service in Halls Creek at the hospital dental clinic and also treating children in the KAMSC truck at the school teams travelled to several communities. On Tuesday a team travelled 2 ½ hours east to Ringer Soak to check the children at the school and then provide a dental service at the clinic. We then stayed overnight and drove back to Halls Creek after a delicious breakfast omelette whipped up by Milly out of next to nothing. Wednesday afternoon a new team travelled to Warmun to work at the school treating 14 adults and 26 children identified during the May trip. A few of us stayed in Warmun a second night and were treated to roast bush turkey at the community garden. Friday morning we called into Frog Hollow and set up a clinic at the school before heading back to Halls Creek in time for our sundowner at Caroline Pool.

Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Sue Anderson, Dr Milly Woon, Dr Thomas Strydom, DA Emily van Rooyen, DA Kylie Hill, Sue Worsley, Jyoti Arora, final year dental student Thiviya Sivapatham, Jan and John.

Week 3. A team of 6 stayed over in Halls Creek and we spent a busy weekend of data entry, restocking and packing before the new volunteers came in on Sunday afternoon. Monday morning saw three teams depart Halls Creek. One team drove to Yiyili community, one on to Fitzroy with the KAMSC truck and the final team by helicopter to Balgo to run a children's clinic. Monday afternoon we met up at the Fitzroy Lodge and set up camp for the week. Tuesday and Wednesday teams worked at Fitzroy and Bayulu Schools and we were lucky enough to enjoy the amazing school concert, a special circus performance coordinated by Act, Belong, Commit and based on the 'Upside Down Stories' book, a collection of aboriginal nursery rhymes. Thursday we spent a busy day at Muludja community working at the school. Being the end of term there is quite a different dynamic in the community and everyone is excited – add to this John arriving by helicopter at the school with additional team members! Friday we packed up our camp and the team then travelled back to Broome arriving in time to pack a beach picnic and head to Cable beach to enjoy the sunset.

Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Sue Anderson, Dr Jenni Bowman, Dr Unna Chidambaram, DA Emily van Rooyen, DA Kim Kavanagh, DA and third year dental student (CSU) Madison McPherson, Jyoti Arora, Jan and John.

Week 4. Our final KDT week we optimistically named Pack Down week. The idea being that there would be a lot less dentistry and lots of sorting stock, cleaning vehicles, finalising data etc. Four very busy clinical days later, Monday BRAMS, Tuesday Bedunburra and Mowanjum, Wednesday Mowanjum, Thursday Milliya Rumarra, and the mounds of cleaning and packing was still facing us. But the amazing 'Pack Down' team knuckled down and put in countless hours getting everything sorted including cleaning

and reorganizing the truck before returning it to KAMSC, cleaning the van and cars, restocking the Hilux and finishing off data entry and paperwork.

Dr Moses Lee, Dr Natalie Leow, DA Ruth Warden, DA Caroline Murphy, DA Caroline Rogan, Sue Worsley, Jan and John.

We proudly announce and thank Dental Partners and its parent company Abano NZ for continuing their very generous sponsorship of KDT for a further three years. Dental Partners participating volunteers this year were Dr Celso Cardano Orth, Dr Anu Reddy, Dr Tommie Strydom, DT Cate Corcoran, DA Jodie Horskins, DA Kristy Ross and DA Kylie Hill.

In June/July KDT provided oral health education and dental services at 483 visits; 460 examinations, 149 extractions, 204 restorations, 61 scale and cleans, 34 radiographs, 84 fluoride treatments and 527 fissure seals and two partial dentures. In all, this along with the May trip, represents 1,370 visits and approximately \$350,000 worth of dental care, assistance and advice.

KDT teams worked very hard in the June/July trip to provide dental care, and where possible completing all treatment to children identified as in need during the May trip. The teams covered many hundreds of kilometers enjoying the sunshine and the amazing Kimberley country and hospitality everywhere we went.

KDT Southern:

As well as oral health education and dental treatment in the Kimberley our KDT Southern teams have also been busy with sessions in Perth at Oxford Foyer for youth in transition, Uniting Care West for the homeless, Uniting Care Family Foundations for families and Mercy Care Aged facility. If you would like to be involved in KDT Southern activities please email us to express your interest and availability and find out about the roster and scheduled visits for 2016.

A big thank you to our fabulous volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom these outcomes could not be achieved.

Follow our 2015 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen

Kimberley Dental Team

www.kimberleydentalteam.com