

KDT Update and August Trip 2017

We have recently completed our second KDT Kimberley trip for 2017.

The August trip started from Broome on 6th August

August 2017 Teams:

Week 1. The team arrived through Broome on Saturday and overnighted in Broome. On Sunday all packed and keen we travelled across to Fitzroy Crossing where we were based for the week. Monday the team visited the community of Junjuwa for the first time and treated 26 people. On Tuesday the KAMS truck was set up at the Fitzroy Valley District High School and many children were treated over the rest of the week. A second team visited Bayulu community school on Tuesday and Wednesday and Muludja community on Thursday. Friday was spent packing up our camp and returning to Broome in time for drinks and an excellent dinner at Matsos.

Dr Brian Koch, Dr Chaturi Neboda, Dr Carolyn Mathews, Dr Holly Edwards, DA Emily van Rooyen, DT Katrina Northey, final year dental student Alex Park, Jan and John.

Week 2. Our final team for 2017 arrived in Broome on Sunday and immediately busied themselves helping to get ready for our coming road trip. On Monday we set off from Broome and visited the communities of Bedunburra and Pandanus Park where we were kept very busy especially when the children came off the school bus from Derby. After camping overnight at Willare Roadhouse we set off for the community of Jarlmadangah, 86km south east of Derby. The team set up in the community clinic and also visited the school to screen children before returning to Willare for a second night. Wednesday the team travelled to Mowanjum community where the children at the Early Learning Centre were screened and a clinic set up at the community hall. Wednesday night was spent at the Derby Caravan Park and we returned to Mowanjum to provide a morning clinic before returning to Broome. The team spent Friday packing down the KDT gear and restocking for future trips before enjoying a celebratory dinner on Friday evening at Matsos.

Dr Moses Lee, Dr Natalie Leow, Dr Jenni Bowman, DA Louise Richards, Sue Worsley, Jan and John.

So ended another great year in the Kimberley. In August 2017 KDT provided oral health education and dental services for 558 people. The totals for 2017 trips were 854 visits in the Kimberley; 827 examinations, 238 extractions, 361 restorations, 58 scale and cleans, 67 fluoride treatments and 933 fissure seals and eight partial dentures. This was over five clinical weeks with 11,000 kms of road covered.

As we approach the end of our ninth year of KDT, we continue very strong professional relationships with ADAWA which provides two scholarships to assist two of our three final year students. One is the recipient of the John Pritchard Memorial scholarship which supports a student in the Kimberley. We hope to have four students in 2018. DHS support continues with the provision of materials and use of their clinics in Balgo Hills and Halls Creek, KAMS with the use of their invaluable dental truck, WACHS, and our corporate Sponsors. We have ongoing support from Rotary, the International College of Dentists (ICD), Academy of Dentists International (ADI), Maven Dental Group and DentiCare and the WA Oral Health Improvement Unit of the WA Government. We are proud to announce that in addition to John receiving the prestigious ADI John Booth Award in May, KDT is once again a recipient of a CBA grant, the CommBank Grassroots Grant for our Indigenous Youth program.

Evidence of the effectiveness of the tooth brushing and tooth paste program, Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids, is now very clear in our treatment profile towards prevention. It is now firmly embedded in the hygiene and health mantra of eye, ear and oral health. Trish Pepper in Broome continues to administer the program through her vast network of teachers and health workers.

As always, with all our Kimberley trips, alongside the dedicated hard work, the hours of paperwork at the end of each day, and the long distances travelled everyone had a great deal of fun, sharing memorable meals, camaraderie and the awesome Kimberley landscape. Highlights include team members meeting and in some cases catching up again with community personalities.

KDT Southern:

As well as oral health education and dental treatment in the Kimberley our KDT Southern teams continue their activities in the Perth metropolitan area with visits to Devenish Lodge and Franciscan House since the August trip and several other sessions scheduled before the end of the year. A big thankyou to our core of volunteers who help out at these sessions. 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 2017 and 2018.

The KDT model in both the North and the South, continues to demonstrate that from 2009 when our initial services were almost 100% surgical (extraction of teeth) with almost no restorative care, to now, thousands of patients and many, many, thousands of teeth, only require and receive non-invasive preventive care including fissure sealants, topical fluoride applications and prophylaxis/scaling, with our aim that all patients receive dietary advice, dental health education and instruction with demonstration of brushing. 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.

The Team spirit and untiring passion of our KDT volunteers and supporters is what makes this all possible – thank you.

Follow our 2017 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen AM

Kimberley Dental Team

www.kimberleydentalteam.com

