

KDT Update May 2018

Having just completed a very eventful and successful 3-week KDT Kimberley trip we are now preparing for a return to the region on the 14th July for two weeks.

May 2018 Teams:

Week 1. The team came in through Broome on Saturday and we set off to Halls Creek on Sunday morning with our three KDT vehicles and accommodation van. The teams had a busy week at the hospital dental clinic and a smaller team went to Ringer Soak Community on Tuesday and the whole team to Yiyili Community on Thursday. Children in both these community schools were screened and where permissions could be obtained treatment carried out. Many adults also sought treatment. We enjoyed some great meals together and treated the team to a memorable campfire and sausage sizzle at Caroline Pool on Friday evening.

Dr Simon Shanahan, Dr Ioanna Millis, DA Sandra Elliot, DA Jamaica Appo, Alex Easton, Geoff Owen, final year dental student Ida Khosraviana, Jan and John.

Week 2. On Saturday morning the team set off for Broome leaving John and Jan to prepare for the incoming team who arrived Sunday afternoon after a seven hour drive. Following an overnight stay in Halls Creek we headed south on the Tanami Road arriving in Billiluna in time to screen all of the children at Kururrungku before school finished. On Tuesday a dental clinic was set up at the Billiluna medical clinic and we were able to treat children identified as being in need and many adults before packing up and driving further south to Balgo late that afternoon. On Wednesday a team set up and had a very busy session at the Balgo clinic and the other team examined children at Luurnpa school and set up a clinic in the afternoon to treat those in need. Thursday one team returned to the Balgo clinic and the other travelled across to Mulan on the edge of Lake Gregory to screen the school children at John Pujajangka-Piyirn school and then run a busy session at the clinic before driving back to Balgo. On Friday we packed up and drove the 370 km back to Halls Creek stopping for lunch and a hike up to the rim of Wolfe Crater. We arrived back in Halls Creek in time to unpack and enjoy dinner at the Kimberley Hotel. No flat tyres this time but one broken rear window and a broken handle on the van door to keep life exciting.

Dr Ian McAtamney, Dr Daniel Lavery, Dr Chat Neboda, DA Ruth Warden, Dr Ann McAtamney, Winnie Lavery, Tracy Sandercock, Jan and John.

Week 3. Our final KDT week was spent visiting Warmun Community where we spent Monday and Tuesday. The children at Ngalangangpum school were screened and those in need treated along with many community members. Most of the team drove back to Halls Creek on Tuesday afternoon and we worked at the hospital clinic for the rest of the week. On Wednesday a small team visited Frog Hollow, Purnululu school to screen and then treat children identified as needing care. The team left Halls Creek at midday on Friday and travelled to Fitzroy Crossing for an overnight stay before heading back to Broome on Saturday arriving in time to unpack and enjoy dinner together at Matsos and then the Sunday markets before flying home Sunday afternoon.

Dr Moses Lee, Dr Natalie Leow, DA Louise Richards, DA Sheralea Holmes, Sue Worsley, final year dental student Sandra Babic, Jan and John.

While we are still finalising the statistics it appears that In May KDT provided oral health education and dental services for approximately 407 people; 398 examinations, 104 extractions, 163 restorations, 71 scale and cleans, 18 radiographs, 32 fluoride treatments and 620 fissure seals. In all, this represents approximately \$128,000 worth of free dental care, assistance and advice.

Thanks again to Maven Dental Group, Denticare, ICD, CBA, WA Oral Health Improvement Unit, the Mc Cusker Charitable Foundation, the Academy of Dentistry International for donating to the toothbrushing program, the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirison for their ongoing support and to Rotaract for packing our toothbrushes into classroom ready packs. Maven Group participating volunteers were Dr Ioanna Millis and Ms Jamaica Appo in week 1. Dr Errol Kilov and Ms Annabelle Crooke will be joining us during the July trip.

Thank you to the Australian Dental Association (WA Branch), for their ongoing support of KDT in general and especially for awarding two final year dental students with very significant financial support with Remote Area Student Scholarships to assist with their remote placement. The John Pritchard memorial

prize will again be awarded to one of our final year students and this year we announce a prize to allow us to once again to have a fourth student per year, the inaugural Richard Lockwood Foundation Award for Community Dental Volunteering.

KDT teams continue to engage with remote communities, providing invaluable dental services in a friendly and happy team environment. We cover thousands of kilometers in a region twice the size of Victoria, enjoying all the fun of flat tyres, broken windscreens and rear windows and an off road caravan that is so secure that no one can get into it.

A big thank you to our fabulous volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom these results could not be achieved over the last nine years.

The KDT Board is very happy to report that the Team is working hard to complete the requirements for our 2018 Grant through the WA Oral Health Improvement Unit. Thank you to the WA Oral health Improvement Unit for continuing to support KDT through National Partnership Agreement Grants.

Follow our 2018 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen
Kimberley Dental Team
www.kimberleydentalteam.com

