

# KDT Update and August Trip 2019

We have just completed our second KDT Kimberley trip for 2019. The first week of this trip included the original first team for 2009 and we indulged in lots of celebrating and reminiscing. Reports of the two weeks to follow.

Our 10 year celebratory Sundowner for all KDT volunteers and supporters will be held at the Royal Perth Yacht Club on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 6-8pm. You should have received your email invitation just recently. Numbers are limited so RSVP soon.

The August trip started from beautiful Broome on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> August

## **August 2019 Teams:**

*Week 1.* Our very excited team arrived in the Kimberley on Saturday and enjoyed a celebratory party at Cable Beach in the evening. On Sunday everyone woke keen to get moving and we packed and travelled the 7.5 hours across to Halls Creek where we were based for the first half of the week. The clinic at Halls Creek hospital was busy with patients on all our clinical days until our departure to Fitzroy on Wednesday lunch time. On Monday a small team screened and provided dental health education to the preprimary children as well as to the Clontarf boys and Shooting Stars girls at Halls Creek school. Tuesday a small team set up at Red Hill school to treat children identified from the May visit. Amid great excitement Jilen set up the his drone during the lunchbreak to film the children singing Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday to KDT. Tuesday evening Robyn Long joined us for a celebratory dinner in the Sports Bar of the Kimberley Hotel. After working at the clinic until midday on Wednesday the team drove to Fitzroy, set up camp and enjoyed the lovely balmy weather and wallabies bouncing around the camp site hoping for a snack and successfully getting into the breakfast supplies early in the morning. Thursday was a day spent at the Fitzroy District High School screening children in readiness for a treatment day the following Monday. On Friday we had a rest day – the first ever. The team had brunch at the fabulous Jalangurru Mayi Café before attending the interschool sports carnival and connecting with the community where Jilen interviewed community member and elders for his research doctorate. Late afternoon we enjoyed a drive out to beautiful Geikie Gorge now called Danggu with Jilens' drone dancing above and following is on our adventure. Our camp dinner was a highlight and we were delighted when Fitzroy DHS dental team, Claudette and Ian Davison, joined us for a drink and yarn. John and I were sad to see the team set off on Saturday morning to head back to Broome to meet the incoming team and catch their afternoon flight home.

*Dr Brian Koch, Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Vijaya Wagh, DA Kristel Nettle, DA Jessica Maidment, Tracy Sandercock, Herman Sandercock, Ashleigh Owen, final year dental student Ashlee Bence, Jan and John.*

*Week 2.* Our second team for 2019 arrived in Broome on Saturday and enjoyed the sights of Broome and an evening at Cable Beach before heading to Fitzroy Crossing on Sunday to meet us and share a BBQ dinner of delicious Yeeda beef and Trish's specialty coleslaw and smashed potatoes. The team spent Monday working at the Fitzroy school treating children identified from the previous weeks. Tuesday we returned to Bayulu School to screen children provide oral health education and to treat the children identified as being in need. On Wednesday we packed up camp and headed to Muludja Community where we screened children and treated those in need before driving to Derby and setting up camp under a beautiful boab in the caravan park. Mowanjum Community was a Thursday clinic in the community hall where the team put in a busy day. After a half day rest and time spent exploring Derby we packed up our camp and drove to Willare Roadhouse where we had lunch and set up camp before heading into Pandanus Park for what turned out to be a quiet afternoon clinic. The Enduro race was being held and the Roadhouse camping area was packed with motorbike enthusiasts. Luckily for us the roadhouse team had cordoned off a special area for us and we weren't too affected by the revving and revelry. After an early start on Saturday morning we headed back to HQ in Broome in time to unpack and clean gear in readiness for 2020. The week wrapped up with drinks with the WA Dental Study Club at Cable Beach Sunset Bar and a delicious dinner at Aarli Bar. Sunday morning was breakfast at the Good Cartel and a visit to the markets before heading to the airport for flights back to chilly Perth.

*Dr Andrew Heap, Dr Jenni Bowman, Dr Chaturi Neboda, DA Louise Richards, DA Ranae Russo, Sue Worsley, final year dental student Marcus Leong, Jan and John.*

So ended our 10<sup>th</sup> year providing dental care in the Kimberley. In August 2019, KDT provided oral health education and dental services for 345 people. The totals for 2019 trips showed that we assisted 822 people over 836 visits in the Kimberley; 822 examinations, 239 extractions, 341 restorations, 95 scale and cleans, 105 fluoride treatments, 1337 fissure seals and 4 partial dentures. This was over five clinical weeks and exceeded 2018 totals by 168 people. In all, this represents \$110,950.45 worth of free to the community dental care, assistance and advice in August and a total of \$268,069.65 for the year.

As we complete our tenth year of KDT, we continue strong professional relationships with ADAWA and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer. The ADAWA provides two scholarships to assist two of our four final year students with Lance Giudice and Zjana Allan joining us in 2019. Ashlee Bence was the recipient of the John Pritchard Memorial scholarship, which is a generous prize that supports a student in the Kimberley every year. Our fourth, final year student, Marcus Leong, received the Richard Lockwood Foundation Award for Community Dental Volunteering. It has been excellent to once again have four students per year as we did from 2011-2015 after reducing to three for two years. We now have had 34 final year dental students join our Kimberley teams since 2010.

Dental Health Services, continues their support with the provision of materials and use of their clinics in Balgo Hills and Halls Creek, WACHS with transporting our toothbrushing supplies and educational booklets. Support remains strong from the International College of Dentists (ICD), Academy of Dentists International (ADI), DentiCare, UWA, SDI Limited and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, through National Partnership Grants. For the third year KDT is a recipient of a CBA Staff Grant, the CommBank Grassroots Grant for our Indigenous Youth program.

A very special thank you to our Foundation partners, the Rotary Clubs of Perth and Heirison for their incredible support and to Rotaract for happily packing our toothbrushes into classroom ready packs, the McCusker Charitable Foundation, Lotterywest, CBA and Dental Health Services. The Maven Group has been an exceptional supporter, not only financially but also providing professional personnel, having supported 34 volunteer dentists, nurses and therapists, over the past 7 years. This year's volunteers were Dr Anubhav Verma and Ms Natalie Lopez in May and Dr Vijaya Wagh and Ms Jessica Maidment, in the August trip.

Despite the loss of the mobile dental truck, KDT teams continue to engage very effectively with remote communities, providing invaluable dental services in a friendly and happy team environment, often in open air clinics.

Evidence of the effectiveness of the tooth brushing and toothpaste 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. 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.

#### **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 a visit to Devenish Lodge mental health hostel this week and visits to UnitingCare West and Foyer Oxford scheduled before the end of the year. A big thank you to our core of volunteers who help out at these sometimes, challenging 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 2019 and 2020.

**We can never thank enough** our fabulous volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom these results could not be achieved over the past decade.

Follow our 2019 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page.

Jan and John Owen AM,  
**Kimberley Dental Team**

