

KDT Update April 2021

Unlike the past decade 2020 was a quiet year for our volunteer teams due to the ramifications of Covid 19. However 2021 is a new year and we will go forward and hopefully pick up where we left off.

Our Kimberley program for 2021 is set to start in a few weeks with many preparations well underway to ensure everything runs smoothly. As usual our KDT HQ in Broome was to be the start and end point for most of the Kimberley trips, with some teams flying in and out of Kununurra while we were to be in the East Kimberley.

We have similar trips as those that were planned for 2020 with 3 clinical weeks in May and 2 in July/August of 2021. Stock is ordered and due for delivery (thanks to Donna Stacey at DHS). Accommodation is booked, flights are in the process of being booked and communities have been contacted to ensure that the dental teams are permitted and welcome to enter. On Sunday 14th March we held our pre trip information sharing get together allowing new team members to meet and ask questions. Teams will meet and welcomed the four 2021 UWA DMD Students. Sadly we could not take the four final year DMD students of 2020 who had already been interviewed and accepted however we did maintain contact with them throughout the year. John as a HLM of the University Dental School Society attended their end of year dinner. The KDT Board made a donation of \$500 towards this event and John matched this with a personal donation of his own. This will make a total of 41 final year dental students have been involved and worked with KDT.

The three weeks in May will centre around Halls Creek and include visits to Ringer Soak, Yiyili, Billiluna, Balgo, Mulan, Warmun and Frog Hollow. In week 1 we have dental technician David Owen joining us and we plan to make mouthguards for young people who are keen. We will spend another few days in Halls Creek at the beginning of our July/August trip and then move to the Fitzroy Valley where we will visit the Fitzroy Valley District High School and the communities of Bayulu, Muludja, Mowanjum and Pandanus Park. Approximately 40 volunteers will be involved in our 2021 teams including John and Jan who were scheduled every week.

Unfortunately due to Covid all KDT Southern scheduled visits were cancelled after the January 2020 Uniting Care visit that occurred before Covid impacted. At this stage we have no visits scheduled for 2021. Toothbrush packs are provided to Homeless Healthcare Connect for their clients and for many other groups on request.

KDT continues to work in partnership with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, Dental Health Services and the WA Country Health Service through the Kimberley Population Health Unit. Trish Pepper, KDT's Broome representative works on the Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids toothbrushing program and provides thousands of toothbrushes to Kimberley school children each year. Thanks to Rotaract for their regular commitment to forming a team to happily repack thousands of toothbrushes into classroom ready packs which are very well received in schools and clinics. Many thanks also to Colgate for their very generous contribution of small toothbrushes and paste as well as My First Brushes and paste for a 0-3 program to be implemented by Trish. Dr Susan Cartwright, Scientific Affairs and Public Health Manager at Colgate, will be joining our August trip as a welcome team member and Colgate representative.

The board is proud to announce a project being funded and run in the Kimberley by the Kate Mullin Foundation and Kimberley Dental Team. This innovative project will take the form of a school literacy and oral health promotion challenge run during term two and called Craig's Adventure. For more detailed information have a look at the communique and flyer on the KDT website.

We continue to have had very generous support from the Australasian section of the International College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, the Richard Lockwood Foundation, the Rotary Clubs of Perth, Heirisson and City Rotary.

A big thank you: As always we thank our great and passionate volunteers, our past and current dental students and our corporate sponsors and generous private supporters including, Denticare, CBA and SDI without whom KDT could not continue providing this service to people in need in our community.

Jan and John Owen

Kimberley Dental Team

www.kimberleydentalteam.com

