

KDT Update April 2022

Following on from very successful KDT visits in 2021 we have bold plans in place for 2022 Covid allowing.

Our Kimberley program for 2022 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 is the start and end point for most of the Kimberley trips, with some teams flying in and out of Kununurra while we are in the East Kimberley.

We have similar trips as those that were planned for 2021 with 3 clinical weeks in May and 3 in July/August of 2022. The majority of stock is ordered and purchased through DHS and due for delivery in time for the May trip. 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 10th April we held our pre trip information sharing get together allowing new team members to meet and ask questions. Teams met and welcomed the six 2022 UWA DMD Students and paediatric registrar. This will make a total of 47 final year dental students who have been involved and worked with KDT since 2010.

The three weeks in May will centre around Halls Creek and include visits to Ringer Soak, Yiyili, Billiluna, Balgo, Mulan, Warmun and Frog Hollow. We will also spend a week and a half in Halls Creek at the beginning of our July/August trip. The first week we will be focused on the students at the Halls Creek District High School. On the Wednesday of the second week we will 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 33 volunteers will be involved in our 2022 teams including John and Jan who are scheduled every week.

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.

Our project, funded and run in the Kimberley by the Kate Mullin Foundation and Kimberley Dental Team was a resounding success in 2021. This innovative project takes 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. The next challenge will be in 2023.

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

Thank you to our great and passionate volunteers, our past and current dental students and our corporate sponsors and generous private supporters.

Jan and John Owen
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