

KDT Update April 2025

This year marks a significant transition as we move toward retirement, with a consolidated schedule featuring two intensive clinical weeks in May.

Preparations are well underway to ensure seamless operations. Our KDT headquarters in Broome will serve as the central hub, with teams flying in and out before traveling to the East Kimberley for their respective weeks.

Most of our supplies, including those generously donated by SDI and Colgate, are set for delivery ahead of the May trip. Accommodations and flights are secured, and local communities have been contacted to guarantee a warm welcome for our dental teams. On March 23rd, we hosted a pre-trip information session, where team members including the three 2025 UWA DMD students had an opportunity to meet and interact. A total of 65 final-year dental students have actively contributed to KDT since 2010.

Our May program will primarily focus on Halls Creek, with visits to Red Hill School, and various communities, including Yiyili, Billiluna, Balgo, Mulan, and Warmun. Twenty volunteers, including the dedicated weekly presence of John and Jan, will support our 2025 teams.

We are also excited to announce that our very beautiful KDT memoir, *Outback Dental Adventures* is currently being printed in Kenya. It will be available once it finally arrives here by sea freight. Copies will be available for purchase at \$35 each plus postage. If you would like to be notified once they are ready, please email janowen@h-e-c.com.au to be placed on the list.

KDT continues its strong partnerships with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, Dental Health Services, and WA Country Health Service through the Kimberley Population Health Unit. Trish Pepper, KDT's Broome representative, leads the Strong Teeth for Kimberley Kids toothbrushing initiative, which provides thousands of toothbrushes annually to school children and families.

We are deeply grateful to ADA WA for supporting two of our three final-year dental students. Special appreciation goes to Rotaract for their dedication to repackaging thousands of toothbrushes into classroom-ready packs—an effort widely welcomed by schools and clinics. We also extend our gratitude to Colgate for donating small toothbrushes and paste, as well as My First Brushes for their contribution to a 0-3 program spearheaded by Trish.

We sincerely thank the Australasian section of the International College of Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, SDI, Colgate, and the Rotary Clubs of Perth, Heirisson, and City Rotary for their unwavering generosity.

Finally, our deepest appreciation goes to our dedicated volunteers, past and present dental students, corporate sponsors, and private supporters. Your contributions make our mission possible.

Jan and John Owen
Kimberley Dental Team
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