

KDT Update May Trip 2025

We have not long returned from our 2-week KDT May Kimberley trip. In the first week we were exceptionally busy and have concluded that 13 volunteers and teams in 2 locations every day is exhausting and complicated to manage. However, there were amazing outcomes with 409 people seen and 10 dentures crafted on site. In week 2 we were severely challenged by the weather so were restricted to Billiluna Community. Despite the change in plans, we made the most of every moment—and the warm welcome from the community made it all the more special.

The locals are very pleased to hear that we have committed to another trip to the East Kimberley in May of 2026 – with a reconsidered and restructured program

May 2025 Teams:

Week 1. Our first team for 2025 came in on Saturday, buzzing with excitement to be in the Kimberley and ready for the adventure ahead. After lunch and a team briefing, we made a quick stop at the shops to stock up and then headed to Cable Beach for a sunset picnic – a perfect way to kick things off!

Sunday morning saw a smooth pack-up and early start as we hit the road to Halls Creek in our KDT vehicles, along with David's car and the accommodation vans. By Monday, we were straight into action. One team headed to Yiyili Community, setting up at the school and delivering screenings and treatment for both kids and adults. The second team got to work at the hospital dental clinic, seeing many patients.

Tuesday and Wednesday, we divided forces again—one team worked from Halls Creek District High School, while the other kept the momentum going at the hospital clinic. The school-based team also visited Menkawum Ngurra frail aged care to check on residents' oral health. That evening, we wound down with snacks and a sausage sizzle under the stars at Caroline Pool—truly a Kimberley highlight.

On Wednesday afternoon, a small crew drove ahead to Warmun Community for an overnight stay and early setup at the school on Thursday. They were joined by more team members the next morning. It turned out to be a massive day—84 people were seen in Warmun, including many from Frog Hollow Community, while back in Halls Creek, the hospital clinic team looked after 32 patients.

We wrapped up our clinical work for the week on Friday morning, with our paediatric team at Red Hill School and the second team rounding out the week at the hospital. After a final team lunch in the park, 10 volunteers began the journey back to Broome, stopping overnight in Fitzroy Crossing.

Jan, John, and David stayed on in Halls Creek, getting everything ready for our Week 2 team arriving Sunday evening.

Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Greg Celine, Dr Ashlee Bence, Dr Moses Lee, DA Ranae Russo, DA Emily van Rooyen, Jyoti Arora, Ros Marshall, David Owen, final year dental students Elnaz Tashini and Nichola Elliott, Jan and John.

Week 2. began with perfect timing as the outgoing team arrived back in Broome just in time to meet the incoming crew for vehicle handover before heading off on their flights home. With shopping done and supplies packed, the new team hit the road on Sunday for the long journey across to Halls Creek.

After a good night's rest, we continued south on the Tanami Road and arrived in Billiluna just in time to screen the children at Kururrungku School before school finished. We then set up a clinic at the Billiluna medical centre and started treating community members. But as the afternoon wore on, so did the weather—and by early evening, rain had closed the Tanami Road to all traffic, cancelling our plans to move on to Balgo on Tuesday.

While we were disappointed, the Billiluna clinic and community were thrilled to have us stay on. The extra time meant we could offer extended care—64 appointments in total—and gave David time to craft four dentures for community members who were extremely happy and grateful.

John remained in close contact with the Halls Creek Shire finally securing us a permit to travel. On Friday morning, we packed up and made our way to Fitzroy Crossing, where we enjoyed a dinner at the Fitzroy

River Lodge restaurant before the final leg back to Broome on Saturday including the obligatory Chiko Roll at Willare Roadhouse.

Once in Broome, the team got stuck into cleaning, packing down the vehicles, and checking over supplies. With flights not leaving until Sunday evening, we had a chance to relax and explore Broome and its beautiful surrounds.

David stayed on and the next day set off to drive his vehicle back to Perth. With such big teams we were very grateful to have the use of his vehicle and also his 'outback honed' technician skills

Dr Rod Jennings, Dr Nick Albatis, Dr James Rae, DA Ruth Warden, DA Giorgia Sabbatino, Tracy Sandercock, David Owen, final year dental student Ashton Foo, Jan and John.

Our visits to Halls Creek and East Kimberley communities were very well received. In total 473 people were seen. As well as examination, oral hygiene instruction and dietary advice there were 87 topical fluoride applications, 284 fissure sealants, 163 extractions, 125 restorations, 46 scale and cleans, 14 radiographs, 434 education units and 185 other – including 14 partial dentures. In all approximately \$133,590 of dental services were provided.

We are thrilled to announce that our KDT book is finally available for sale. Those of you who are unable to attend the launch on 1st August can purchase a copy or two using the links below.

OUTBACK DENTAL ADVENTURES

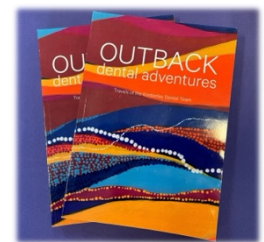
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B. Pick up from Redcliffe - [link with no postage](#)



3. Direct transfer: KDT account BSB 066-000 Account 1175 9150 and text or email me your delivery or pick up details. Jan Owen: 0407 998 215 janowen@h-e-c.com.au

We are deeply grateful to our corporate sponsors: Maven Dental Group, Denticare, the International College of Dentists, SDI, Colgate, CBA Employees Community Grants, the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, Dental Health Services, the McCusker Charitable Foundation, and the Academy of Dentistry International. Special thanks also to the Rotary Clubs of Perth, Perth City East, and Heirisson for their unwavering support—and every year, a big shoutout to the amazing Rotaractors who enthusiastically pack our toothbrushes into classroom-ready kits!

A sincere thank you to the Australian Dental Association (WA Branch) for their ongoing support of KDT. We especially appreciate the Remote Area Student Scholarships awarded to final-year dental students through the University of WA—these grants go a long way in covering the costs of remote placements. Congratulations to this year's recipients of the John Prichard Memorial Prize, two outstanding final-year DMD students. Thanks to these ADA and UWA -supported initiatives, we were proud to mentor and support three students this year

KDT teams continue to connect with remote communities, delivering vital dental services with compassion, teamwork, and good humour. Volunteers often speak of the deep satisfaction they feel in easing chronic pain and seeing firsthand the positive impact of our dental education programs.

We are very happy to report that the Team has worked hard and completed the requirements for our 2025 Grant through the Office of the Chief Dental Officer.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our amazing volunteers and supporters. Over the past sixteen years, your kindness, commitment, and hard work have made it all possible.

View the [photos](#) from this trip and follow our 2025 travels and adventures on the [Craig the Croc Facebook](#) page

