

Kimberley Dental Team May Trip 2014

We are now between the May and June trips and preparing for a return to the Kimberley on the 14th June for three weeks, followed by a further 3 weeks in August.

The May trip started from Perth in April with Jan driving the Hilux to Broome, followed by a week at KDT Broome HQ preparing for the three 2014 trips and having a training session on the use of MMex software. After Easter Jenni Bowman and Atti Daavittila left Perth and drove the land cruiser and accommodation van to Broome for the start of our first week.

May 2014 Teams:

Week 1. The team departed Broome for an inaugural journey up the Gibb River Road with the new Hilux and Land cruiser. Our first stop was at Imintji Community where we ran a 3 hour clinic before continuing on for a two night stay at the Gibb River Community. Sister Mary Jane welcomed us and we ran a clinic on the Tuesday. Wednesday saw us travel back towards Mt Barnett for a clinic as well as an oral health instruction and screening session at the Wananami School. Then back on the road with a stop at Imintji Roadhouse where we enjoyed a home made scallop pie 'to die for' and then on to Birdwood Downs overnight. After a morning clinic at Mowanjum community we headed back towards Broome, with a stop at Willare Roadhouse for a fabulous Yeeda beef steak sandwich. The week culminated on Friday with a clinic at Milliya Rumarra Corporation followed by lunch at Zanders and then some running repairs to vehicles in Broome in readiness for week 2.

Dr Jenni Bowman, Dr Holly Edwards, DA Atti Daavittila, Trish Pepper and Jan.

Week 2. The new team came in through Broome and we set off on Monday morning with the KAMSC truck, and KDT vehicles for an afternoon clinic at Pandanus Park. After and overnight at Willare Roadhouse we set off on Tuesday to Jarlmadangah community where we screened at the school and provided a dental service at the clinic before continuing on to Fitzroy. Wednesday and Thursday we provided a clinic at Bayulu School and also at the Fitzroy Visitors Centre before continuing on to Yiyili community Thursday afternoon. After a productive Friday morning of dentistry and art purchases at the Laari Gallery we set off for Halls Creek arriving in time to check in and head out to Caroline Pool for an 'end of week' celebration.

Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Gavin Clarke, Dr Tiana Melo Howard, DA Lynne Pfister, DA Holly Maxwell, Jyoti Arora, final year dental student Jennifer Chantler, Jan and John.

Week 3. After seeing the team off on to Kununurra on Saturday morning we readied ourselves for the incoming team who arrived on Sunday afternoon excited and ready for a busy week. The news that we were only spending a week in Halls Creek this trip must have travelled fast because we were busier than ever at both the hospital dental clinic and the IGA clinic with people lined up for treatment. While in town we also visited both schools and provided dental education with the help of Healthy Schools Officer and KDT volunteer Trish Pepper and check ups of the kindy and preprimary children. Thursday saw us head off to Warmun community where we worked at the school and treated many adults and children.

Dr Jilen Patel, Dr Greg Dugoid, Dr Linda Wilson, DA Emily Van Rooyen, DA Andrea Paget, Jyoti Arora, final year dental student Liju Xie, Jan and John.

Thanks to Dental Partners for their sponsorship of KDT. Dental Partners participating volunteers were Dr Gavin Clarke, Dr Greg Dugoid, Ms Lynne Pfister and Andrea Paget. Dr Charmaine White and Ms Sharon White will be joining us for the second 2014 trip.

Week 4. Our final KDT week was spent in the Kutjungka region and we visited the communities of Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna. The team spent two nights in Balgo and two in Billiluna with a day trip to Mulan in between. These were very productive working days and rounded off an amazing week of dentistry and oral health education in equal proportions. The team then travelled back to Broome, having spent the night in Yiyili as guests of the school, and arrived in time to share a celebratory dinner at Café D'Amore.

Dr John Hearne, Dr Claire Lin, Dr Luke Rodman, DA Rozelle Collinson, DA Rachel Ryan, Alex Easton, OHT Megan McCrae, Jan and John.

The experience of fourteen trips allows the continual review and refinement of our education and preventative program and methods of service delivery. This experience and the trust and respect that we have gained in the Kimberley means that with each trip we more successfully address the needs of people, especially children, in each of the communities we visit. This is incredibly important to John and I and to all the volunteers who are involved with KDT both in the Kimberley and also back in Perth.

Recent acquisition of computers and software programs funded by the WA Oral Health Improvement Unit, means that we now have an accurate reporting and data collection facility. Thanks to Jilen and Jyoti for their hard work in getting this established – who else but Jilen would be so dedicated as to ring me at 12.30am to announce with joy and fanfare that in the May trip we have satisfied our 30th June requirements for the National Partnership Agreement.

While we are still finalising the statistics it appears that In May KDT provided oral health education and dental services for approximately 610 people; 589 examinations, 151 extractions, 182 restorations, 54 scale and cleans, 54 radiographs, 77 fluoride treatments and 626 fissure seals. In all, this represents approximately \$165,000 worth of free dental care, assistance and advice.

As well as working hard and covering many hundreds of kilometers the teams had a great deal of fun and shared some fabulous meals and memorable moments. Halls Creek teams enjoyed visits to China Wall and sausage sizzle sundowners at Caroline Pool while those on the Kutjungka week enjoyed a beautiful evening at Lake Stretch and the Broome based teams shared wine, cheese and a gorgeous sunset at the beach.

A big thank you to our fabulous volunteers, sponsors and supporters without whom these results could not be achieved.

Jan and John Owen
Kimberley Dental Team
www.kimberleydentalteam.com