



## INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS AUSTRALASIAN SECTION

ISSUE NUMBER 37, NOVEMBER 2012

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



In August I attended the NZDA annual conference which was held at the Skycity Convention Centre. During the conference an ceremony for the Australasian Section and luncheon were held in the Grand Hotel. While the number of new Fellows inducted was few, there was a good attendance for the luncheon.

Again, I wish to congratulate the new Fellows and I look forward to their participation in College activities. The luncheon provided an opportunity for attendees to engage in fellowship which I believe is an integral part of being an ICD Fellow.

During the Induction I read an email from Dr Garry Lunn, President International College. This message, as well as congratulating the inductees, outlined the structure of the College and the role of the Australasian Section since its formation in 1964.

Dr Lunn encouraged all Fellows to be involved in Section activities and to contribute to chosen humanitarian projects. This last item is easier for some than others but should be a consideration for all. Finally, he reminded Fellows to visit the College at Large Web site [www.icd.org](http://www.icd.org) and to look up the College Facebook for up to date activities. The latter provides a readily accessible platform that showcases what the ICD is doing worldwide.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr Lunn and other members of the International Board when I attended the Section 1 Convocation held in San Francisco in October during the Annual Session of the American Dental Association. As well Dr Clive Ross, International Councilor for Section VIII and International Treasurer for the College at Large, arranged for me to attend part of the International Board meeting which gave me an insight into the business of the ICD on a global level. The Australasian Section and in particular

Dr Ross are held in high regard by members of the International Board.

The Board of Regents held a meeting prior to the Auckland Induction. The Board welcomed Dr Richard Sawers as the new Regent from South Australia. He replaces long serving treasurer Dr Peter Noblet who resigned in June. Dr John Owen from Perth has taken on the role of Treasurer.

Two important matters were considered by the Board. The first was the location for the 2014 induction. An invitation has been extended and accepted by the International Council to hold their 2014 Council meeting in Australasia as part of the 50th anniversary of Section VIII. The Board decided by a majority vote to hold the 2014 meeting in Sydney. More information about this important event will be communicated as it comes to hand. I would hope that as many Fellows as possible are able to participate in this important event for our Section.

The other item of importance was the appointment of an administrative officer. This action follows an earlier decision that such a position be created. A job description was developed and expressions of interest were received. After consideration of these and much discussion, it was resolved that Dr Ron Robinson be offered the position of administrative officer for the section. Ron has accepted and commenced duties on September 1. No doubt you will all receive communication from Ron about the day to day activities of the Section as well as matters pertaining to the administration of the Section.

Finally I wish all Fellows and their families a Happy Christmas and a safe holiday period if you are travelling and may 2013 be everything that you hope. I look forward to seeing many of you at the next Induction Ceremony which will be held in Melbourne during the 35th Australian Dental Congress.

David Thomson

**President:** David Thomson  
**Treasurer:** John Owen AM  
**Registrar:** Jackie Robinson

**Past President:** Dick Cook AM RFD  
**International Council:** Clive Ross CNZM  
**Regents:** David Crum, Rick Sawers, Keith Watkins

**Vice President:** Jackie Robinson  
**Editor:** Jennifer Smyth AM

# REGISTRAR'S REPORT

## 2011 - 2013 Officers for Section Viii (Australasian Section)

David Thomson (QLD), President  
Richard Cook AM (WA), Past President  
Clive Ross CNZM (New Zealand),  
International Councilor  
Jackie Robinson (NSW), Vice-President/Registrar  
John Owen AM (WA), Treasurer  
Jenny Smyth AM (QLD), Editor  
David Crum (New Zealand), Regent  
Richard Sawers (SA), Regent  
Keith Watkins (VIC), Regent

## Vote of Thanks to Peter Noblet AM

Dr Peter Noblet AM served on the Board of Regents of the Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists for ten years. Peter was admitted to the International College of Dentists in 1992 and was appointed as a Regent in 2002. He served as Honorary Treasurer 2007—2011. Peter contributed significantly to the vision and direction of the Australasian Section. We thank Peter for his dedication over the past ten years and wish him well as he continues to practice in Adelaide.

## 2012 Induction Ceremony And Luncheon In Auckland



David Crum, Regent (New Zealand); New Fellows – Jonathan Cole, Chris Waalkens and Edwin Alcock; David Thomson, President; Clive Ross CNZM, International Councilor

On 16 August 2012 an induction ceremony

and luncheon were held at The Grand Hotel in Auckland at the time of the New Zealand Dental Association Biennial Conference. 48 Fellows and guests attended the luncheon to welcome three new Fellows from New Zealand:

- Dr Edwin Alcock, Restorative and Cosmetic Practitioner
- Dr Jonathan Cole, General Practitioner
- Dr Christopher Waalken, Periodontist

Professor Ward Massey of Queensland was inducted in absentia.

President David Thomson conveyed a message to the new Fellows from International President Garry Lunn. Dr Lunn welcomed the new Section VIII Fellows and encouraged them to grow the International College by nominating other colleagues to Fellowship, to get involved and participate in Section activities and to contribute to humanitarian projects.

International Councilor Clive Ross CNZM addressed the new Fellows and conveyed the pride felt in recognising the contributions to dentistry and to oral health in the community made by the three dedicated New Zealand inductees. Dr Ross spoke of the contribution made by Section VIII to the International College at large and, in particular, noted the contribution made by Dr Tom Speed as a past Regent. He spoke of the obligation of Fellows to represent the highest standards of professionalism and the need to support less fortunate colleagues in other parts of the world who haven't had the benefit of our education and social economics. Clive concluded by saying that our Section is renewed and revitalised through new Fellows who bring new perspectives, new ideas and new skills for the future.

## 2013 Induction Ceremony and Dinner

The next induction of our Section will be held in Melbourne on Friday, 5 April 2013 at the time of the ADA Biennial Conference. We hope many of you will be able to join us to welcome deserving new Fellows into the International College. Invitations with details will be sent to all Fellows in January. If you have any queries in the interim, please contact the Registrar, Dr Jackie Robinson at [jackie\\_robinson@iinet.net.au](mailto:jackie_robinson@iinet.net.au).

## 50Th Anniversary of Our Section

In October 2014 our Section will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The Board will keep all members advised of the function to be organised to celebrate this special occasion in the history of our Section. The International Council meeting will be held in Sydney as part of the celebration.

## Queen's Birthday Honours

Three Fellows of our Section were recognised in the 2012 Queen's Birthday honours for their outstanding contributions to dentistry: David Blaikie (SA), Ian Watson (SA) and Hugh Trengrove (NZ). Congratulations to David, Ian and Hugh for this well deserved recognition.

## Project Support

Our Section has a proud history of support and active participation in community projects in underserved areas. The leadership of our Fellows in community oral health and oral health education is recognised within the College at large and highlighted in the international publication, The Globe.

With their 2011 membership renewals, Fellows generously donated at total of \$7,930 to towards oral health projects. At this time, our Section is providing financial support for the following projects:

Oral Health Projects in Cambodia  
(Callum Durward)

Education of Dental Student in Indonesia  
(Gareth Ivory Foundation)

Nepal Bhattedande Village School Program  
(Sandra Meihubers)

Australian Dental Research Foundation

Vietnam Long Tan Preschool Children & OHE  
(Colin Twelftree)

Scholarships for Cambodian Dental Students  
(Petrina Bowden)

Kimberley Dental Team  
(John Owen)

## Membership Update

The Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists now has a total membership of 588. This is comprised of:

Active Members	502
Retired Members	76
Masters	2
Honorary Life Members	5
Honorary Members	3

514 members are from Australia and 65 from New Zealand. Members of our Section have spread to many other parts of the world with members now living in Cambodia, Fiji, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa and the United States.

## Appointment Of Administration Officer

With membership approaching 600 Fellows, our Section has reached a stage in its development where the administrative requirements are substantial and exceed what can be expected of Board members. After due deliberation over the past 18 months, the Board has appointed an Administrative Officer to provide support with preparations and follow up for Board meetings, database management, subscription renewals, membership communications, banking, processing of nominations and appointment of New Fellows, organisation of functions and other miscellaneous administrative duties.

The Board is pleased to advise that Dr Ron Robinson has been appointed as the inaugural Administrative Officer for our Section. Ron can be contacted on [admin@sectionviii.org.au](mailto:admin@sectionviii.org.au).

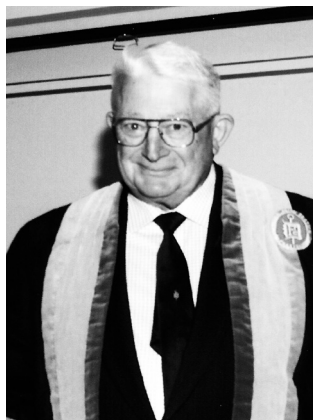
## Vale Fellows

Sadly, two Section VIII Fellows, Eric Canning MBE (TAS) and Neil Henry AM (QLD) have passed away since the last newsletter. Neil Henry AM was a past President of our Section.

Jackie Robinson October 2012



## **DR NEIL LEWIS HENRY AM, BDSc, FICD, FADI, FPEA 1929 - 2012**



Born in 1929 the son of a Townsville dentist Claude Lewis Henry, Neil Henry graduated as a dentist from the University of Queensland in 1952 and commenced private general practice in the Brisbane suburb of Wynnum.

Shortly after in 1959 he was elected to the Council of the Australian Dental Association Queensland Branch representing the No. 6 (Townsville) Division. The Queensland Branch of the Australian Dental Association honoured Dr Henry with its Distinguished Service Award in 1980 and Honorary Life Membership in 1985. He had been a member of the State Executive from 1966-82 being President 1968.

Dr Henry served on the Federal ADA Council from 1974 and was President 1984-86. Neil was also a Director of the Australian Dental Research Fund, and chairman of the Committee to Review ADA Committees. He was during this time the author of significant Association documents. His contribution to the ADA was recognized at the 25th Congress in Sydney in 1988 when he was awarded the Association's highest honour – Honorary Life Membership.

In 1983 he became a member of the Commission on Dental Education and Practice of the FDI World Dental Federation, of which he became Vice Chairman in 1985. At the 75th Annual World FDI Congress in Buenos Aires in 1987 he was appointed Chairman of the Commission. This position was one of importance to the educational and scientific aims and objectives of the FDI. In addition he was a member of the WHO/FDI Joint Working Party.

Neil was admitted to the Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists in 1975. He served as Editor on the Board of Regents 1995—1998, Vice-President 1998 and President 2001—2003. Neil was an Honorary Life Member of ICD.

On 26th January 1989 Dr Henry was honoured with the awarding of a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to the dental profession. The following is taken from his ADA Honorary Life Membership citation:

“Neil Henry’s life has been dedicated to the service

of the profession of dentistry and the Australian Dental Association whilst at the same time he has been an active practicing dentist indicating his all-round sense of vocation.”

He always found time for his patients and family despite being enthusiastically involved in the dental professional activities at all levels. Dr Henry’s wife Beth died in 2010. Neil is survived by his son John, his daughter Helen and sister Claudia along with their respective families.

David H Thomson

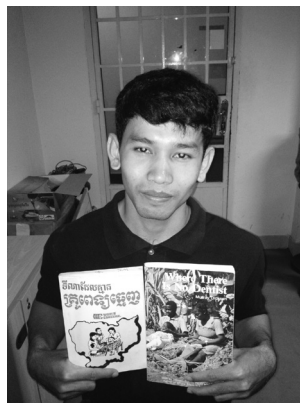
July 2012

## **SECTION VIII PROJECT SUPPORT**

### **ORAL HEALTH PROJECTS IN CAMBODIA**

The ICD has been supporting several dental projects in Cambodia over the past two years. This report covers two of the projects which received assistance from ICD funds in 2012.

#### **Translation of the Updated Edition of “Where there is no dentist”**



This book from the Hesperian Foundation is one of the main textbooks used in the education of dental nurses (therapists) in Cambodia. There are currently about 120 dental nurse students in training in a combined medical/dental 3 year program. They graduate as dual-trained dental and medical nurses, and are sent to work in rural areas, which lack dentists.

For the past 15 years an old and outdated edition of “Where there is no dentist” has been used. The book covers topics such as oral health promotion and prevention, simple treatment, and management of dental emergencies. The 2012 edition has new chapters on the ART technique, cross infection control and HIV/AIDS and other parts have also been updated. The “soft copy” of the original translation was lost, so the book has been retyped, with pictures added, and will be soon ready for printing. This work has been possible through the generosity of the ICD. The Ministry of Health and Dental Nurses School are very grateful for the work that has been done to update this resource.

## Prison Dental Service

There are approximately 12,000 prisoners currently held in 26 Cambodian prisons. About 6% of the prisoners are women, and about 500 are young offenders (13-18 years). There are also approximately 100 children staying in prison with their mothers because they have nowhere else to go.

Many of the prisons are overcrowded and the number of prisoners is increasing each year. The government allocates 1500 riel per day (about A\$0.35) for each prisoner. This is supposed to cover the cost of food, sanitation, cooking fuel, water, and electricity. The water provided is often unsafe to drink and at times scarce - as little as 5 liters are allocated per person per day for both drinking and washing. The availability of toothbrushes and toothpaste is very limited.

Prisoners have only limited access to medical care, and, before the prison dental service started, no access to dental care. Many prisoners have chronic medical and psychological problems and many suffer from painful oral conditions.

The Prison Dental Service this year received some support from ICD. Under the NGOs One-2-One Cambodia and the Khmer Association for Development (KAD), each Saturday a team of about 20-25 people go to one of the four Phnom Penh prisons to provide emergency and basic dental care. Most team members are dental students from the two Cambodian dental schools. They are supervised by two dentists and carry out a range of treatment, mostly extractions and restorations, using mobile equipment. There is also a smaller medical team (made up of medical and nursing students) providing treatment for common ailments and referring more complex cases to a doctor. The team also travels to one of the 24 provincial prisons every two months providing emergency dental care for a week. Overseas volunteer dentists and students, mainly from the UK, Australia and NZ have participated in some of these trips.

As funds to help prisoners are very hard to come by, the contribution of ICD is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

Other projects that ICD has helped support in Cambodia this year include:

The Smiles and Hopes project which provides basic medical and dental care and health education for orphans.

The Cambodia Smile project – aimed at mothers and preschool children to address rampant caries in young children. A survey of several hundred mothers and children has helped to identify the risk factors and now a project is underway to improve the situation.

Periodontics conference – at the end of 2012 there will be a one day perio conference with two Australian periodontists and one hygienist speaking. This is the first time Cambodia has ever had a conference with this theme.

Thanks to the support of ICD, many of these projects will continue. Members who wish to volunteer at the dental school or at One-2-One, should go to website: [www.one2onecambodia.org](http://www.one2onecambodia.org) or email Callum Durward at [callum\\_durward@hotmail.com](mailto:callum_durward@hotmail.com)

We are also seeking donations of dental text books for the libraries. The Dental Nurses School in particular has very few books. We would welcome books on all dental related subjects, including the basic medical/dental sciences. The books should be no more than 10 years old (except for some subjects like anatomy, where older editions are fine). Small numbers of books can be sent to: Dr Callum Durward, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, PO Box 1403, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Tel 855-12-394534. For larger shipments send to: Professor Sabo Ojano, President, International University, Cnr Streets 1984 & 1011, Sangkat Phnom Penh Thmei, Khan Sen Sok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Callum Durward

October 2012

## GARETH IVORY FOUNDATION Graca Febrionetty do Carmo Guterres



The ICD continues to provide much valued support for Graca, from East Timor, to study dentistry in Indonesia. This support will ultimately contribute to addressing the critical shortage of dental professionals in East Timor. Graca is making good progress and her grades have been excellent with all in the B or B/C range. She has now commenced the fifth semester of her degree.

Catherine Scott

October 2012

## BHATTEDANDE VILLAGE SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM, NEPAL

### School Dental Program - Shree Kali Devi School, Dandegaun, Nepal

In April 2012 a meeting was held between the Community Health Development Society Nepal (CHDS), Dr Sandra Meihubers, the School Principal of Shree Kali Devi School, Vice Principal, teachers and some members of the school management committee. This school is attended by kids from both Arubot and Dandegaun villages where we are implementing a sanitation program in the village homes. We organised, and later ran, a one-day dental camp for the kids. Of the 400 or so enrolled, about 100 came on the day which isn't bad considering it was right in the middle of school holidays (would that ever happen in Australia??).

Each child was examined and their oral health status recorded. The dental team performed essential dental care focusing on fissure sealants, minimal intervention techniques and oral health instruction. The



funds from the International College of Dentists were greatly appreciated and will be used to carry out more dental camps in the school during the year.

### School Sanitation Program

We intended to set up a school based toothbrushing program, the same as in Bhattedande which was the first village for this project. However the Shree Kali Devi School had no functioning toilets, hence no taps or sinks for hand washing etc, let alone for toothbrushing. There have been 2 toilet projects over the past 11 years, which have resulted in 2 buildings connected to each other with no decent planning or function. The toilets from the first project - one toilet each for girls and boys, and a urinal each for girls and boys (!) - have filled up and overflow. Apparently these are used for "emergency" times. The three toilets from the second project were never connected to plumbing and have remained locked for over four years.

The village program sanitation team - a combination of Australian technical advice, and local management and construction teams - developed an appropriate solution and the newly renovated toilet block provides privacy, clean facilities, safe waste disposal, and taps and sinks for handwashing and toothbrushing. The toothbrushing program will commence in the new term.

The interconnectedness between "teeth" and "toilets" continues: our sanitation project moved to the villages of Arubot and Dandegaun in 2011. We then agreed that we would run an oral health program for the children of these two villages, who attend the one school as previously mentioned. To enable this, the whole toilet system at the school has now been upgraded and made safe and hygienic, thus enabling improved overall hygiene. Again, we thank the commitment and dedication of CHDS, the village construction teams and the Shree Kali Devi School which contributed a large water tank and provided the taps and sinks. The toothbrushing and oral health programs still continue at Bhattedande school.

Sandra Meihubers      October 2012

## VIETNAM LONG TAN DENTAL CLINIC

Fellows will remember that the College supports the Australian Vietnam Volunteers Resource Group Dental Clinic in the village of Long Tan, Vietnam. The clinic is sited adjacent to the famous battlefield of the Australian Vietnam War and as well as providing dental treatment to local people, it establishes rapport between Australian people and the Vietnamese people of that area. As the battle was in 1966 most of the patients are blissfully unaware of the historical significance of the area to Australia and welcome any assistance with open arms and wide smiles.

As an extra incentive for Fellows to volunteer for this project, I have arranged for an Australian resident in the area to provide a tour of the significant sites, including a set of tunnels, the existence of which the Australian Army was blissfully unaware during their time in the province.

I am pleased to report that during the calendar year of 2012 there will be nine teams visiting the clinic. Each team consists of a dentist and one or two dental auxiliaries. Treatment is mainly provided to young children in the form of atraumatic restorative technique type restorations although there is some demand for extractions for adults and aesthetic anterior fillings for adolescents.

The clinic is sited in a Polyclinic and has one complete surgery and an adjacent basic surgery for examinations and extractions. We also have another surgery in a nearby primary school and we have been asked to work in a dental clinic at the provincial hospital in a town called Dat Do. We are now also able to treat children from the Nui Dat kindergarten which was a kindergarten built by AVVRG and was sited virtually on the Luscombe landing strip which served the



Australian Task force. This was also the site of the famous concerts held for the troops.

Although we provide much needed dental treatment and try to emphasise preventive dental treatment for the children, volunteers are encouraged to combine a visit to the clinic with a holiday in Vietnam. The opportunity of living in a modern Vietnamese town with all facilities and being virtually the only westerner in the whole place makes for a unique experience which is not able to be duplicated with normal tourism visits to a foreign country.

The people of Ba Ria, where you stay in modest but extremely clean and family run hotels, realise why you are visiting their town and show every courtesy possible.

Therefore, should any fellow be interested in setting aside a week during a holiday in Vietnam to work in the clinic, I would be very pleased to receive an email or telephone call to provide extra information. Do not worry if you have not independently visited Asian countries before as I can arrange for you to be looked after every step of the way. I look forward to hearing from you.

Colin Twelftree President AVVRG (SA)  
October 2012

## EXPANDING YOUR DENTAL KARMA IN CAMBODIA

Cambodian infrastructure was destroyed under the Khmer Rouge and still today struggles with minimal government social services. Many Cambodians, especially children, are heavily dependent on Non Government Organizations to provide essential services. M'lop Tapang is a Cambodian charity working with the street children of Sihanoukville since 2003. In 2008 we started seeing and treating patients with borrowed surgery equipment and a mobile cart.



Today the dental clinic has progressed to a permanent dental clinic staffed by visiting volunteers and local Cambodian nurses and social workers. It is essential to

provide a high standard of care and sterilization where the incidence of hepatitis A, B, C and HIV are endemic in the street living, extreme poverty and prison populations. Therefore there is a strict infection control regime.

Now the biggest challenge to providing dental care to these children is regular volunteer visits. Dental treatments are still predominately extractions but

there is a increasing proportion of restorative and preventative procedures. Many children have been in constant pain for months, and only require simple dental treatment. Preventive options are challenging as many street living children have nowhere to keep a brush even if they desire to become regular tooth brushers. Hence many lateral thinking solutions are vital to improving dental health. We have trained a Cambodian medical nurse to do examinations, scale and cleans. This means dentally trained volunteers are extremely productive as many children have already had an initial assessment.

A recent dental volunteer, Malcolm, sums up his visit. "For me it was a 7 year old girl who was new to M'lop Tapang. Another young girl who had previous dental treatment brought her into the centre as she had a really badly infected lower E with huge swelling extending to the border of her mandible and into her cheek. In Australia there would be many treatment options. However immediate dental treatment was necessary as dental volunteers are often few and far between. So knowing the local would hurt like hell and probably not work very well, if at all, we extracted the lower E. It was agony for the girl, she screamed but let us do it. She felt better almost immediately after it was out but I was really surprised as were the Cambodian staff when she turned up of her own volition the following two days to get more of her primary teeth extracted! Can you imagine an Australian 7 year old making those sort of decisions for themselves? She was gorgeous and such a character, she spent half the day popping in and out of the clinic chatting away and asking questions."

Please consider volunteering for a week. All you have to do is arrive at Phnom Penh. From there we will organize a taxi to take you on the 3 hour car trip to Sihanoukville where you will check into accommodation of your choice ranging from 5-3 star. A working day starts at 8:30 supported by M'lop Tapang staff and treating many grateful and delightful children. The day usually finishes around 5pm and then you can immerse yourself in the local culture and eat at the new M'lop Tapang training restaurant, Sandan. Here the children are being trained in all aspects of hospitality to provide sustainable alternative income to begging and other street activities. It has the best food in Sihanoukville!

You can go on your own or with another dentist/nurse or practice manager. All you need are your general dental skills. The clinic is not air conditioned but has full western standard sterilization and cross infection control procedures. We need your help to provide continuity of care. Many volunteers have returned for further weeks indicating that it is a mutually beneficial week. You may like to extend your time in Cambodia and visit the capital Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, home to the world heritage listed Angkor Wat. The predominately Buddhist culture is friendly and relaxed.

Approximate costs for the week include your airfare to Phnom Penh, 3 hour taxi ride to Sihanoukville \$100 USD, \$30 per day for food/drinks and accommodation

ranges from \$35 /day for 4 star hotel. Local currencies are USD and Khmer Riel. Please look at [www.facebook.com/mloptapang](http://www.facebook.com/mloptapang) and follow their continuing success in providing for the Sihanoukville children. This charity operates with very little hierarchy and administration costs in order to maximize the benefits for the children. Recently the founder, Maggie Eno, was recognized for her achievements and received a MBE. There is a facebook page with recent Australian dental volunteer visits. <https://www.facebook.com/DentalVolunteering>

Please contact me for any enquires [petrinabowden@gmail.com](mailto:petrinabowden@gmail.com) and I will forward more detailed information.

Petrina Bowden October 2012

## KIMBERLEY DENTAL TEAM



### KIMBERLEY DENTAL TEAM coming to your community soon

The Kimberley Dental Team (KDT) has been providing oral health education, oral screening and dental treatment to remote Kimberley Aboriginal communities since 2009. These services have been provided by volunteer dentists, dental assistants, dental therapists, final year dental students, new graduates and some allied health colleagues. All donate their time and skills and the costs of airfares (ex-return Perth), accommodation and road transport, are covered by the founders (Jan and John Owen) and by donations and sponsorship, including now, the Australasian Section of the International College of Dentists. KDT works closely in tandem with State, Dental Health Services (DHS), UWA Oral Health Centre, Kimberley Aboriginal

Medical Services Council (KMSC) and WA Country Health Services (WACHS).

Oral health education and screening of children have occurred in 16 schools, always by invitation from the principals, teachers, elders and/or parents. KDT supplies all 39 schools in the Kimberley with 1 toothbrush per child, per term, representing 16,800 in 2012. To date over 10 trips, including one trip of 7 weeks duration, have been undertaken and dental services provided to 2,514 adults and children in 14 communities. Sadly, the state of oral and dental health in many communities has been so poor that multiple extractions have been the only treatment option for many children and adults who have lived with pain and active infection for long periods of time. KDT is making difference.

While the value of emergency and restorative dental treatment to individuals is invaluable, the real gains in health and quality of life are likely to come from improved oral health created through regular teeth cleaning, healthy eating and regular screening. For this reason, KDT has emphasized the role of all KDT volunteers in provision of oral health education. More recently, KDT has expanded its oral health promotion program to include a range of strategies in schools and plans to further expand to include strategies targeting community stores.

The aim of the Kimberley Dental Team oral health promotion program is to improve the oral health and support the development of strong teeth, strong body and strong mind for Aboriginal people.

The objectives are:

1. Oral health education to be provided as part of all dental consultations provided by KDT personnel
2. Development and distribution of culturally appropriate educational materials at dental clinics, schools and general health clinics
3. Provision of tooth brushing equipment for use in schools
4. Development of sustainable models to ensure Kimberley Aboriginal people want to and are able to access affordable tooth brushes and tooth paste
5. Development of sustainable, effective and culturally secure models for oral health promotion and dental services
6. Collaboration with other agencies to support health promotion initiatives targeting healthy eating, for example, programs addressing food availability in community stores.

John Owen      October 2012