

touching hearts & bringing play to life



August 2018 - Uthando Project Newsletter

Greetings to all our wonderful dollmakers and supporters far and wide. What an ever-expanding circle of love we have in Uthando Project, with beautiful dolls coming in from all over the globe. To our Uthando family old and new, thank-you immensely for your selfless contribution to Uthando and the joy you bring to the children who receive our dolls.

A VISIT FROM KZN COLLEAGUES

We are approaching one of the high points of Uthando for 2018. From Sept 2 – 17 we will have the honour to gain deeper insights into the lives of children in KwaZulu Natal through the visit of two dear colleagues from KZN.

Mabongi has worked fearlessly in community empowerment projects for all ages. She lives in Pietermaritzburg. Jill works in Underberg with one of our special NGO partners, Family Literacy Project where Uthando visitors have been warmly welcomed and shown their sustainable work with remote families and communities. Jill will travel on to Tasmania where Irene Swan and team have planned



several meetings with enthusiastic anticipation from the dollmakers.

The theme of their presentations is “**Children in KwaZulu Natal. Thrive or Survive?**” If you would like to find out about or register for events which require registration, please reply to info@uthandoproject.org as soon as possible.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMME

Sunday 2; Sorrento group welcomes newcomers to the Henderson Environment Centre, Star Swamp, Groat St, North Beach. Come ready to start at 2.30. By donation. Enquiries to Ann Vivers: spooner736@gmail.com



Monday 3; Mundaring group at Mundaring Sharing, Craigie Place, Mundaring. 12.30 – 3pm

Friday 7, 4pm - Sunday 9, 5pm; Serpentine Weekend Gathering. Design a grandmother doll. Make a Families' Floor Play Mat with Secret Creatures. Be with Mabongi and Jill, asking all the questions, delicious food, bush setting and lots of fun. Immediate registrations essential. \$150. Contact Ann Vivers; spooner736@gmail.com

Tuesday 11; Open Workshop with City of Cockburn at the Spearwood Senior's

Centre, 9 Coleville Cr, Spearwood. Come at 9 for a 9.30 start. Finish 2.30. Learn about KwaZulu Natal from Mabongi and Jill. Make a basic Uthando doll to take home to encourage others to make them.

Registration

vital; ccable@cockburn.wa.gov.au 9411 3811

Friday 14; Open Day at Anderson Rd Community Centre, 24 Anderson Rd, Forrestfield 9.30 – 2pm. Presentation and farewell lunch for Mabongi and Jill. Please bring a plate, finger food. Donation.

Saturday 15; King's Park picnic. 12 noon at Pioneer Women's Memorial lawn. Everyone welcome. Bring your own picnic. Visit wildflower display.

Sunday 16; York visit. Details to be confirmed. Contact Georgia; georgia1@iinet.net.au



EVENTS

CRAFT SHOW

Once again Uthando was privileged to be offered a space at the 2018 Craft Show held in the Claremont Showgrounds August 3rd – 5th.

Our stall and display attracted much positive interest and exposure to the public



and was a success in every way for the fifth year in succession.

This of course, was due to the many regular Uthando supporters who assisted with the set-up and the pack up, sharing the roster, making dolls and toys for sale and by making and donating prizes for two raffles. Thank you to I Spy Quilters from Soroptimists International Fremantle for a beautiful quilt and to award winning Maxine Gadd for an endearing baby doll. The baby doll won many hearts!

As usual, the best sellers were the colourful, creatively packaged doll making kits, which raised over \$800.

The raffles, kits, doll sales, doll sponsorships and donations contributed to an overall total of \$1869.

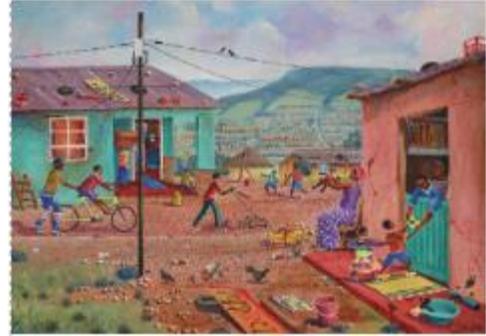
Thank you everyone for your assistance and enthusiasm. This always makes Craft Show such an enjoyable and profitable way to promote and showcase the Uthando Project.



SURPRISE VISIT OF CEO OF DLALANATHI TO HQ FORRESTFIELD, FRIDAY 27 AUGUST

Words don't do justice to the amazement blazing out in our HQ in Forrestfield when Julie Stone, the Founder of Uthando Project left the expectant crowd and returned with the beaming Rachel Rozentals-Thresher who is the inspirational CEO from Dlalanathi in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal. Rachel had to hide around the corner until she was called in. It has been 10 years of great partnership between Dlalanathi and Uthando, providing each other with genuine love for what the other provides and sustains in communities. Julie spoke warmly about all that the huge numbers of dollmakers give of themselves unselfishly. She said "Thank You "and spoke about the loving importance of play for children everywhere.

Rachel brought a wrapped gift to give to Georgia (really for everyone) to acknowledge 10 years of the funds raised by Uthando which aided the magnitude of growth for Dlalanathi. These funds specifically enabled Dlalanathi to have a trained psychologist, Zulu speaking, who would be the trail blazer for their transformative community work. We were overawed by the discovery that the total funding had reached \$230,000. Thousands



of generous hearts have gathered this money. Thank you.

The gift was unwrapped to reveal a wonderfully detailed commissioned painting of a KZN community corner where there was evidence of the presence of Uthando dolls everywhere - on the roof, on a sign, on a box hiding a doll, dolls left to continue the game with a basin and rolled up paper chair, a mother swinging a doll aloft. The painting captured the joy of having a doll and playing. It showed happiness.

If you would like an A4 copy of this painting posted to you, or put aside for you when we next meet, please email; info@uthandoproject.org

ADVANCED DOLL MAKING SESSIONS WITH PAULINE GROOM

Dollmaker Pauline Groom generously offered three full day workshops at her home, raising and donating over \$400 to Uthando Project. Pauline demonstrated many tips and techniques so that some very sculptural, detailed dolls were created. Thank you, Pauline! We all enjoyed the delicious catering and seeing the film footage later on produced by Nick Kebbell.



GROUP NEWS

TASMANIA UTHANDO EVENTS with Jill, please contact Irene Swan, Coordinator for Tasmania; irenejgill@hotmail.com 03 6266 0209 FACEBOOK Uthando Project-Tasmania

NEW UTHANDO GROUP IN KWINANA

Gerry Edson has made an incredible beginning of bringing together a group who have already made 150 dolls! What a way to start. They meet every Wednesday. Contact Gerry on greg.edson@bigpond.com

FOUR SESSIONS OF DOLLMAKING WITH CITY OF COCKBURN

Uthando loves working in partnership with local governments. This week, Lynne Jones and Doris Van Keulen began with an abundant group of dollmakers to begin the fascinating journey together of making dolls. Thank you.



NEW VENUE FOR ALBANY GROUP

This very established, highly skilled and outstandingly productive group now meet in central Albany at CWA Hall Serpentine Rd, on the 1st and 3rd Fridays 12.30 – 3.30. Julie Fletcher coordinates it all with flair and great local

support; brookend@wn.com.au FACEBOOK
Uthando Doll Makers-Albany Group

SHIPPING NEWS

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Thanks to the magnificent efforts by our doll making groups and individuals in delivering bags of dolls already packed, the July Shipment set sail on time.

Fifty six bags of 2,407 dolls, 222 repair kits and all the other goodies were collected ready for shipment to the five recipients:

Lifeline – 607 dolls

TREE – 845

Dlalanathi – 475

Family Literacy – 348

Sizabantwana – 132

It's so rewarding to know that our efforts will bring happiness to so many African children.

Thanks also to Forrestfield Men's Shed for their help with loading the truck on the day.



As always, the whole project sends friendly hugs to everyone who provides comfort for children everywhere.