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## THE UTHANDO PROJECT *Newsletter*

### DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

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Hello all Uthando dollmakers and friends,

#### 2500 DOLLS FOR KWAZULU NATAL

Since the end of July 2012 we have received a remarkable number of remarkable dolls, 1600 of which have recently arrived in KZN. And we have another batch estimated at 900 to send before Christmas, with our last packing day being December 14th. This will make 3 shipments for 2012, plus many individual bags have also been posted directly to the non government organisations during the year,. Our 100 dolls from our "100 DOLLS" EXHIBITION ARE STILL WORKING THEIR WAY IN VARIOUS EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES IN SOUTH AFRICA. It is always so inspiring for all of us to get positive feedback from the delighted families and organisations in KZN.

### FUNDRAISING

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*This picture of the grandmothers and children with their uthando dolls tells us why we send funds to dlalanathi for their committed work with communities.*

This year we have provided \$32,000 AUD, earned mainly through dollkit sales (extraordinaire), our "100 DOLLS" book sales and donations. Thank you to all our supporters. May this simply grow and grow.

'We have hundreds of copies of our book to sell, including some of the original batch with glued spines and the possibility of some pages coming loose. These are only \$15 each, preferably picked up from Georgia or Lis, but with P & P \$14.95 for up to 3 copies if posted.

Our top quality retail version is \$35 plus P & P \$14.95. Orders [uthandoproject@hotmail.com](mailto:uthandoproject@hotmail.com)

We continually get fabulous feedback about this book with its heartwarming stories good patterns. They make excellent Christmas presents with many ideas for creative activities for all ages in the school holidays.

*Photo below; these are a few of the dolls which are "on tour" in South Africa. Through arranging and presenting the exhibitions it gives **dlalanathi** an opportunity to present their training programmes for communities and organisations.*



# FAMILY DOLLMAKING

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Ash Osbourne wrote this week about making two dolls, from the dollkits, with her 7 yr old Pria. *"It has provided a wonderful opportunity to talk about the different circumstances of kids around the world....She felt she was doing something to improve the life of a little girl, like her, but was not living the kind of life we are lucky enough to enjoy in Australia."*



## AWARENESS ABOUT PLAY IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

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One of our prime objectives is to raise awareness about the need for ALL children to be able to PLAY. We see the deprivation of such opportunities when the HIV/AIDS pandemic smothers the mothering joys that caregivers deserve.

We give presentations and participate at a wide variety of gatherings using posters, photographs, information sheets and of course, our greatest ambassadors are the dolls themselves on display, to inform the public and engage them in dollmaking and funding.



## SCHOOLS REPORT from Schools Coordinator, Lynne Tognolini

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There have been some wonderful presentation handovers of the dolls as the year draws to a close. Students and teachers, both primary and secondary, reflect on the skills and values learned in participating in the Uthando Project with many choosing to engage in dollmaking with even greater knowledge and enthusiasm next year.

**Scotch College** Middle School boys presented their dolls at a chapel service where several spoke of the meaning gained by giving, and showed an understanding of the circumstances of the children who will receive their dolls. The 25 boys chose the Uthando Project as their lunch time club, a risk which proved to be very rewarding.

**At St Mark's Anglican Community College**, 1000 students attended an assembly where the principal spoke of the school's commitment to dollmaking next year. This year 50 students elected to make dolls as a club activity. *Photo; Lynne Tognolini with two dollmaking students with some of their superb dolls*

**Mundaring Year 6** students set up a tableau including village huts, a water pump, soccer field as a setting for their dolls to be displayed at the school Sculpture Day.

**St Patrick's** in Fremantle created a wonderfully moving power point presentation for the whole school assembly at the doll handover.

I am looking forward to receiving dolls from Penrhos College, South East Metropolitan



Intensive Language Centre, Rossmoyne Senior High School, Duncraig Primary School, Roleystone Community College, Winthrop Baptist College, Victoria Park Primary School, Campbell Primary School, Cannington Community College and Gooseberry Hill Primary School.

Schools from overseas and interstate (NSW, Tasmania and Victoria) have sent dolls directly to KZN. Cottingham Campus, Hull, England notified us of their involvement in the project.

The Margaret River Independent School, Waldorf Steiner School and Cyril Jackson Senior High School have indicated that they wish to begin dollmaking early 2013.

In every case, teachers and students engage in the process of dollmaking with genuine interest and compassion. It is a delight to see imaginative and innovative approaches. The sense of pride and fulfilment gained by the knowledge that their dolls may convey a feeling of hope and love to other children is very evident. It empowers the students with tangible evidence that they can make a difference.



Earlier this year, dolls were received from Hilton PS, Santa Maria College, Rostrata PS, Governor Stirling SHS, Mater Dei Catholic College, St Patrick's PS, Fremantle, Forest Crescent PS, Meerilinga, Polytechnic West, Midland, All Saints Anglican College and Campbell PS. Deepest thanks goes to every students dollmaker.

Karen Tredrea, South East Metropolitan Language Development Centre, Cloverdale, writes; *"There were children who I hadn't seen engaging in lessons all year, suddenly smiling and being involved. It was wonderful to see. Being part of a language centre, it was great to see so much language coming from the making of the dolls. The boys astounded me in their motivation and level of sewing and clothes design. They were just as interested as the girls."*

**STOP PRESS;** from Hawthorn's Erasmus School in Victoria, with front page gorgeous photo in the local Boroondara newspaper.

*"We are delighted to have our Needlework Community make headlines. We once again thank Dr Julie Stone, Australian Director of Uthando Project, our needlework volunteers and all the Year 5 girls and those who participated in the photo shoot"*

Volunteer parent, Georgia Leunig said, *"all the girls had been transformed throughout the year during the project."*

Please go to; <http://leaders.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/viewer.aspx>

## COUNTRY GROUPS

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Albany and Bunbury both have raised funds to send their own dolls to KZN, but this quarter we have included their dolls in the larger shipment as their dolls were ready for that. Their dolls for Lifeline especially, are of exceptional quality and completeness.

Albany groups have run their own workshops with other groups, including a happy weekend with visitor dollmakers from Perth. Also making dollmaking kits and raising funds through the local markets. Julie Fletcher writes of their latest market; *"Torbay Christmas market was great. Beautiful day. Lots of help and mnice spot among the karri trees. Torbay Hall committee were generous not charging us or any NFP groups a stall price which our King River committee initiated at the Scarecrow Fun Fair. We made about \$207 and still have 4 of Jean's owls to add to that tally, so about the same (\$250+) as*

*our King River Day. Also great to find new dollmakers keen to join us."*

Deborah Campbell in BUnbury reports more dollmakers coming to their weekly session and beautiful dolls emerging.

*Photo; Jean Quinn, Albany, offers this brilliant use of the different stretch and textures of a collton material skirt stitched directly on to the waist of a stretch fabric top. It is easy to "ring the changes" with this design. Children find it ideal to dress any sized dolls easily. Add pockets,, trim, alter neckline, etc. Both these types of fabric are included in the doll kit.*



## TASMANIA

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Irene Swan despite knee operations, juggles many different groups there, including Dover and Cygnet. 'Recently she sent the story of the three dolls which were delivered by Jack and his mother, who walked for ten hours to get to Irene. This is a unique adventure for Jack's dolls, hinted at by these photos. It is true that many of our Uthando dolls have fascinating experiences even before they are sent.

*Photo; Jack Rosewarne in the forest, with his Bombo dolls in his backpack.*

*"And so they were made, sitting within our family for many months between being packed and unpacked bags until finally we moved house. It was their turn to find new homes, so on a fine morning with clear skies and just a whisper of their fate on the slightest of winds they were carefully packed into Jack's rucksack, heads poking out."*



## DISCOVERING THE SECRET HUT

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*"He discovered at the end of a path, a rustic stone hut secretly nestled beneath a giant rock platform. It felt like one of those fateful moments on an adventurer's journey. We smiled in our secret, climbing to its top, witnessing the lush scene that spread before us, but so did our path, so Bombo, Balaela and Chipo were hurriedly packed once more and we quickened our pace hoping to complete the walk as planned."*

## BOY AND DOLLS ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

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*"Earlier, to the salutation of the rising sun, we had ascended Cathedral Rock, skirting along the mountain ridge with steep falls to either side, winding our way down an often overgrown path, hungry by this stage and searching for a clearing for lunch."*

## SAFE ARRIVAL FOR DELIVERY

*"Being ragged and tired, having walked for almost ten hours, we arrived at the shop meeting Irene for the first time. We expected nothing, yet found a welcoming party with cake, banners and smiles. Bombo, Balela and Chipo were then taken and settled in with the other dolls ready to be sent to Africa."*

Krista, Jack's mother, has written this story for each doll;

*"There has been much love and adventure imbued in the fabric, with a little of each of us in its story. May it be a friend to you always. No threads attached."*



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO FORM A GROUP?

Perhaps in 2013 independent groups of dollmakers across Australia and other countries will set themselves up as Uthando groups. Dollmaking is very addictive and attracts the BEST people.

The Uthando Board can assist with workshop programmes to suit different skills, ages and time frames. Also we can work to open up direct partnerships with the non-government organisations in KZN.

Australia wide,( beyond Western Australia), and a few overseas people, make many more dolls or accessories. TREE in Durban assures us that the overseas dolls arrivals will be emailed with an acknowledgement to the sender. Sometimes it takes over 3 months for the dolls to arrive.

*Photo; over the years we have made a few of these "Stages of Making a Doll" banner to use in schools and workshops. Ideal for "real size" demonstrations.*



## CITIPLACE DOLLMAKING ENDED.

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This was brought to a close after a trial of several months. The City of Perth community arts programme generously gave us a grant of \$1000 towards that part of the project.

**INDIGENOUS DOLLMAKING** continues under the enthusiastic leadership of **Sandra Maher** with the City of Cockburn (indigenous and non-indigenous women) and a Willagee group in the City of Melville. Their intent is for the empowerment of each woman through dollmaking and their stories. The dolls are for themselves or family.

### GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

- Jennifer Muir-Dick is planning an active group with the Accommodation for Special Disabilities staff and clients in Bennett Brook.
- The multicultural craft group at Rostrata Community Centre with Roslyn Bartholomaeus are very productive, especially with the zebras!
- Alison Egan's and Lynne Jones' groups continue with aplomb.
- A newly formed, independently spirited group at The Meeting Place, Fremantle meet fortnightly.
- Two very able batches of dolls came through the Wesley Uniting Church (Applecross and Kardinya).
- Also the St Regis senior's group in Nedlands keep working for Uthando.
- It is always dangerous to single out individual dollmakers when anonymity is so powerful, but special mention has to be made of Debbie Elkes and friend Jo, Maxine Milne, Rose van Walsum, Rosemary McBeath, Ann Roberts, Margaret Sutton, Diana Mathews, Frances Soal, Alcira Valsecchi, Shirley Botha, Judy Mackintosh and Marie Tuke. All of these dollmakers provide big numbers of dolls, very gratefully received. Please do not feel "you have not been chosen for the Team" if your name is not here. Every doll is greeted with love and represents your care and work for an unknown child in KZN.
- Consistent dolls, bags, balls, etc from Joan Truscott, Carnarvon and Jenny Long (traveller), arrive in the mail.
- Eleonora de Pieri Tentori constantly delights with hundreds of beanies, bags and tops.
- Irene Metcalfe (90 years young) brings bright colour combinations to huge numbers of little doll rugs.
- Nola Turner turns up from Waroona with a giant supply of lovely, decorative skirts, bags, etc, lots of dolls and smiles. Her enthusiasm ignites CWA groups and others.
- Bev Schroder in Augusta provides beautiful dolls for Lifeline.
- From Julie Timewell in Victoria through Tight Knit World small and large dolls arrive at the door. Another parcel arrived last week.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EVENTS

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Over the past few months, there has always been something special on the go.

- Di Blesing arranged for us to have a stand at the monumental **Craft and Wood Show** at the Claremont Showgrounds, which proved how quickly we can respond to an invitation.
- **Local Government Community Development National Conference** in Fremantle. Welcome to this newsletter for new subscribers among many of the delegates.
- **ZigZag Festival, Kalamunda**, Oct 28th
- **Di and Ken Cunningham's Garden Party** for Uthando. Amazingly both the party and festival were hit by hail, thunder and lightning, BUT it didn't deter hundreds of people from participating. The Garden party shone through the rain with raising over \$3000.
- The **WA AIDS Council and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre** invited us to have a display at their Youth and Adult drama for communication performances and acknowledgments. A night full of African humour, strength and food.
- The **Baptist Church in High Wycombe** arranged for our lovely Uthando stall to be there with display, sales and lots of doll-dressups for the children.

# DOLLKITS AND OTHER STRENGTHS

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With all these events, workshops and schools participating, the work of Pauline Marlborough, Margie Alcock, Colleen Hubbard, Anne Bell and the guiding lights of Di and Ken Cunningham, has resulted in literally thousands of dollkits having been made and sold, often in bulk to schools. It means we always have stock on hand of these kits to sell with the book, posters and cards. Donations of haberdashery, cords, braids, lace, buttons, beads, elastic are always welcome.



Georgina Noble earns a grateful thank you for recording Doll Arrivals and sending thank you notes. Calico and Ivy and Patchwork of Essendon do great work as Collection Points.

Amber Lee manages our data base (now over 1000 people all holding the children of KZN and the strengthening of our own communities in their hearts). The Uthando Board members give countless hours of happy service.

Underlying all this is the Friday Mob, who consistently are there to do whatever is needed. It is so rewarding to see newcomers "shown the ropes" by these experts. Fridays are the highlight of the week, and full of surprises, good cakes, Bill's coffee, new patterns, sad and hilarious stories and always the sorting out of things. These are the "perks" that may lie ahead for new groups.

Truly the standard of the dolls is better than ever. Continue to avoid using glue anywhere on the dolls, make sure the hair is firmly on and the clothes are easy for children's play.

How can we make the works "We love you" reverberate through the skies over to KZN?

Wishing everyone a bountiful and reflective festive season, rich in family and friends.

Love from Georgia and the Friday Mob.

PS. Our **Christmas Lunch** is this Friday, Dec 4th at 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill. Everyone is invited. Please bring a plate to share and one Secret Santa present (up to \$5 worth).

Coffee at 10.30, lunch at 12 noon.

Friday dollmaking 2013 resumes the first Friday after school goes back, February 8th.

Deliveries of dolls welcome any time.

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