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THE UTHANDO PROJECT *Newsletter*

NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Dear Everyone,

We are completing 2013 with flurry and flourishes of activity. The various events in Western Australia have brought in loads of wellmade dolls from all over Australia for the children of KwaZulu Natal.

We'll make our Christmas party day, **Friday Dec 6th** at 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill, the **final day** for handing in finished dolls.

Then these can be packed and shipped mid December so as to arrive in Durban at the end of January ready for the New Year. Every doll makes a difference to a child's life, so why not get cracking, make more dolls and we can aim to send more than 2000 dolls this time, bringing our 9 year's total to 35,000.



The description of recent events will be brief, which doesn't do them justice. Each Uthando gathering shows how making the dolls and their purpose open people's hearts. The doll's message is easily understood. Folk want to contribute money, make dolls themselves and get schools and new groups underway. It seems impossible to be able to convey our thanks to every person who made dolls especially for fundraising, the coordinators of the mini workshops and all the supportive public and other Uthando groups. **THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY PERSON.**

Photo; *The five banners of silhouettes of African people of different ages with a child and their doll. This is the exterior of the Zigzag Gallery, Kalamunda where our "To the Heart of Africa" Exhibition of dolls was held Oct 10 - 20.*

ZIGZAG GALLERY EXHIBITION

Zigzag Gallery Exhibition was beyond our wildest dreams. Over 10 full days, visitors appreciated the whole display, participated in making small dolls or knitting mini monkeys, selected their dolls to buy or the delightful wall pieces made by textile artist Margaret Sutton and made our Market Corner hum. With full support from the Shire of Kalamunda and visits from many groups who have made dolls over the years, we were able to send \$15,000 to **dlalanathi** for their expanded training work. Such a sense of fulfilment! We can all thank each other for making this exhibition a landmark in our history. If you want to see lots of photos of the exhibition of the outstanding dolls, look at www.facebook.com/Uthandoprojectinc

Margaret Sutton's generosity of donating 27 art works brought in over \$5,000.

Anne Williams made with great care and creativity over 40 Steiner inspired small dolls. She also taught these specific techniques to other dollmakers.

Main gallery



Displaying such a range of dolls was simplified and linked by the donation of many, many metres of African fabric by Isabelle Cox, DownUnder Fabrics. Thank you Isabelle. Some of this fabric dressed the elegant African Queens which sold instantly. (See photo at end of newsletter). If you would like to commission an African Queen for yourself, price \$85 plus P & P, please contact me, georgia1@inet.net.au



Margaret Sutton's textile pieces

Margaret was inspired by bush fire images. Many of her works show changing habitats and gardens for birds and butterflies. She explores many techniques of paint, dye, applique and machine embroidery all in the service of a love of nature.

Rondavels, monkeys and zebras

If



only there was space enough to show more exhibition pieces. Enjoy this part of the display by Lynne Tognolini who used a few of the 100 animals made by the Rostrata Craft Group in Willeton. These simple two piece animals (elephants, giraffes and zebras) in happy fabrics roamed over palm sheathes in another part of the display. Among them were Zulu rondavels in pale green poplin made by Jean Quinn and Rose Flett in Albany. Then (you'll just have to use your imagination) some of Laura Ivey's 150 pocket people were used to inhabit these mini houses where Robin Hamilton and her daughter, Ella, had made tiny tables, cubboards, buckets and cooking fires.

Curling snakes with faces knitted by Kay Daw twirled from a "tree" where Anne Bell's cheeky monkeys swung.

These tableaux included a Market Place, a Funeral, a Wedding, a Hospital Ward and a Playground. Everyone loved them and the funeral scene opened many eyes to the underlying purpose of the fundraising.

Photo; *Lynne Tognolini 's zebra masterpiece.*

Mini workshops at the exhibition

New and old Uthando friends joined together for several hours to make dolls or monkeys for the children of KZN. Much hilarity and companionship all put to a good purpose. It brought together Uthando groups and dollmakers who don't usually meet each other.

Photo; *Anne Bell designed a mini monkey for everyone to knit and complete in one session. Kay Daw (on right) had a glorious selection of her African animals within the exhibition.*

Brian Harffey's Uthando Warrior



Brian, who lives in York, made our protector warrior, one and half metres high and named him Uthando.

He delivered him to the Gallery just as his own 100 year old father passed away. We can never know the levels of consciousness which are held within Uthando's work, but certainly there is loving significance in the timing of this gift.

He (the warrior, not Brian!) will appear at many of our events to speak silently but eloquently, of the magnificence of Zulu culture.

SOIREE; fundraising delight

An afternoon soiree' at Deborah Pearson's, with singers and writers thrilling the audience provided \$500 for Uthando. Thank you Deborah. What could be better than real live

ZIGZAG FESTIVAL, STIRK PARK, KALAMUNDA

The Zigzag Festival in Stirk Park, Kalamunda, brought thousands of families. Many free activities are offered for children. Over 100 dolls were dressed by children sitting on a patchwork quilt in the shade. Each child wrote a label message sending their love and their favourite activity.

The sale of our Doll Kits and special dolls made to fundraise brought in over \$1000. Readers may wonder why the word "Zigzag" appears often. Kalamunda once had a small train line which zigzagged up the steep escarpment, hence the name.

The many splendours of our DOLL KITS

Our famous doll kits (\$5), assembled by Di Cunningham, (and her daughters) are often bought by schools as each student works with a doll form already cut out and a unique collection of fabrics and trimmings. I might add that her husband Ken is King of Uthando as he has adapted a power drill to wind the different threads needed, plus always helping delivering and picking up a million things.

Lynne Tognolini has been enormously busy this year in visiting the schools, or advising schools in other states and countries. Her expertise encourages schools to produce strong dolls which don't need fixing later on. Lynne transmits the deeper implications of generosity between makers in Australia and children in KwaZulu Natal. One of the country schools in Broomehill sent this news.

Broomehill News

During Term 3, the Senior Room students, along with some enthusiastic community members, were involved in making dolls for the "Uthando Project."

Uthando is the isiZulu word for love and the Uthando Project distributes dolls in KwaZulu-Natal to children who live in poverty.

After many sessions of threading needles, sewing facial features and clothes, the dolls are complete.

The students not only gained some sewing expertise but were able to show compassion to a child who has never owned a doll before.

Many thanks, to the community members and parents, who gave up their time to help with this project.

If you know of any schools which would like to make dolls for Uthando Project, talk with them about using these kits and discussing their involvement and goals with Lynne. The kits set a really good standard of dollmaking and every kit is different in fabrics, but comparatively similar in the types of items included.

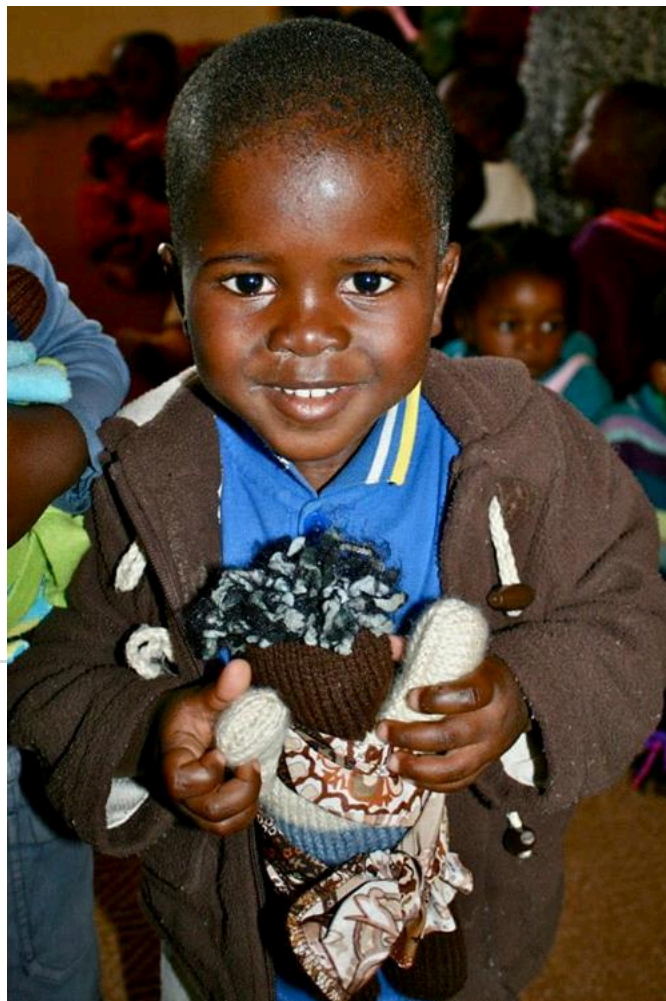
YOUR DONATIONS

All our doll kits depend upon donations of fabric, etc. Thank you to all who leave parcels at the door.

Please select your donation to really suit the dolls. We need bright cottons or similar, patterned knit/stretch fabrics, bling materials. Please DO NOT include black, white or pastel materials and materials which are slippery or difficult to hand sew. Also no furnishing/curtain materials unless you can see their application. We can use all types of wool or other yarns for hair, and endless amounts of buttons, beads with large holes, braid, ribbons, elastic, lace. Keep your eye out for faux fur in all colours. This gives instant

Africa to the dolls.

Photo; This happy boy in Pietermaritzburg expresses the joy of playing with the dolls we knit and sew and cut and fold and gather.



GROUPS; Sorrento WA and Bruny Island, Tasmania

It is



so affirming of our work to see new groups under way.

The **Sorrento group** (WA) has good connections with a children's crèche in Elandscop, KZN, through the NGO Singakwenza. Originally we met one of their staff, Lila, at the May workshop in Pietermaritzburg with **dlalanathi**. Now Karin Maltby's extended Pietermaritzburg family is providing dollmaking materials to Lila and making a connection with one of the schools to support further. Link upon link of the chain of relationships. How many degrees of separation? Karin is managing the Uthando facebook page on [facebook.com/Uthandoprojectinc](https://www.facebook.com/Uthandoprojectinc). Please share your Uthando thoughts through this page.

Photo; This tableau shows Lila encircled by children in her creche. Robin Hamilton invented a personal story of each child in a little book as part of the exhibition. Lila is wearing shweshwe material beloved of Zulu women. Her Christian church affiliations are reflected in her red and white clothing, worn every day in these colours. The animals are quite keen to get in on the act.

The **Bruny Island group** of 8 women have sent two parcels of lovely dolls. No wonder they are good knitters, from their island next stop is the Antarctic. Dolls arrived for the Exhibition from all the Eastern States. Thank you to each dollmaker. Special thank you to Doreen Forbes who sent 3 families of dolls, including an elephant family and to Irene Swan and friends in Tasmania.

ESTABLISHED GROUPS; Bunbury and Albany, WA

The **Bunbury group** sent a delightful combined piece of dollmaking to the Zigzag Exhibition. It showed the story of the Little Mermaid with mermaids, coral and the wicked

sea witch. Their display travelled back to be part of Senior's Week in Bunbury and showed the vitality and variety of their work with successful fundraising and lots of conversations. The Uthando Bunbury group are at facebook.com/uthandodollmakingprojectbunbury

The **Albany group** is glorious in its independence and sent special quality dolls directly to Lifeline in Pietermaritzburg. Funds are raised in Albany for postage and general coffers. They show us the way for future groups.

See facebook.com/groups/UthandoDollMakersAlbany/

OTHER GRANTS AND EVENTS

The **Rotary Club of Kalamunda** not only donated \$2000 for one shipment of dolls, but also a free space at their popular Craft Market, November 2nd. \$654 was raised, with useful potential schools and dollmakers enjoying our stand.

Then we have a stall at the **American Women's Craft** event in South Perth, Nov 10th and the **Baptist Church Christmas in the Park** at Maida Vale, Dec 1st.

All these events not only raise vital dollars for the ground breaking work in KZN by **dlalanathi**, but enable others to become dollmakers, set up groups, receive training, identify schools and receive our newsletter.

Dlalanathi leads the way in South Africa and other countries in Africa in deep involvement in training communities leading to more sensitive upbringing of children where sickness, death, isolation, confusion and overburdened carers make life difficult indeed.

Because we are a volunteer organisation, apart from a small amount used for creating our marketing items and communications, all the funds raised cover freight costs and our pledge to **dlalanathi**.

All financial donations are very, very gratefully received.

Send dolls, donated materials, stamps and money to

Uthando Project
2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill 6076

We can supply direct deposit banking information.

PLANNING FOR 2014 VISIT

Planning for 2014 Visit by Rachel Rozentals-Thresher, CEO, dlalanathi and Bertha Magoge, Director, TREE, Durban is well under way. There are only 6 places remaining for the Serpentine Retreat, May 16 – 18, \$200 full cost, so please let us know if you want to be one of the lucky ones. There are plans afoot for a two day workshop in Perth with other meetings. These will be clarified as they evolve. Do let us know if you are keen to be part of their visit in any way.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, 2013

This will be the final newsletter for 2013. It has been a year of fulfilment because of the support, work and interest of thousands of people. We send our love to all our partners in KwaZulu Natal. We offer freely our patterns and concepts to any country or community.

Photo; One of the African Queen dolls exhibited and received with huge acclaim and commissions for more. Made brilliantly to raise funds by Karin Maltby and Robin Hamilton.

Please know that each and every dollmaker and doll is celebrated here and especially on arrival in KZN. We will resume Friday meetings in Gooseberry Hill, **Friday 1st February**. Keep in touch with all your Uthando work and ideas.

With cheerful season's greetings from all in Uthando,

Georgia and the Friday dollmakers.



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