



DOLLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF KWAZULU-NATAL

MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Uthando dollmakers and friends,

This is our first newsletter for a year that promises to be a milestone in Uthando's history. It is in fact ten years since we began making dolls for the children in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa – a Decade of Dollmaking, having sent over 36,500 dolls. Already bags of dolls arrive from around Australia, a new group begins in Benowa Waters, Gold Coast, Queensland and dolls and messages come in from Tasmania, Victoria, Albany and Bunbury.

We do our best to send an acknowledgement letter or email to everyone who sends dolls to 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill, but sometimes there are no addresses, (or dare I say) even time, to reply to all. Please know that every doll is welcomed here by the Friday group before they are packed for shipping to TREE in Durban.

So far there are three streams of powerful activity in Uthando.

1. **Decentralisation** through strengthening the roles of the Board members and independent groups through identifying their dolls to match the needs of one or more of the five NGO's who are our partners in KZN. Then these dolls can be packed and sent to KZN directly by that group with the appropriate fundraising to cover freight. The Albany group has now done this successfully several times. It also brings each group closer to communicating with and understanding the special needs of "their" NGO.

2. Designing the **dollmaking in schools** to achieve stronger results through a beautifully explicit A3 sheet as a Guide for Teachers, combined with much deeper information provided through our fabulous new website. The dollmaking kit materials will be adapted to making it easier for students to make clothing more workable without hemming. We especially need donations of brightly patterned knit or non fray fabrics, cords, braid and black wool for these kits. (Note; all types of wool donations are used for the dolls).

3. Spreading the word about the **itinerary** now ready for enrolments in the extraordinary range of events for the visit to Western Australia in May of Rachel Rozentals-Thresher of *dlalanathi* and Bertha Magoge of TREE. The focus of this newsletter will be mainly about this fortnight, May 16 - 30. The many layered theme is "You, the Child, the Doll", including, in the workshops, Uthando dollmaking for Grief and Play

- If you are part of a business, organisation or group who work with children at risk, (could be a multitude of reasons), or are a committed volunteer in this area, please consider enrolling in at least one of the events with Bertha and Rachel. It is even more

sustainable when another colleague enrolls with you to support implementing what you gain from these **workshops**.

- If you already are a dollmaker or are interested in Uthando's work, then please buy tickets or register for the **public events**. The evening public presentation at Perth College, Tues, 27th May is a glorious chance for everyone to understand more about life in KwaZulu Natal for children, families and communities. Please invite friends and colleagues to come.

Here is some background information about these two women who undaunted face each day where thousands of lives around them are devastated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.



PROFILE OF MS BERTHA MAGOGE

I joined TREE as its new Director in January 2012. I hold a Bachelor of Social Work Honours degree and have an immense passion for children's issues to which I have been dedicated over the past 15 years of my work career. I am currently registered as a Master Student by the University of KZN where my full Social Work research programme is focusing on the extent to which community participation is a pre-requisite for

Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes in rural and marginalised areas

I have worked regionally across a number of sub-Saharan African countries including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and South Africa, on policies & programmes for vulnerable children and families. I have been involved in HIV/AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable Child related policy development with government departments, NGOs as well as working with UN agencies on child rights & effective child protection strategies. Specifically in South Africa, I worked with the Child Welfare South Africa (CWSA) as the National Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme advisor and led their national response programme for orphans and vulnerable children "Asibavikele". Asibavikele was a USAID- PEPFAR sponsored programme that essentially looked at rallying and building community capacity to identify care and support for their vulnerable children. The massive growth of the OVC problem through increased HIV and AIDS related deaths in South Africa, meant that government- led services on their own could not cope and communities had to be supported to step in. This was a very successful flagship programme and still exists in CWSA today.

I joined CARE South Africa/Lesotho where I served as the OVC programming specialist. As a specialist on OVC programming, I was instrumental in developing a standardized care package for orphans and vulnerable children. I worked with 18 of CARE's NGO partners and assisted them in setting up child related programmes that looked at a rights based approach for working with children, especially those children

who are deemed vulnerable. My role included intensive travel across South Africa rural communities assessing the situation of children and designing interventions that are appropriate for these communities.

In January 2009 I moved to Health Development Africa (H.D.A) where I served as the Project Director of a comprehensive HIV/AIDS and OVC programme for vulnerable children across 100 primary schools in the Free State and Eastern Cape. This was a USAID supported programme that primarily looked at mitigating learning barriers in schools as a direct result of the impact of HIV/AIDS in the communities. The aim of the project was to build the capacity of schools to cope with the challenges brought to bear on the school as the impact of HIV and AIDS ravaged most communities. Teachers had to become more sensitive and attuned to the effects of HIV and AIDS and to be able to identify different forms of vulnerability that may impede the child's learning outcome if not mitigated.

Throughout my work experience, I have gained valuable insight in working with multi-national donor agencies that include USAID, Global Fund, DFID, AUSAID, Plan International, Oxfam, Helwel Trust, ELMA Foundation and many others. I have vast experience of working within and in collaboration with NGO's and intimately understand the challenges to this sector. I am passionate & knowledgeable about the key challenges facing children, especially vulnerable children and believe in a work ethic that promotes the development of strong and lasting partnerships that aim to create a different reality for poor children and families. I believe that "it is only when we work to complement one another that we can together, enable children to realize their rights...and to realize them now!"

MY DREAMS AND HOPES FOR TREE

TREE's vision is "to ensure that young children develop to their full potential in line with their rights and needs" This resonates with every aspect of my personal values as an individual. I really do believe that tomorrow's future is the children that we care for today. My 17 years of professional work as a qualified Social worker have thus been dedicated to the cause of children. I am genuinely encouraged by the work TREE does especially in reaching out to those children who are gravely underprivileged and marginalised. By reaching to these deprived areas of our society, TREE attempts to restore equity to the social order so that for every child born in South Africa the ground is as fairly even as far as is possible. This allows them to compete and to thrive in this race for humanity. It is for this reason that I will work tirelessly to spread Tree's foot print deeper and deeper into those areas where deprivation is greater. Although TREE is a big organisation and spread out in KZN, we are still not reaching the majority of children. There are some corners where we have not even begun to put on our radar in terms of service delivery. It is for this reason that I seriously believe in partnering smaller organisations and CBOs so that TREE can become a resource conduit for these other players and together ensure that we are reaching every child in South Africa.

TREE has been around for 30 long years, and I believe we have the potential to play a bigger role in uplifting other smaller role players providing companionship and mentorship so they can individually play a bigger role in securing the future of these young children. We have started making inroads towards this goal by forming close supportive relationships with the local ECD forums, CBO; faith based organisations as well as local municipalities. We are soon launching an ECD M&E Symposium where we hope to include some of our ECD partners and other stakeholders to talk about monitoring and evaluation concerns for the sector. The aim of the symposium will be to create a platform where smaller organisations can build their capacity on M&E as well as understand the programme challenges when it comes to demonstrating impact. I hope that in time this platform will grow significantly to attract government support and thus we can become a conduit for linking government to good models' practice for ECD programmes across South Africa.

By claiming this developmental role and space, TREE can actively contribute to the vision that government has that is the "universalization of ECD services to "every child. In doing this, TREE will itself grow to work

in other provinces sharing its capacity from province to province till we become a national force to reckon with.

This is the legacy I want to leave in TREE.

Robyn Hemmens of dlalanathi has given us the following insightful description of

Rachel Rozentals-Thresher



“Rachel was born in Australia but has lived her life in South Africa from childhood. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Commerce and Honours in Psychology. The beginning of her career was spent in the Banking Industry with a core focus on Organisational Development and Systems work. On leaving business Rachel joined the Not for Profit sector, initially as a consultant around organisational development support for NPO’s and then as CEO for dlalanathi where she has served for the past 8 years.

Rachel is a dynamic leader, creative facilitator and programme designer. She is passionate and deeply committed to making good quality psychological services available to all in South Africa. Rachel’s desire is that every child (especially those that are orphaned or vulnerable) has the opportunity to experience a meaningful emotional connection with an adult close to them that cares. Her belief too is that families and caregivers know their children best and with support in relationship can provide the best care for their children. Rachel lives her beliefs

with integrity and sees opportunity where every life calls her to serve. Rachel is married to Duncan and has two children, Liam and Rebecca.”

Robyn also writes of a new staff person, vital to dlalanathi’s new programmes; “Oh, and I have to also tell you that we have just appointed a new training manager (the position funded by Uthando) and Claudie is just amazing. Goodness the wait has been well worth it. She a Venda and speaks about 5 South African languages fluently, is a psychologist and has a deep passion for children and family work. She is calm, warm and passionate. It’s a perfect fit. So she begins on the 1 March...”

I’m sure we will find out more about this specific training programme in person from Rachel.

Bertha Magoge



UTHANDO PROJECT INC ITINERARY FOR

Rachel Rozentals-Thresher



BERTHA MAGOGE, CEO Training and Resources in Early Education, TREE, Durban with network across KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

RACHEL ROZENTALS-THRESHER, CEO, dlalanathi, centred in Pietermaritzburg, working in communities.

www.tree-ecd.co.za
www.dlalanathi.org.za

MAY 15 – FRI 30, 2014

Date in May	Time	Cost	Event	Registration
Fri 16 Sat 17 Sun 18	Arr 3 - 5pm Leave 5pm	\$200	UTHANDO RETREAT Serpentine Retreat Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing specific dolls • Training for presenters • Learning about KZN 	Fully booked. 40 persons
Tues 20	8.45 – 1pm	\$35	HALF DAY WORKSHOP “You, the Child, the Doll” Uthando Introductory Workshop on Grief and Play Blue Gum Community Centre Moolyeen Rd, Brentwood for professionals and committed volunteers working with children.	Email fundraising@uthandoproject.org for registration form, payment details and information pack. Limit 65 participants Partnered by City of Melville, CSSU (Children’s Services Support Unit). Lunch, doll and materials provided.
Thur 22 Fri 23	tbc	\$170	TWO DAY WORKSHOP “You, the Child, the Doll” Uthando Workshop on Grief and Play Venue to be confirmed	Email fundraising@uthandoproject.org for all workshop and registration details. Limit 70 participants
Sun 25	1.30-3pm	\$10	PUBLIC PRESENTATION; ALBANY Western Australian Museum, Albany Mini exhibition and friendship meeting from 10am. No bookings needed. Bring plate to share for lunch at 12, followed by presentation 1.30 – 3pm	Bookings for presentation 40 persons Julie Fletcher; 9844 3265 brookend@wn.com.au

Mon 26	10.30 - 12	\$10	PUBLIC PRESENTATION; BUNBURY Hudson Rd Community Centre	Bookings; approx 60 persons Deborah Campbell deb@thousandflowers.com.au
Tue 27	7 – 9pm	\$20	MAJOR PUBLIC PRESENTATION; PERTHCOLLEGE, Judith Cottier Theatre, 31 Lawley Cr, Mount Lawley	Bookings; approx 200 persons fundraising@uthandoproject.org 9479 1172
Thu 29	10 – 11am		PUBLIC PRESENTATION; COTTESLOE Grove Centre Library	Registration; West Coast Community Centre Enquiries; Lynne Jones 9384 8492
Fri 30	11.30 – 2pm	\$20	FAREWELL LUNCHEON; GOOSEBERRY HILL, 2 Healey Place.	Bookings; and bring plate to share fundraising@uthandoproject.org

MACCABI JUNIOR CARNIVAL COMMUNITY DAY

On the 17th January, 8 Uthando ladies spent a delightful day at the Maccabi Junior Carnival Community Day. The hall at Carmel Primary was abuzz with 163 girls from across Australia, many of whom had never sewn before! What an achievement it was for them each to create a beautiful doll for a child in KZN - we were so proud of their commitment to the day and look forward to sending their dolls to Sizabantwana schools. For a photo treat, please check our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Uthandoprojectinc>)



FILM MAKER NEEDED

The search is on for a professional or semi professional film maker to record events and interviews during Rachel and Bertha's visit. Is this YOU? Or do you know of a potential film maker for Uthando. Ideally to be a volunteer and to have worked in the field with women's issues.

Please contact georgia1@iinet.net.au if you have some ideas.

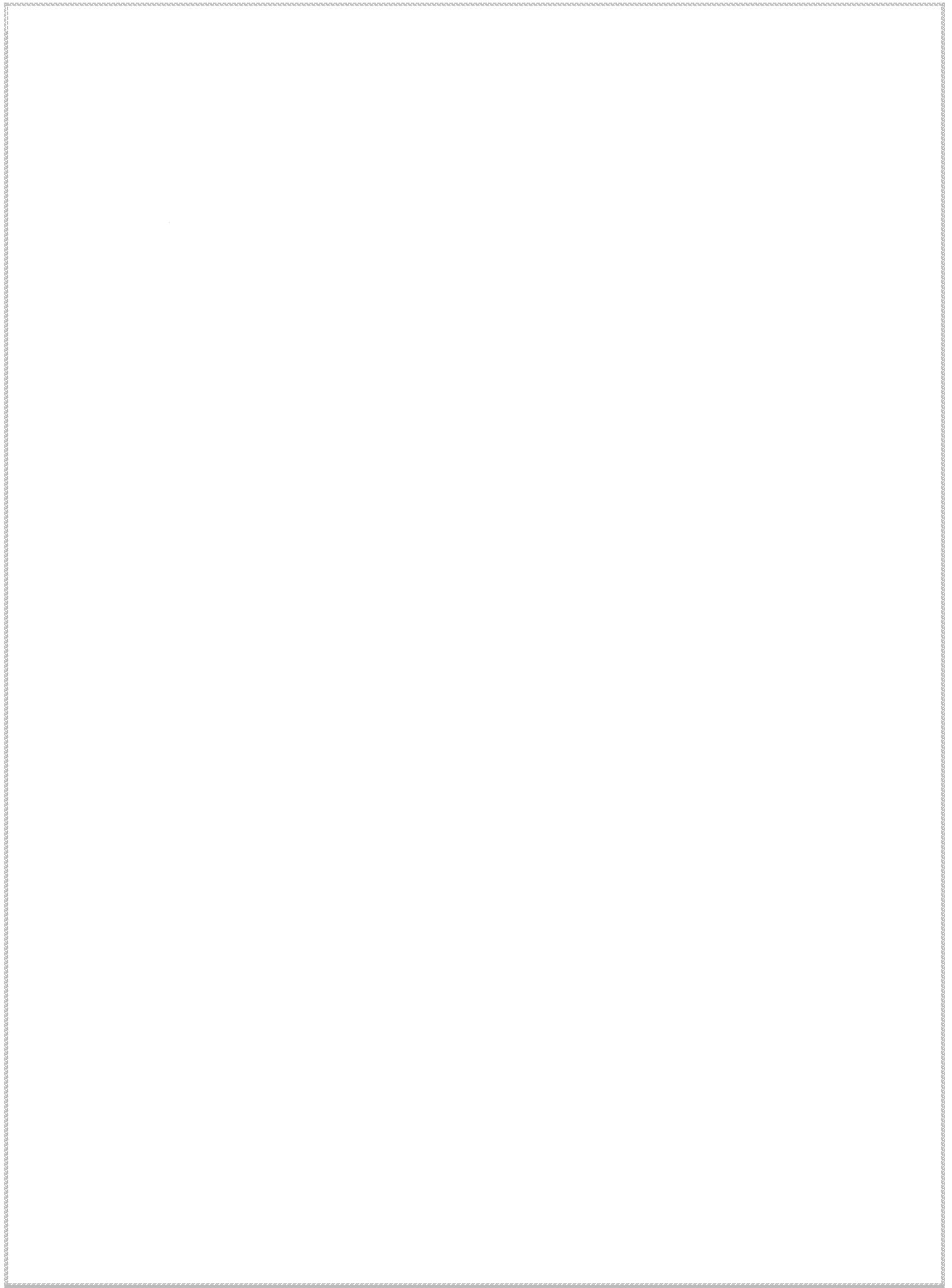
FOURTH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH FOR DOLL KIT PREPARATION

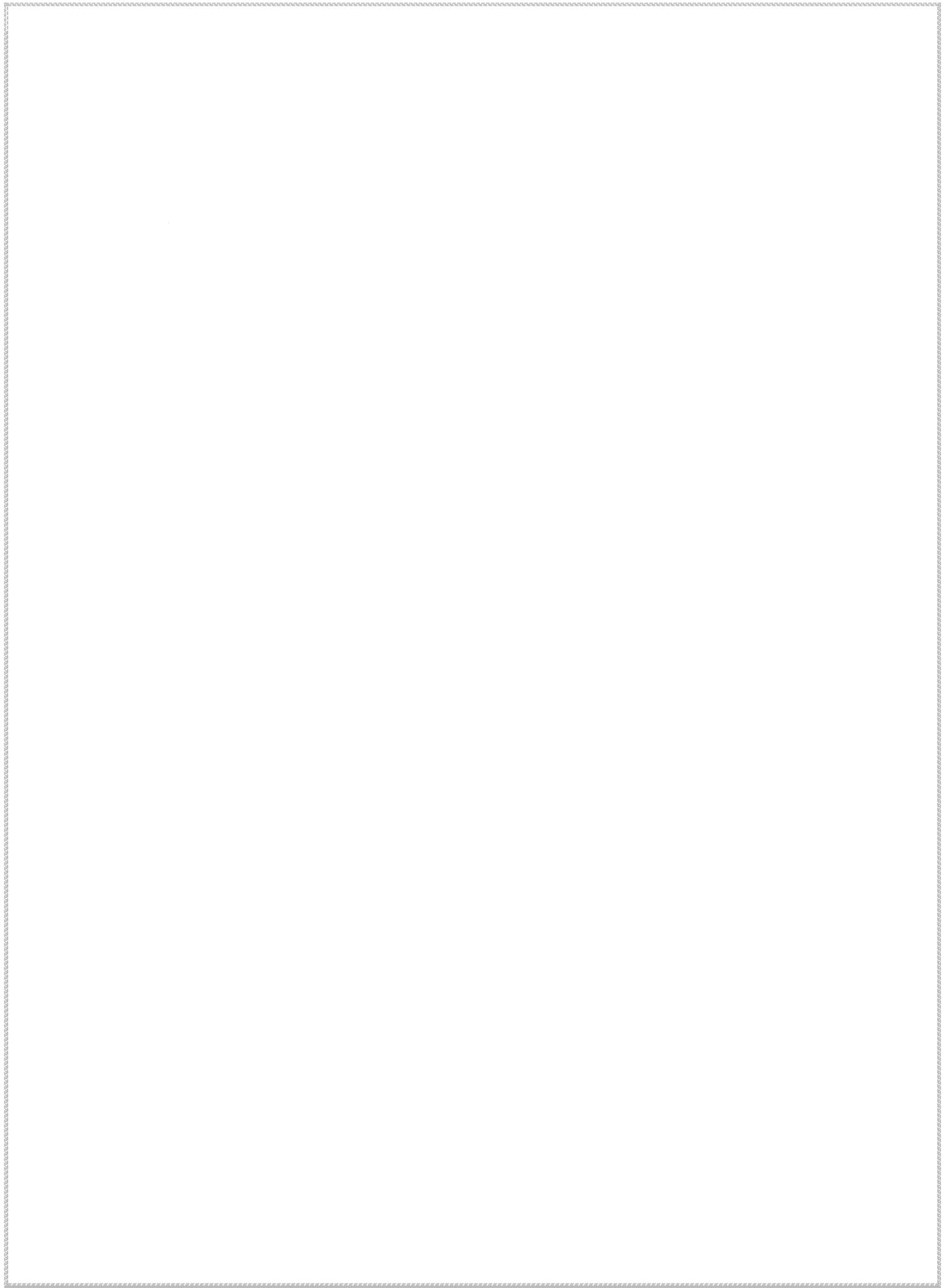
For dollmakers in Perth, we are now helping our doll kit making expert, Di Cunningham on the fourth Friday of each month at her home, 17 Brie Brie Cr, off West Tce, off Kalamunda Rd. There was a great turn out this Friday, with everyone helping to cut up the material which goes into the kits

Thank you everyone for the dolls and the support. We hope to see every Western Australian dollmaker at least at one of the events in May. We are sorry those further afield are too far away to participate. But I know you will be with us in spirit. Please share the itinerary.

All for now, love from Georgia, the Uthando Board and the Friday Team.

PS Have you seen the new website and checked out the patterns?
www.uthandoproject.org





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