



DOLLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF KWAZULU-NATAL

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear All Dollmakers and Friends of Uthando Project,
Such excitement and fulfilment in packing 56 bags ready for shipment tomorrow of the largest number of dolls which I think we have ever sent. It is a good 33% increase on our usual 2000 dolls. We have created 2660 dolls, plus countless knitted balls, animals, hand puppets, bags for Lifeline children, shoulder bags for the dolls with an extra item for dressing and three bags full of donated ingredients mainly for TREE to make up their own dollmaking kits.

Wow! How did we do it?

Many more dolls now come in from Melbourne, Huon Valley, Albany (10 bags) and Bunbury (2 bags). School dolls made by schools in Western Australia, (7 bags). Then the Sorrento group (7 bags) keeps on keeping on with school holiday children's (and family) workshops, and The Meeting Place group (2 bags) creates many character rich, beautifully finished dolls.

It is hugely beneficial to have all these groups pack their own dolls and either deliver them to Lis's (Treasurer) in Belmont or post them independently to KwaZulu Natal. Just as well that Einar and Lis Hansen have a big garage to hold all the bags, and big hearts to manage it. We are so fortunate to have wise and practical Lis as our Treasurer.

We also can say a deep felt thank you to Clare Harris who has said goodbye to being our Secretary and hello to special dlalanathi project work with our President, Julie Stone. Roles change, but devotion to a better world for our world's children doesn't waver.



Packing dolls,
Albany Group,
378 dolls +69
items
sent this time,
with a running
total of nearly
1500 since
March 2012.



Packing dolls, The Meeting Place group at Doris Van Keulen's. Lynne Jones, Doreen and Lynette Buss, with Georgia Efford giving some tips on packing and doll selection.

In reviewing the year 2014, it is evident that the encouraging effects of having Rachel Rozentals-Thresher, CEO, from dlananathi, Pietermaritzburg and Bertha Magoge, director, from TREE, Durban here in Western Australia for our Retreat gave us all the heart connection between Australia and KZN, with the deeper understanding of life in KZN for the children and families, that brings superb and long lasting results.

Thank you Rachel and Bertha.

(By the way, at last, participants in the workshops with Rachel and Bertha now receive this email. Sorry you missed August Newsletter, but it is on line.)

Another good reason for the increased number of dolls in this shipment was changing the size of the dolls for TREE to a slightly smaller doll (25 – 28 cms). Ideas keep emerging which incorporate bright or cuddly fabric representing clothing as being part of the doll form. For instance, Marcia Watson and Lyn Fisher in the Sorrento Group tallied their first batch of these dolls.....305!

Several dollmakers declared their totals (not just for this shipment), eg Maxine Gadd at 400, Nola Turner and Hilda Eyres with close to (I'm guessing) 600, Pauline Groom delivered at least 80 dolls from her group, Joan Truscott with around 1000 balls, Roslyn Bartolomaeus and friend with hundreds of elephants and zebras. Uthando is blessed with consistent dollmakers who provide wellmade dolls for EVERY shipment.



RECENT EVENTS

GARDEN PARTY; GOOSEBERRY HILL

GARDEN PARTY; BUNBURY

ZIGZAG FIESTA IN KALAMUNDA

This surely is the best time of the year in southern Western Australia to celebrate nature and the beauty of late Spring gardens, even with the uncertainty of rain.

Strangely enough, I finished this sentence yesterday, and am now made to come back inside to the computer because of the thunder and big drop rain after a short cuppa out in the garden (after cleaning the table of possum droppings).

Writing this newsletter had seemed so clear yesterday and now, after rereading the August Newsletter full of background for Uthando dolls in KZN, and searching fruitlessly for our recent YouTube segments on making a boy doll, making a top, to give you the links, it feels as if this newsletter is a bit uphill. However, it is a delight to check out the various FaceBook entries for Tasmania, Albany, Bunbury and the central one, managed by Karin Maltby of the Sorrento group.

FaceBook is one way of seeing the incredible variety of dolls made across Australia. It gives new and old members an opportunity for their creations to be seen by many.

So many good ideas to share. Creating connectedness with your comments.

If you use snail mail, show these addresses to a computer person to see them.

Uthando Project-Tasmania

Uthando Doll Makers – Albany group

Uthando Doll Makers- Bunbury

Uthandoprojectinc

GARDEN PARTY AT GOOSEBERRY HILL

The Garden Party at Gooseberry Hill saw children and families wandering, exploring, around the garden following the mystery signs leading them on to the next flowering, leafy site. The very harmonious A Kappella Munda, 25 strong, sang happy and quiet songs from around Africa. What an experience to have live voices giving us such a concert among the roses and irises. Inside the house everyone mingled to see Kay Daw's full family of 15 South African animals designed and knitted by her. Certainly created a hot spot of conversation for our remarkable 84 year old.



Young and old sewed felt flowers for headbands or necklaces to go on to the freshly dressed dolls.

Beside the exhibition of recent dolls, Margaret Sutton's textile pieces looked marvellous.

The Treasure Table sold OUT!

And there were scones straight from the oven with my husband Peter's strawberry jam, cream, teas and coffees to be enjoyed with friends out in the garden.

Cupcakes cooked by Shelagh Williams, 80 years old and never too old to bake divine cakes, weighed down with icing and sprinkles smeared on by the children themselves. (The cakes, not Shelagh!) All in all a magical day. Can't mention all the 20 wonderful volunteers, and we raised \$3500 for dlalanathi. This enabled Uthando to fulfil our annual pledge of 200,000 rand (approx \$22,000 AUD) to be sent post haste. 130 good and kind people enjoyed the afternoon. All linked now to Uthando.

BUNBURY GARDEN PARTY

The Garden Party in Bunbury at Deborah Campbell's artistic home saw the power of the people coming generously together despite deluges outside. Over \$800 was raised. One photo on their Facebook showed dolls moving into the send off bag, entitled "The Beginning of Goodbye".

Perhaps late snow in Tasmania has caused the postponement of their Garden Party. More anon. Check out their Facebook later this year.

ZIGZAG FESTIVAL IN STIRK PARK, KALAMUNDA

Kalamunda hosts a major event with thousands of happy folk each October. This year the theme was Fiesta. This gives me the chance to say a tremendous thank you to Di and Ken Cunningham and their trusty van to deliver all the paraphernalia required to show off our dolls. Ken helped prepare the space for all the children to each dress a "naked" doll, design a coloured drawing about "Peace and What Makes Me Happy" on a white shoulder bag for their doll and add a felt flower doll decoration instead of beads for the dolls to go to TREE. You might be interested to know that these shoulder bags are sewn with block out curtaining with the white side outside. This surface is great to draw on with permanent markers. Try it!

Drizzle which ended up in sunshine, 70 dressed dolls and \$600 raised from sales and donations. Many children return each year to dress another doll. Lovely to watch. (see photo)



Kay Daw, Isabella Cowin and Carmel McConville enjoyed showing their craft work and encouraging participation. Amber Lee, with her two boys, assisted children in their fashion choices. Penny Hooper, Karin Maltby, Lynne Jones, Margie Jones and Jacquie Duckworth were on the go at the Sales tables, especially the dollmaking kits assembled elegantly by Di Cunningham. Lynne Tognolini had set up the Doll Exhibition ready for sponsorship choice of a special doll which received a sweet note written by the \$10 Sponsor

SCHOOL DOLLS ARE GIVEN TO SCHOOL CHILDREN IN KZN

It is always a treat to open the various bags and boxes of dolls made by school children in Australia. Lynne Tognolini visits every school which requests her expertise and encouragement, for staff, parents and students. Her presentations make a big difference in the finished quality of the sewing. Keep in mind that for many young people this is the first time that they have threaded a needle and then spent so many weeks assiduously working on one creative item. They deserve medals! Teachers too. Many schools appreciate the values embedded in the Uthando Project, and once hooked it becomes part of the curriculum. Check out the photo on our Facebook from Iona College of all their 130 dolls arranged in a giant heart.

One student has resolved the challenge of using a long sock to make the clothing in two pieces which look fabulous. It inspired me to try it



too.

INTERNATIONAL SPONTANEITY

Lars Klessa, from Germany, sent a delightful email describing how he bought our "100 Dolls, Countless Hearts" book at a café in Albany for his grandmother Annaliese, back in Germany, in a village near Cologne. After she made dolls for all the family, she couldn't stop. Lars writes;

"My grandma, her name is Anneliese, was very happy and she started immediately with making dolls.

After she crafted round about 30 puppets (dolls) she didn't know what to do with all these dolls. Just as birthday presents within the family and her friends ?

No. At this point of time a young guy from our small village decided to go to Ruanda in Africa for development aid. This project is under care of a convent, which is situated near our village. My grandma didn't think twice and she gave all the dolls to the young guy as presents for the children of a hospital for HIV-children and of some schools in Ruanda.

And please have a look at the nice pictures she got back...

(Please try this download link :

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fdxx53sooup6zbi/AADd0Y_hgzj9HnldGITHg0vXa?dl=0)

But.....that's not all....my grandma made more and more puppets. I think up to 80....

Some newspapers interviewed her and lot's of foreign people sent money to support her.

You see, your project as an intention for me and my grandma is generating an independent existence here in Germany.

And therefore Me and my grandma, we want to say THANK YOU....."

Lars has written again. What a joy to hear from Germany that dolls are going to other African children.

FUTURE EVENTS FOR THE PERTH CALENDAR

CITY OF GOSNELLS, MULTICULTURAL FOOD FAIR AT LANGFORD PARK, NOV 7, 5 – 9
MOSMAN PARK MARKET DAY, SUN NOV 9TH

CHRISTMAS AT THE FAIR, MAIDA VALE, DEC 7th, 4- 7pm

GENERAL COMMENTS ON OUR DOLLS

We have seen immediate results in requesting smaller dolls and more boy dolls wearing shorts, (about 40% boys needed). The same goes for avoiding buttons and beads for all knitted dolls and dolls given to TREE. (Safety for the younger children). Thank you everyone for adapting to changed requirements. It would be very helpful if spare, wide, stretchy fabric could be included, cut into strips 140 x 35cms for the children to tie the doll on their backs for play. Perhaps crafts people who crochet the doll wraps might like to vary their input by crocheting beanies, shoulder bags (10 x 10cms) or simple tops as the need for wraps is reduced. Don't worry if that is what you still want to make....all is useful.

Let us also see if we can make small baby dolls to go with our dolls, tied on with a piece of fabric or popped into a shoulder bag. These could be incredibly simple, folded, wrapped with a touch of black hair and eyes. Be inventive. Thank you to all who have provided a book of stamps. It helps!

Keep enjoying all that you do and think about for Uthando Project and the children, Love from Georgia, the Board and the Friday dollmakers.