

touching hearts & bringing play to life



[Uthando Project](#) Newsletter May 2015

2707 dolls sent in April to KwaZulu Natal

They will arrive at TREE (Training and Resources in Early Education) in Durban later in May to give delight and comfort to many, many children.

How did we achieve so many dolls in such a short time?

It was because the success of the "Make a 100 Dolls in a Day" series of events for Harmony Week really worked!!!! It forms a foundation for similar challenges to be created at any time, any where, with any number of dolls being made as the goal.

In 7 days, Uthando held 5 workshops using two smaller, simpler doll patterns and finished over 400 dolls, with lots more nearly finished and being delivered later.

Each event brought in new people meeting the Uthando Project and accomplishing a doll immediately. We also had the warmth of "old" Uthando dollmakers joining in.

For everyone who took part, from stuffers to face makers, a huge thank you, including the coordinators of the different venues so we could be in different quarters of the Perth Metropolitan area.



Photo; "100 Dolls in a Day" workshop, hosted by the City of Cockburn, Spearwood Seniors Community Centre with 35 new and old dollmakers.

It is fabulous to see the strength of the independent groups delivering their bags of unique dolls already packed.

This shipment included approximately 4 full bags EACH from Albany, Bunbury, Hamilton Hill, schools, with from Sorrento the amazing number of 3 bags from the general dollmakers, 8 bags from Lyn Fisher and Marcia Watson and one bag from Pauline Groom and the Western Dollmakers, and then, the gathering of many dolls at Gooseberry Hill to fill 9 bags. Add to this, but posted directly, were 3 bags from Julie Timewell's group in Melbourne.

Special mention must be clarified about the consistent dollmaking generously done in schools. Mater Dei College, in Edgewater, for the third year, has fulfilled an order of 200 dollmaking kits, with great results from boys and girls.

There are many other schools who participate year after year, or through an enthusiastic teacher taking the project with them to their next appointment. The project then reveals many layers of awareness and skills for dollmakers of all ages. Thank you to all schools.

Next shipment will be finalised Monday 24th August.

EXHIBITION IN JULY

This is an invitation to be widely promoted among dollmakers and textile artists across Australia.

It forms our major fundraising event for 2015 so that we can contribute mightily to our beloved partner organisation in Pietermaritzburg, [dlalanathi](#).

Please use this document to spread the invitation further. I also have a pdf flier of this invitation which is easy to forward or print. Please request; georgia1@inet.net.au to send you an attachment.

One hundred unique dolls would make a solid exhibition.

There is also place to contribute our classic Uthando dolls for direct sale at our market stall.

Please note, that we never sell dolls which are intended to go to Africa. It is valuable for our present day children to have a doll representing another culture.

However, if your exhibition dolls do not sell, it would be a bonus to send them to Africa too, unless you prefer them returned.

Please read the next part avidly to see how you may be able to contribute or who you know who may provide African artefacts for sale for an extraordinary event.

Note that the demonstration items pictured here are only representing possibly similar exhibition items.

Kidogo Arthouse is one of Fremantle's favourite historic landmarks with ample, simple space, right beside the Indian Ocean. It can symbolise the point of departure for dolls being shipped to Durban.

We are so thankful to **Joanna Robertson of the Kidogo Art Institute** for her sponsorship and willing support of Uthando Project. There is a separate room which is ideal for dollmaking workshops. July might be wild and windy, but the dolls will be snug inside the whitewashed walls.

UTHANDO AT KIDOGO

Kidogo Arthouse,

Bathers' Beach, Fremantle.

July Tues 14 – Sun 19

Fundraising exhibition with

- Extraordinary handmade dolls on the theme; "The Gift of Play"
- African artefacts
- Half day dollmaking workshops

DOLLS NEEDED: Warm invitation to YOU to make some dolls to donate for our fundraising exhibition.

What does "The Gift of Play mean"?

The dolls for exhibition could be two friends playing a game, a granny and child, a boy and his dog, a jack in a box, two performers balancing, mother with baby, etc.

It makes a big difference in sharing the Uthando message of thoughtful interaction with a child, by arranging two dolls or items in a playful relationship, rather than a single doll.

Dolls may be any size, colour or materials.



AFRICAN ARTEFACTS NEEDED AS DONATIONS.

CAN YOU HELP?

Uthando Project wants to enrich this exhibition by having many items which were made in Africa donated for sale.

Do you have any African sculptures, jewellery, pottery, baskets, textiles, dolls, useful items to give?

Could you pass on this invitation to any groups or families who may have something suitable?





Uthando wants this exhibition to be superbly memorable.

Plans and actions are solidly afoot for the launching of our next book at the exhibition. It is a book of original knitting patterns by Kay Daw. It will have patterns for 17 African animals with accompanying wildlife stories by a Zulu conservation director, Jabulani Ngubane. Watch this space!

Funds raised will be given to a ground breaking, not for profit organisation, [dlalanathi](#), in Pietermaritzburg, KZN.

We are proud and delighted to partner [dlalanathi](#) in their work with communities, children and young parents in their relationships with all children, where there is so much uncertainty and grief within the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Confirm with georgia1@iinet.net.au that you would like to be part of this major exhibition either as a dollmaker, artefact provider, worker or interested in the workshops. 9293 2363

Collection points' addresses and other info can then be given.

Uthando gives a big thank you for the Kidogo Art Institute sponsorship.

www.kidogo.com.au

www.uthandoproject.org and Facebook.

7 - 9 AUGUST, UTHANDO STAND AT THE W.A. CRAFT FAIR AT THE CLAREMONT SHOWGROUNDS

Again we are grateful for the sponsorship invitation from TrueBlue Exhibitions to share our ideas, invite participation and sell Uthando dolls and our other items; dollmaking kits, books, cards, posters.

This is an incredibly popular event, bringing tens of thousands of visitors.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Lynne Tognolini, schools@uthandoproject.org

11 - 13 SEPTEMBER, RETREAT AT SERPENTINE

Plans are gathering momentum for our second Uthando Retreat.

Last year's event from a Friday evening to late Sunday afternoon with Rachel Rozentals-Thresher and Bertha Magoge from KZN was absolutely memorable. Everyone gained from being together, in a simple bushland setting, learning from two directors with vast experience and vision. The impact is still resounding.

Let's make the retreat this year be rich in friendship, dollmaking and learning more about the foundations of Uthando and it's links in KwaZulu Natal.

The cost is \$200 which includes full accommodation and materials.

We ask for **Expressions of Interest** now through contacting Lis Hansen, fundraising@uthandoproject.org, or enquiries to georgia1@iinet.net.au

Interstate visitors are encouraged to come. We can perhaps offer billeting for other days.

WE WELCOME PICTURES AND STORIES FOR FACEBOOK

The Uthando Project brings out the best in everyone.

We know the dolls are loved by the children, and that sometimes it is very difficult for the dollmaker to surrender the dolls, but we do it. FACEBOOK is a handy channel for all the things that go on for Uthando around the world.

Please contribute. Address; facebook.com/Uthandoprojectinc

If you prefer, send Facebook contributions to Karin Maltby; karin.maltby@coreservices.com

This newsletter is a mere shell for all the wonderful interaction that the project encourages. Please know that each person's contribution, in any form, is held dear.

Back to sorting out my precious materials so that I can begin making dolls for the Exhibition. Only seven weeks to go.

Love,

Georgia, the Uthando Board and the Friday Dollmakers