

touching hearts & bringing play to life



July 2015 Newsletter

The year is skipping and sliding away and suddenly we are very close to the arrival of our two very special guests from our major partner agency, [dlalanathi](#), Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal; **Claudie Munyai**, psychologist, Training Manager and **Robyn Hemmens**, long time friend, Operational Director for Community Team and Training Team. So before you read about the highly successful Uthando at Kidogo, The Gift of Play, Exhibition, here is a broad description of their visit.

RETREAT SEPTEMBER 11 - 13

Dollmakers and Uthando friends are most welcome to register for this friendly retreat in the wildflower abundant bush, an hour's drive from Perth. There are 28 spaces available and it is a golden opportunity to spend extraordinary time with family members or friends, meeting inspiring new people as well. We will be able to deepen our understanding of life in KwaZulu Natal and the work of our major partner agency there, [dlalanathi](#), which brings gentle change to attitudes and practises in communities towards raising children in an emotional landscape devastated by HIV/AIDS. Ideas of practical dollmaking can be shared and dolls created. It is always valuable for dollmakers to finetune their own dollmaking, by seeing the different ways that the dolls are used (and made) in KZN.

The retreat is from 4pm Fri 11th September to 5pm Sunday 13th. Costs include full accommodation and all materials, \$200. Please contact our Treasurer, Lis Hansen, fundraising@uthandoproject.org to book and pay.

ROBYN HEMMENS IN TASMANIA AND MELBOURNE

Irene Swan is arranging great meetings for groups to meet with Robyn in Tasmania between Sunday 30 August and Thursday 4 September. Contact; irenejgill@hotmail.com. Robyn then travels to Melbourne, hosted by Dr Julie Stone for a Uthando - [dlalanathi](#) planning meeting.

CLAUDIE MUNYAI IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Claudie will present the work of [dlalanathi](#) as a training organisation, her work as a psychologist and share about her life in South Africa. Suggested cost for all events; \$20 or a donation from those with concessions. Funds raised at these special events will go to [dlalanathi](#) for their groundbreaking community work in KZN. Good idea to bring along interested friends/family to encourage more dollmaking.

Fri 4 Sept, 10 - 2; [OPEN DAY AT GOOSEBERRY HILL](#)

Georgia Efford, 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill. Please bring a plate to share for lunch. Morning tea provided. Confirm; georgia1@iinet.net.au

Sun 6 Sept, 1 - 4; [AFTERNOON AT SORRENTO](#)

Robin Hamilton 20 Marine Tce, Sorrento. Afternoon tea provided.

Tue 8 Sept 10 - 1pm; **MEET UTHANDO AND CLAUDIE AT DADAA** 6 The Avenue, Midland. Details to be confirmed. Contact; mallikam@dadaa.org.au

Tue 15 Sept 10 - 1: **MEET UTHANDO, CLAUDIE AND ROBYN AT SUDBURY HOUSE, MIRRABOOKA** 30 Chesterfield Rd, Mirrabooka Confirm; Ann Vivers; spooner736@gmail.com

Thur 17 Sept, 10 - 12.30: **MEET WITH UTHANDO, CLAUDIE AND ROBYN AT THE MEETING PLACE IN FREMANTLE.** . Contact; Doris van Keulen: vkeulen@iinet.net.au

VISIT UTHANDO AT CRAFT FAIR August 7 - 9 at Showgrounds, Claremont

It is thrilling to have this space at an event attended by thousands of people interested in Crafts. It is a good opportunity to say "hello" and buy our new knitting book, "African Animals" and lots of DIY dollmaking kits for your friends.

FINAL DELIVERY DATE FOR NEXT SHIPMENT

Please deliver your finished dolls to 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill by FRIDAY AUGUST 28. It helps to have them sooner. Every doll is appreciated even though we don't know how a child will take comfort and joy in it.

VERY SUCCESSFUL UTHANDO AT KIDOGO EXHIBITION, "The Gift of Play".



Many of our hundreds of visitors commented on the warmth and creativity of the whole exhibition. A veritable abundance of authentic African textiles and craft pieces gave a rare flavour and backdrop to the 175 dolls displayed for sale. We raised \$11,000 for dlalanathi in KwaZulu Natal and were able to pack the unsold dolls to actually be shipped and exhibited there later in the year. Note the quilts in the background which sold through Silent Auction.



This exquisite Zulu Dancer inspired Irene Swan, Tasmania, to work with her famous teacher in USA, Lisa Lichtenfels, to base their sculpture on a photo Irene had taken at a Primary School near Pietermaritzburg several years ago when a group of Australian dollmakers were honoured with a welcome dance by the girls.



This splendid leopard by Kay Daw is the same one as in her newly launched book, "African Animals". The background is a beautifully modified photo taken by Lynne Tognolini in KZN on the same trip as Irene. Everyone thought the book was excellent. Many were delighted to meet personally with Kay Daw. Copies are available to buy @ \$25 through our website uthandoproject.org/shop and at Herb Circle in Kalamunda. This central display with all 19 animals plus rocks and grasses was an exhibition highlight. You can glimpse the tree full of knitted monkeys in the top background.



This picture gives a hint of the engagement with visitors. Children in the background are dressing up dolls next to a doll team of soccer players. The woman is preparing to write a thoughtful message on a \$10 luggage label as if her chosen doll for sponsorship was talking with the child. The dinghy is full of dolls ready for sponsorship or have been wrapped up warmly and placed back in the boat to "sail" to South Africa. To make this even more vivid, remember that Kidogo is an historic boat house and is only metres from the Indian Ocean. Very apt!



Robin Hamilton and Karin Maltby made a gorgeous group of African Queens in stunning fabrics and jewellery. They proved their popularity. We are incredibly grateful to the business, Cape to Cairo, who donated a range of South African artefacts for sale. You can see here the wire bicycles, beaded zebra and lotus lamp. The sale of Zulu and Ndbele dolls and African jewellery all contributed to the market table sales (always busy).



Such fun in the activities room. First of all you ducked through an ancient hole in the wall and then started the mini workshop of the day. Here are people, young and old, rolling coloured magazine paper to make individual necklaces, African style. The Sorrento group took this session. Homemade biscuits and catering was provided by the Fremantle Group, who also taught making small felt animals. Gooseberry Hill dollmakers ran knitting sessions to make mini monkeys and at other times taught how to make red felt hearts and little dolls. Some participants came back for more on another day they enjoyed it all so much.

Special appreciation is given to Isabelle Cox of DownUnder Fabrics who donated swathes of African cotton fabric for gallery display and sale. Thank you, Isabelle.

This great exhibition owes its presence and nature to the generosity of Joanna Robertson of Kidogo Art Institute for sponsorship of the gallery and to Lena for being a rock of support. THANK YOU JOANNA

I don't think we will forget wrapping a huge fabric tie, with dolls pinned on, around a nearby pine tree to lure to the gallery all the restaurant customers, holidaymakers, tourists and school holiday children. Many worthwhile connections were made, good conversations were had, delight shone in eyes and funds came in to benefit children far away in KwaZulu Natal.

Let us all give thanks to each other for a memorable Uthando event.

Keep making the dolls!

Love from Georgia Efford and the Uthando teams

PS, There are some really good images of the Kidogo exhibition on Facebook. If you search on Facebook, Uthando Project, there will be four sites from Tasmania, Albany, Bunbury and home site. Enjoy.