

touching hearts & bringing play to life



June 2015 Newsletter

Exhibition at Kidogo Arthouse July 14 - 19, 2015

It is quite remarkable that in midwinter's clear afternoon light, the prospect of being down on the beach at Fremantle, with the exhibition to be prepared in an historic boatshed seems an enchanting thing to do.

We actually have a 2 metre dinghy ready to be packed with small boat people (dolls for \$10 sponsorship) to be sent on their way, with high expectations, to Durban, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Just head due west. Not in this boat though. They will have to wait for the next send off, with 28th August as final delivery date.



Brian Harffey: "Reaching for the Stars"

Dolls and a goodly selection of African artefacts are arriving daily to be included in the "Uthando at Kidogo Exhibition, The Gift of Play". Isabelle Cox of Fabrics Downunder has given an unbelievable collection African cotton fabrics and the unique beaded wire animals from Jens Henschel of the shops Cape to Cairo were unpacked yesterday. WA's famous potter at Zinongo Pottery, Njalikwa Chongwe and wife Jacqueline are giving precious items too. There's a stunning carved Malawian Chieftain's chair! Add to these exotics, the fine machine and hand embroidered wall art works by Margaret Sutton, two dolls from Rebecca Cool, three patchwork quilts and lots of unique dolls made by Uthando dollmakers.....all this will make a memorable and intentionally successful fundraising exhibition.



Shona sculpture and wooden bowls

There is great space at Kidogo Arthouse gallery, so don't hold back in sending in more dolls for sale or sponsorship. Please deliver or post your dolls or African artefacts by Monday July 6th to Uthando Project, 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill WA 6076 or email georgia1@inet.net.au to arrange pickup.



Rebecca Cool; "Green Eyes"



Margaret Sutton; Embroidered wall hanging

In the Uthando tradition of "there's something for everyone" there will be two types of activities. From 10.30 - 12.30 each day, for \$10 including delicious refreshments and all materials, there will be a sewing or knitting workshop. You can knit a "Mini Monkey" on Tues 14 and Fri 17. You can sew a felt animal on Wed 15, a small doll on Thur 16 and Fri 17 and roll and glue African beads made of paper and felt on Sat 18. Could be "All and Everything" on our final day, Sun 19, the day when exhibition purchases are collected between 3 - 5pm.

The second type of activity will take less time and be available virtually all day; playing dress ups with Uthando dolls, decorating a doll's shoulder bag, making a felt flower head band to go on a Uthando doll and sewing a beautiful felt heart brooch which you can choose to take home or pin on a doll. These fun activities have everything provided for a gold coin donation. \$2 will pay for the freight of one doll to South Africa. It helps to know that it is the school holidays and all children with parental supervision are warmly welcomed.



Kay Daw: African animal collection

This Uthando Exhibition will launch a superb new book of animal knitting patterns designed by 85 year old Kay Daw who has been creating these popular characters for over 8 years. This clearly illustrated book, "African Animals", also features Zulu animal stories kindly given by Jabulani Ngubane who is a manager of the famous Hluwehluwe iUmfolozi Wildlife Park in KZN. Peter Dickson has unflinchingly given weeks of his time and expertise to design the book. Thank you sincerely to Kay, Jabulani and Peter. The book is being printed by Peter Stone of The Big Picture Factory in Rivervale as a way of supporting local businesses.

You can purchase copies for \$25 at the exhibition and soon to be online on uthandoproject.org/shop. We think it will be hugely popular and could result (if the knitters chose) in hundreds more animal dolls and puppets being knitted for the children in KZN, especially for the boys.



Siyamthanda, a boy in Pietermaritzburg.

Please come to Bathers' Beach in Fremantle to enjoy this extraordinary exhibition. Bring loads of friends. Please bring cash. No credit card facilities. There is no onsite parking. Please check for public parking nearby.

There will be a most inviting cash and carry Uthando Market Table where you can buy dolls specifically made for this occasion and all our other products; kits, posters, books and cards. Also a selection of African jewellery and fabrics.

All of Uthando Project is grateful for the sponsorship of this exhibition by the Director of the Kidogo Institute, Joanna Robertson. What a gift to hundreds of people!

Email; georgia1@iinet.net.au if you would distribute and share online fliers.

August 7 - 9, WA Craft Fair

This edition is mainly concerned with the Exhibition being the major fundraising event of 2015. Please keep in mind that we will also be at the Claremont Showgrounds, August 7 - 9, for the WA Craft Fair. Email Lynne Tognolini on schools@uthandoproject.org

September 11 - 13, Uthando Retreat

The Uthando Retreat is at the Serpentine Retreat Centre, September 11 - 13. There is room for 35 participants and plans are afoot to have two staff members from dlanathi in Pietermaritzburg, KZN as our valued guests. Email Lis Hansen to express your interest on fundraising@uthandoproject.org.

Latest news from Tasmania is that they are keen to host Robyn Hemmens from dlanathi at Cygnet to fit in with her meeting with Dr Julie Stone in Melbourne. This will be the first opportunity to meet a KZN woman close to Uthando Project who has incorporated dollmaking and doll play within their community change processes in caring for their children. Tasmanian dollmakers there have maintained their commitment to Uthando Project for years.

Sorrento Group dollmaking at Joondalup Library Thursday July 9th, 1 - 1.30pm

These sessions have proved to be so popular in previous school holidays, that there is need to book in first. If you would like to learn how to run such a useful event in your own district or be a volunteer, email, Robin Hamilton robin@revelation.net.au.

Please accept heartfelt thanks to each and every dollmaker who has given dolls to Uthando and to kind donors of precious objects from Africa. We are a creative mob and very thankful for support.

Hope to see you soon,

Georgia Efford, the Uthando Board and all the dollmakers