

touching hearts & bringing play to life



March 2016 Newsletter

Hello all dollmakers and Uthando supporters,

Uthando has a new HQ!

We are delighted with our new premises at Anderson Road Community Centre, Forrestfield. Thank you to the Shire of Kalamunda for the perfect space for our meetings and storage of our abundant dolly supplies! Everyone is welcome to join in each Friday between 9.30 and 3pm. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and cake at



10am.

.The new venue brings with it a new title, Hills Group, and we will be advertising our new address and invitation to join in at the Corymbia Festival, Saturday March 12th, 2 - 7pm, Hartfield Park, Forrestfield. We hope to attract new members to begin a second group to make fuller use of this space and serve local communities.

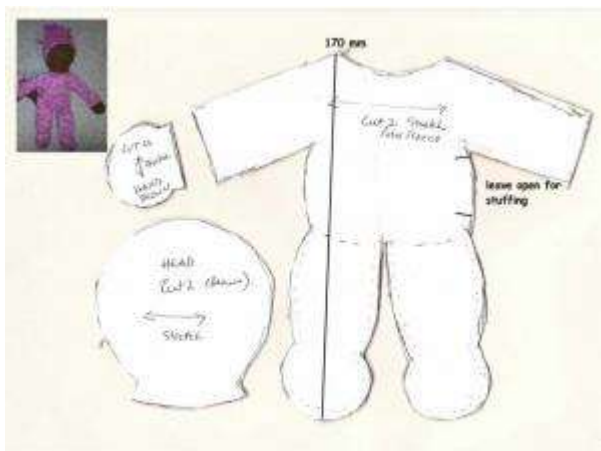
2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill WA 6076 remains the same address for deliveries of dolls and contact phone number, 61 (0)8 9293 2363 for Georgia Efford.

TASMANIAN DOLLMAKERS BLESS THE DOLLS

The Huon Valley group showed visiting Georgia how they made superb use of the Church at Cygnet. Many dollmakers travel long distances to these productive meetings and Irene Swan travels all over Tasmania encouraging groups, schools and individuals. News came later of a beautiful universal Blessing of the Dolls held at the church which has inspired the Sorrento group to celebrate in the same way. Date and place to be advised.

ALBANY GATHERING FEBRUARY 11 - 15

12 dollmakers from Perth groups were really welcomed by the many Albany Uthando dollmakers at the King River Hall for communal dollmaking and at the Western Australian Museum - Albany for an Open session to the public. Everyone revelled in the sharing of new patterns and skills and the simple warmth of being together. We even rowed exuberantly, but disciplined, in a Dragon Boat on the granite boulder filled King River. Thank you to Robin Hamilton (Sorrento) and Julie Fletcher and all the Albany supporters. We want to make this an annual event, which could shift to other groups. This new pattern (on our website; uthandoproject.org/dolls/patterns/ baby doll with onesie) is a little sweetie. Designed by Julie Fletcher. It saves on brown fabric too and the clothes are already on the doll. Ideal for TREE and Family Literacy Project in KZN.



Although this newsletter has its main focus on metropolitan Perth, please keep in mind that we could see similar outreach to local communities and Uthando events at each of the ten Uthando groups. Isn't that marvellous? and a testament to Uthando finding so many regional homes.

HARMONY WEEK MARCH 15 - 20

There is a genuine invitation to all old and new Uthando dollmakers to participate in any of the following Harmony Week events; designed to celebrate our multicultural support for the theme of World Families. Except for the Thornlie event which is designed for children, the events welcome dollmakers to make a member of a Zulu family of dolls in one day. These doll families and others collected before May 27th, will be carried by hand by five Uthando dollmakers visiting KwaZulu Natal to meet up with our partner agencies in workshops.

Please register for your chosen event either by email to info@uthandoproject.org or the specified phone number.

Bring a sewing machine if possible. These events will suit beginners too.

Thurs 17 March 9.15 - 3pm; **Spearwood Senior's Centre**, 9 Coleville Cr, Spearwood. Doris van Keulen 9418 1252

Friday 18 March 9.15 - 3pm; **Sudbury House**, 30 Chesterfield Rd, Mirrabooka, Robin Hamilton 9448 3337

Saturday 19 March 11 - 3pm, **Little Scribblers Festival**, Walter Padbury Reserve, Thornlie. Dress a doll for all ages.

Sunday 20 March 9.15 - 3pm, **Anderson Rd Community Centre**, Forrestfield, Georgia Efford 9293 2363. This is also an Open Day for anyone to drop in to see our new venue and consider joining in.

600 SEWING KITS NEEDED FOR TREE, DLALANATHI AND FAMILY LITERACY PROJECT IN KZN BY MAY 27

Who would like to make some sewing kits for KZN which contain most items for dollmaking ?

When mainly Zulu women participate in dollmaking workshops to learn how to make dolls for their children or community, it enables them immediately to teach others if they have 4 - 5 extra dollmaking kits to pass on. If you would like to make and contribute some kits, please email Georgia, georgia1@iinet.net.au for pattern and the list of items.



WORLD FAMILIES, WORLD TEXTILES; Dolls Made for a Purpose.

We can start to prepare for another wonderful exhibition at the Kidogo Art Institute Gallery, Bather's Beach, in Fremantle for July 12 - 17.

Here's the plan! We need a huge collection of traditional, ethnic or culturally interesting fabrics which could become dolls, dolls' clothing, cushions, bed covers, table centres made up to exhibit for sale.

Do you or your friends have brilliant pieces of fabric to donate or make up? The textiles might be embroidered, beaded, crocheted, quilted, hand dyed or spun, worn out but with good patches. They might possibly come from Japan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Peru, Kenya, KZN or anywhere. One thing we usually have in abundance is stuffing for cushions. The donated fabrics may be shared among dollmakers or other craftspeople to make up for the exhibition. Please deliver any Friday to the Anderson Rd Community Centre or to 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill or let us know where you live to be given the nearest Uthando point.

We could also exhibit for sale dolls which have come from anywhere in the world. How many of us have bought a dear little doll to remind us of our travels? Why not let it travel further and pay for a doll's journey across the ocean to Durban?

We can also make families of dolls to be sold as a group for creative play. There is a good market for Uthando type dolls which are specifically made for such an exhibition.

There is great potential here for new dollmakers who come from another culture to learn how to make Uthando dolls and could then make dolls with their cultural styles for the exhibition. If you know of such communities or individuals please let us know so we can run workshops in time. There are plans with the Fremantle Multicultural Centre to work with this idea in May.

This exciting exhibition will be our major fundraising source for the year.

To complete this newsletter, it is with gratitude to all the generous donors who gave to the December Crowd Funding Campaign which raised \$5700, already sent to dlanathi in Pietermaritzburg for their training programmes.

For all of us interested to know more about the HIV/AIDS challenge for South Africa, the accomplishments and the still enduring nature of it, please copy and paste this web address. www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/subsaharan-africa/south-africa

It fills out our images of the lives of over a million children under 6yrs old there and gives momentum to what each one of us can contribute.



This year feels as if it is a New Beginning for Uthando . Perhaps the Chinese /Tibetan symbol of the Fire Monkey is one for very active artists. Enjoy all that you do for Uthando,

Warm wishes from Georgia and the Uthando Board.