

# UTHANDO PROJECT INCORPORATED

## Annual Report 2019 - 2020

### Mission Statement

- \* To create handmade dolls for our partner organisations in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, who work with disadvantaged and vulnerable children to strengthen relationships through play.
- \* To provide opportunities for community, shared creativity and purpose for doll makers in Australia and around the world.



The foundations for Uthando Project were laid down in 2004 when Dr Julie Stone, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, on sabbatical in KwaZulu Natal, raised awareness of the needs of the children in that province of South Africa who had been so drastically impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Children were often cared for by grandmothers who were not only coping with the deaths of their own children but also having to care for grandchildren. Play was frequently missing from the lives of these families.

Play is vital for the physical and emotional growth and development of children. Play provides opportunities for communication between children and between children and carers. Uthando Project has been sending dolls to our partners in KZN since that time and was registered as a charity in 2012. In 2016 the project was granted Deductible Gift Recipient Status.

Over the years we have developed strong partnerships with five organisations in South Africa who are able to use the Uthando dolls in the course of their work, ensuring that Uthando dolls are distributed to children in valuable, meaningful ways.

Our thoughts have been with all our friends in KZN during this most challenging of years. They have continued to work with their communities throughout the Corona Virus lockdown and ongoing restrictions, applying technology as far as possible and varying their work to accommodate the differing needs of their communities. We send them all our love and best wishes as they continue their work under very difficult circumstances. In Australia we have many blessings to count.

Our network of doll makers continues to grow and reaches most states in Australia and many countries around the world.



### Our partners in KwaZulu Natal

**dialanathi** - originally the Rob Smetherham Bereavement Services for Children, works in some of the most impoverished communities in KZN, helping to develop communications between carers and their children facing loss and teaching the value of play.

**TREE** - (Training and Resources in Early Education) works to provide high quality child care and early years education, training workers in these fields and providing resources in a sustainable way.

**Sizabantwana** - supporting teachers in classrooms in their work with vulnerable children.

**Lifeline, Pietermaritzburg** - provides support and counselling to child victims of physical and sexual abuse.

**Family Literacy Project** - developing literacy skills of adults and children in rural and remote communities around Underberg.



## DOLL MAKING

The value of doll making to our many volunteers has never been more evident than during this time of the Corona Virus pandemic. Being confined to our own homes has, for many of us, been easier to bear with something to keep us occupied. Being able to create something so valuable for a special child can only bring joy to the heart and lift spirits.

We have received many reports via Facebook, email and phone calls letting us know how people have kept very busy during the lockdown. Special thanks must go to the leaders of our various groups who have kept in touch with their group members and ensured no one need feel totally isolated.

Groups slowly came back together, ensuring the social distancing and hygiene rules are followed. As I write this, we are back into ARCC, Forrestfield and beginning to collect items made over the past four months ready for shipment in October.

As we moved out of lockdown, we were unable to get back into Forrestfield immediately but some of the regulars from the Friday group were able to meet at Anne Bell's home.

Sadly, many of our events were cancelled this year including some of our community workshops. However, there have been some innovative ways around that including the City of Wanneroo producing a video of doll making and selling our kits to encourage some of their community members to make dolls during the school holidays.

Groups continue to meet in :- Hamilton Hill; Multicultural Futures, Fremantle; Sorrento; Kwinana; Mundaring; Bunbury and Albany.

The Tasmania group is flourishing and there are people in Sydney, Sunshine Coast and Melbourne who are contacts for networks of doll makers in those areas.

A new Friendship Group, led by Mary Richardson, has formed at St James Anglican College, where some of the students are making dolls as part of their commitment to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme.

A group of mothers at All Saints College is now meeting regularly and making dolls under the leadership of Simona, also a member of the Hamilton Hill group.

Sadly, the Leederville group is no longer meeting but many of the members attend Sorrento group so contacts are still ongoing.

The production and creativity levels of our doll makers is truly astounding.

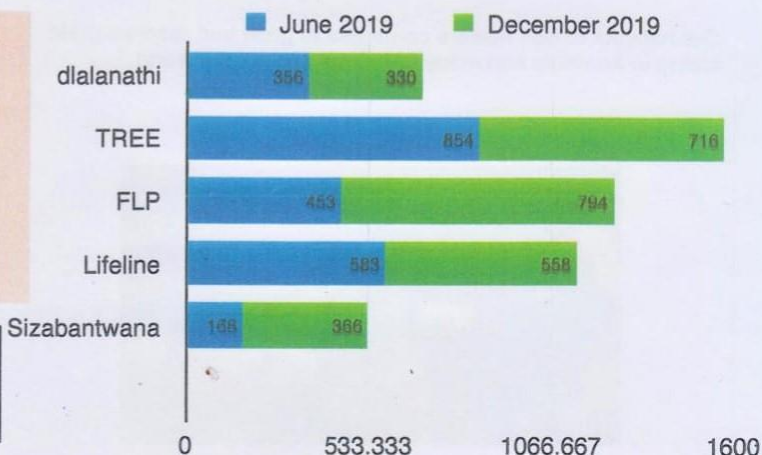
**UTHANDO**  
**PROJECT INC.**  
DOLLS FOR THE CHILDREN OF KWAZULU-NATAL



Judy Gadd, Queensland

Special thanks go to **Alison Egan**, coordinator of the Leederville group who is retiring after more than 14 years and to **Deborah Campbell** who led the Bunbury Group for 8 years and has now handed over the baton to Carolyn Switzer. Thank you both for opening your homes and your hearts to Uthando for so many years.

The chart indicates the number of dolls shipped to KZN in December and shows an overall increase from the previous shipment.





## OTHER ITEMS PRODUCED

Periodically our wonderful volunteers respond to specific requests from our partners for different items. Dolls continue to be our 'core business' but we have once again managed to send hand puppets, sensory balls, knitted/crocheted balls, rattles and small animal toys.

We continued to receive child wraps, doll blankets, bags and extra clothing to accompany the dolls. Library bags were also produced for Family Literacy Project.

Our doll making kits (repair kits) are very welcome and during the lockdown in South Africa, dlalanathi was able to distribute some of these along with the food parcels they were taking into communities.

## UTHANDO IN SCHOOLS

Under the leadership of Pauline Marlborough and with help from Doris van Keulen, the students at **Santa Maria College** have continued to attend regular doll making sessions. The Hamilton Hill group assisted with some of the more tricky sewing but the girls produced many beautiful dolls.

**St Hilda's Anglican Primary School** ran doll making in their Art programme and over 60 dolls were presented to Uthando at a special community service assembly at the end of 2019. Unfortunately the opportunity for students to raise funds for Uthando through the Mothers' Day Bazaar fell victim to COVID 19 but hopefully this will be an opportunity for next year.

Other schools engaged in a Uthando doll making programme for this year include :- Attadale Primary School; St James Anglican College, Alkimos; Collier Primary School, Como; Servite College; Rossmoyne SHS; South Coast Baptist College, Waikiki; St James Catholic College, Cygnet, Tasmania; Our Lady of the Cape Catholic PS, Dunsborough; Iona Presentation College; Northlake Senior Campus; Thornlie Christian College;

Students at St James Anglican College are making dolls as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme

The quality of dolls from schools is constantly improving and we appreciate teachers making contact with Lynne Tognolini, Schools Coordinator, to ensure they are fully aware of our requirements. Thanks to all the teachers involved for providing the opportunity for their students to not only make a doll but also to learn something of the lives of less privileged children

## UTHANDO IN THE COMMUNITY

Fortunately, we had a presence at a few community fairs/events before COVID19 closed everything down.

Our major fundraising event is usually the Claremont Wood and Craft Show and this was another successful weekend in August 2019. Sadly this event was cancelled for 2020.

Uthando had stalls at The Groat Street Fair in October and the Mosman Park Craft Fair in November.

Uthando Community workshops came to a grinding halt in March. Fortunately however, since July last year some workshops had taken place.

Sorrento group members were particularly busy and ran school holiday workshops at libraries in the Cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Leederville.

One member, on holidays, managed to run a workshop in the community of Yalgoo.





## SOCIAL EVENTS

Our social events offer an opportunity for all Uthando Volunteers to come together, catch up with old friends and make new ones too. Curtailed somewhat by COVID we still managed some pleasant times together.

In September 2019 a sewing day was organised at the Henderson Street Environment Centre in North Beach. Sewing kits were made for sending to KZN.

In December we held our Christmas get together to wind-up the year. We had lots to celebrate as the latest shipment, with almost 3000 dolls, had just been sent on its way. More than 20 people shared a delicious spread of food as we finished a successful year, getting into the Christmas spirit.

February saw a group of doll makers once again take up residence in the CWA cottages in Albany. We enjoyed the times we could meet up with our friends in Albany, including a workshop at the Albany Museum. It was a time to relax with walks on the beach and op shop hunts as well as seeing the sights of Albany and indulging in some wonderful shared meals.

Thank you to all those who go to so much trouble to organise these opportunities to get together in doll making and friendship.

## PROMOTION OF UTHANDO

In addition to our website and various FaceBook pages, we now have a presence on Instagram.

We are often asked to provide speakers and some of the groups to which our members have spoken are;

Western Suburbs VIEW Club; West Coast Community Centre, Cottesloe; Melville Probus Club; Whadjuk Northside Community, Balga; Chorus Day Centre, Attadale

Volunteers set up a stall at the Burswood *Have - Go Day*

Lynne Tognolini was recently interviewed on local radio

## BOARD MEMBERS

Uthando Project is managed by an eight-member Board of volunteers, comprised this reporting year as follows:

Lynne Jones - Chairperson  
Lynne Tognolini - Vice Chairperson  
Ann Vivers - Secretary - new appointment  
Pat O'Donnell - Treasurer  
Robin Hamilton  
Karin Maltby  
Sara-Jane Roberts  
Susan Crombe

Many thanks and our very best wishes to Mignon who served so well as our Secretary before leaving us to devote time to her beautiful new baby and his big sister.



Post-COVID ARCC team get together



Showing our wares at Claremont Craft Fair



Workshop and display at Albany Museum

## THANKS TO SPONSORS

City of Kalamunda for use of space at Anderson Road Community Centre.

Organisers of Claremont Wood and Craft Fair for space at the fair.

Ford and Doonen Air Conditioning for providing stuffing for our dolls.

City of Wanneroo for promotion video

Stephen Price MLA Forrestfield for printing our brochures

Ian McCallum, our Auditor

The many donors of fabrics, yarns, lace etc

The generous friends who make regular donations to our bank account! You all know who you are.



## UTHANDO PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

Anyone making a doll or other item for children in KZN is a volunteer and part of the widespread family of Uthando doll makers. Everyone's contribution is precious, valued and appreciated. The Uthando Project would not exist were it not for the hundreds of volunteers sending their hand crafted gifts for the children of KZN.

It would be impossible to single out all the creative volunteers who send in dozens - sometimes hundreds of dolls. Hopefully you are all recognised and thanked appropriately when delivering your dolls.

Special thanks to these people whose roles are a deep commitment to the smooth running of Uthando; -

- Sharen our headquarters organiser and packer extraordinaire for making life easier for everyone who has anything to do at HQ, ARCC
- our group leaders and coordinators: Julie, Albany; Carolyn, Bunbury; Gerry, Kwinana; Doris, Hamilton Hill; Maria, Fremantle Multicultural Future; Simona, All Saints' College; Wendy, Mundaring; Alison, Leederville (now retired). Irene (Mandurah)
- to Irene in Tasmania and Judy in Queensland who have the added tasks of getting their groups' dolls to Western Australia.
- to Di for continuing to produce hundreds of doll kits to boost our fundraising and spread the joy of making a doll
- to Pauline M for the mammoth task of cutting out thousands of doll bodies.
- to Judith who packs dolls and organises the shipments to South Africa
- the teams at ARCC on Mondays and Fridays lending a hand wherever required.
- to all board members



Sorrento Group Library workshop



Kwinana Group



Family of dolls  
by Diana  
Matthews



Judith and Sharen at work in ARCC



Fremantle Hamilton Hill Group



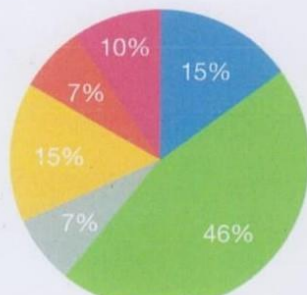
Uthando in the community

## OUR FUNDS AND HOW THEY ARE USED

The graphs below show our income and expenditure from July 2019 to June 2020. The restrictions due to COVID resulted in fewer opportunities to fundraise through public events. However, we were grateful to receive some extremely generous donations from within our network of wonderful supporters.

- |                     |                 |                       |           |                |                  |             |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| ● Group Fundraising | ● Donations DGR | ● Donations non DGR   | ● Freight | ● Brown Fabric | ● Administration | ● Insurance |
| ● Events Sales      | ● Sales of Kits | ● Miscellaneous Sales |           |                |                  |             |

### Income



### Expenditure

