

touching hearts & bringing play to life



October 2016 Newsletter

Donations to Uthando Project are now Tax Deductible

We are delighted to announce that Uthando Project has been granted precious DGR status (Deductible Gift Recipient) in Australia, with all donations over \$2 being tax deductible. Donations can be made by cheque, via Paypal or through our ANZ Bank Account (more details here), with new credit card functionality for both one-off and ongoing donations COMING [Read More »](#)

.WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

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This is always the vital question. Uthando is totally run by volunteers, with nearly all materials donated by hundreds of generous individuals over the years. This has enabled us to send over 58,000 dolls to KwaZulu Natal. (We now order a specially dyed 100% cotton knit fabric in 65 metre rolls for the dolls' bodies. If you wish to purchase this ideal fabric, please order it by the metre \$7 per metre through info@uthandoproject.org.)



Freight costs are around \$9,000 p.a. The project's administration costs are definitely kept to a minimum.

Our major financial input is to one of our partners in KwaZulu Natal, the not-for-profit agency, Dlalanathi. Since 2007, Uthando has raised funds in thoughtful ways which encourage more dollmakers to join in and broaden the awareness of the emotional needs of children, the values of play and the understanding of the dire circumstances of family life where HIV/AIDS wreaks devastation. Such funds (ranging from \$30,000 - \$22,000 pa) provide the salary of a Zulu speaking professional psychologist to design, energise and bring into reality many different programmes which encourage community empowerment and sensitive actions towards grieving children, disempowered youth, stigmatised young mothers and overburdened elderly. Dlalanathi are widely recognised as leaders in these fields. We are humbled to be able to support them.



These women from the Mpumusa community have just finished their first three day workshop facilitated by Dlalanathi and with input from five Australian dollmakers.

During the third day, they made use of the character of their completed doll to share about their personal and community lives.



We earnestly request your tax deductible financial donations to be given before the end of December. Please consider corporate sponsorship as well as individual contributions. You know that every dollar counts; is accounted for; and can make a difference to the happiness of whole communities in KZN.

Date of Next Shipment in December.

The final delivery day for dolls and packed bags to come to the Anderson Rd Community Centre, Forrestfield is **Friday Dec 2nd**. This gives us one week to pack and prepare for shipment to arrive mid January in Durban.

Please deliver any time from now on. It is such a pleasure to see the doll population growing. So pull out all the stops to complete as many dolls as you can by then.

Lynne Tognolini is a Finalist in the Seniors' Week Awards.

Lynne has been a foundation dollmaker from the start of Uthando Project, always bringing her great craft experience to share with others at all stages of development of their own skills. Many of the Friday mob are seniors. Lynne is on hand to help everyone and facilitate our meetings. Being a finalist in the Arts and Culture section of the Seniors Awards is one way in which we can all acknowledge the wide ranging contributions from Lynne; in graphics, exhibition design, poster images, schools coordination and always

making a stupendous doll for any exhibition. Results will be known in early November.

Thank you Lynne.



Events everywhere!

Garden party in Bunbury

Deborah Campbell and dollmakers are preparing for another winning garden party soon. It will be on **Sunday 30th October**, 10 - 1pm at the Red Mill Studio, 61 Stirling St, Bunbury. There's a lovely flier on their Facebook/uthandoproject-Bunbury for sharing with others. Live music and lots of goodies for sale.

Zigzag Festival in Kalamunda

also Sunday 30th Oct, 11am onwards.

This popular festival for thousands of people is full of lots of children's activities, crafts and several stages of live music. You will find Uthando Project close to the little bridge near the Stirk Park lake, with doll dressups and simple things to make. It is a great opportunity to meet and encourage new dollmakers to join in. If you can help on the roster for the day, (we become a very lively spot) please phone Georgia 9293 2363 or email.

Garage Sale Trail is across Australia on Saturday 21 October.

Dollmakers from Sorrento group are heading down to North Coogee to hold a Uthando stall. We will hold one in partnership with the Men's Shed at Anderson Rd Community Centre, Forrestfield between 8 - 12.

Events like these bring Uthando Project out into communities who might like to join in. Plus raise funds and awareness.

Ten Year Celebration for the Leederville group

The spirit of friendship and usefulness is alive and well with the Leederville group of dollmakers. Dollmakers from other groups came from far and wide to Star Swamp Eco Centre to enjoy an afternoon of dollmaking and deliciousnesses. This where the spotlight falls warmly on the dollmakers. Alison Egan spoke with heart about the role of Uthando for her, her family and all the wonderful, consistent members.

Uthando Retreat in Albany Feb 17 - 24, 2017

Julie Fletcher opens up invitations to 11 dollmakers to come to Albany, stay at CWA Cottages, near Middleton Beach and in general HAVE A GOOD TIME! Make dolls, share new ideas, visit the exciting South Coast and meet up with all the good women of Albany who contribute to Uthando. This could fill up fast, so please email Julie, brookend@wn.com.au if you would like to join in.

Many, many dolls are sent directly to KZN from Tasmania and Melbourne. Thank you from everyone.

Thank you to the staff of our beautiful KZN partners who send us stories and pictures of their work. We are enlivened.

How can each person feel acknowledged for all that they provide? Investigating into one's own self worth is a rare exploration. Feel a ripple of appreciation coming to you from all who make dolls, raise funds, make the coffee, gather the

kits, learn finger knitting, play with the children, hug the grandmothers, kiss the babies.

This newsletter is dedicated in memory of a truly great and sweet woman. Marie Corby. Marie at 96, was still embroidering doll's faces right up to the end. Her son Bill gave us a tray of Marie's jewellery, which Kay Daw applies with 86 year old skill on to the doll's shoulder bags. All works.

A little story: Jill Frow knows that it makes a difference to our understanding of life in KZN if she shares real moments of connectedness. Jill is with Family Literacy Project in Underberg, and with staff member Phumy, encourages dollmaking with old and young.

This morning Phumy and I went to a remote library on the Sani Pass road to help with the running of a Holiday Programme. Near the end of the morning a tiny little girl appeared at the door looking very dismayed to see that she had missed out on the fun. There was snow on the mountains and the air outside was freezing. I saw Phumy's heart go out to her and she took her by the hand and miraculously produced an Uthando doll for her from the back of the van. The child was wide eyed with disbelief as she took the doll into her arms; but totally overawed when Phumy put a knitted cap on her head which matched the one that the doll was wearing!

Sent with love,

Georgia

