



## Uthando Project Newsletter October 2017

Such a delight to be able to write "Hello Everyone" knowing that it will go out to over 1200 people who support Uthando Project in so many ways. There are approximately 50 new subscribers, many of whom visited our vibrant stand at the Claremont Craft and Wood Show in August. We welcome all newcomers, may you find just the niche in Uthando that suits and excites you.

Our data base is now around 1200 emailers, with another 200 receiving posted newsletters. Remember to please send a booklet of stamps. While in the sphere of numbers, our final delivery date for shipping the dolls is **Friday November 24**, with a goal of at least 3,000 dolls plus balls, animals and childwraps.

Please send your dolls or deliver to **Uthando Project, 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill WA 6076**. If you live outside Australia, please send your dolls directly to **TREE, PO BOX 35173, NORTHWAY, 4065, SOUTH AFRICA**. Do include your contact details. If you can, please give \$2 per doll to cover freight costs. This is by no means obligatory. It is just a huge help.



These glorious dolls come from the Albany Group. In front is a drawing by their coordinator, Julie Fletcher, who is entering her new world of painting and drawing with some verve and beauty. Julie and I have been hatching a plan to include the story of a one Uthando group in each newsletter. We begin with ALBANY!

But before we learn about the dollmakers in Albany, there are some Uthando events happening soon which you might like to attend or be a volunteer at. Sorry these listed are in Western Australia only when there will be great activities everywhere to show off your dolls and raise funds for their shipping costs and the general project.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN WA.**

Sun 5 November; **Mosman Park Craft Fair**; contact Lynne Jones; [brilyjo@bigpond.com](mailto:brilyjo@bigpond.com)

Fri 10 November: **Fusion Festival, Mills Park, Beckenham** 4 - 9. A spectacular event with the City of Gosnells. Dress and doll and sales stall. Contact Marlene Rozentals; [marlene\\_cats@yahoo.com.au93989804](mailto:marlene_cats@yahoo.com.au93989804)

Sat 18 November, Woodbridge House stall 10 – 3, contact Lyn Brown, [legendlyn@gmail.com](mailto:legendlyn@gmail.com)

Sun 26 November; **Art Trail, Bunbury**. Fascinating experience to visit many artist's gardens and studios. Meet at Deborah Campbell's, 4 Karri St, Bunbury; [deb@thousandflowers.com.au](mailto:deb@thousandflowers.com.au). A truly welcoming event with Uthando featured strongly in the front room of her house.

### **BIG PLANS FOR UTHANDO GATHERING SEPTEMBER 2018**

Planning is definitely on the move to create a memorable Uthando experience of learning with other dollmakers, enjoying each other's company and spending precious time with two special visitors from KwaZulu Natal. The theme of "The Lives of Children in KwaZulu Natal" is relevant to every stitch we make or dollar we raise. How valuable it will be to learn of their daily lives and commitment to hundreds of children in their lives.

If you would be interested in coming (from anywhere) please email to [georgia1@iinet.net.au](mailto:georgia1@iinet.net.au) or phone 9293 2363. There is a Draft Itinerary drawn up, which includes a weekend gathering at Serpentine Retreat Centre, with 2 two day community workshops either side of that gathering. A great chance to visit any of the metro area groups. Also a trip to Albany!

Dates are between September 1st - 18th, 2018.

I nearly forgot, this year in February (see picture below) many dollmakers stayed the weekend in Albany to meet at the King River Hall for a most friendly and huge afternoon tea and sharing doll ideas. It will happen again in 2018. Please let Julie Fletcher know if you would like to join in. It's fabulous. [brookend@wn.com.au](mailto:brookend@wn.com.au)

---



Here is the promised newsletter describing the famous **Albany Uthando Group**.

Now into our sixth year, our group has benefitted through being based at the King River Hall where we meet Fridays fortnightly. This low cost facility with storage means we can cater for any size group including mums or grandmas with children, happy to play in the attached nature based playground. We share lunch and afternoon tea and welcome old and new members, their friends and visitors.



This picture was taken at the Albany Museum for a Uthando Open Day. We look forward to again hosting doll makers from Perth and Bunbury for a great long weekend early in February 2018. This is a lovely way to share ideas and join as one with others of the Uthando family.

---

'Show and Tell' is a great way to admire and recognise everyone's efforts and learn from each other. We share skills, patterns, fabrics, doll clothing and accessories and look forward to the latest op shop finds. With many skilled craftswomen working in collaboration doing what they do best means the dolls are always appropriate and beautifully made.

Having feedback and stories from our NGO partner groups in Kwa-Zulu Natal is always welcomed and helps us to feel closer to the children. It also reinforces the bond we have with those who work so hard at the grass roots level.

We value being self supporting, making and selling our \$10 doll kits at markets which covers all freight and consumables. Our popular November Green Fair in the Town Square demonstrates up-cycling of donated fabrics and has recruited new doll makers. Markets for cruise ship visits over summer also spreads the Uthando message further.



*Here's Georgia with Julie at one of the Cruise ship markets in the main street of Albany.*

Other events have included doll making at primary and secondary colleges, Girl Guides and holiday workshops for children, major caravan and camping rallies and at the library and museum. A local aged care home also contributes knitted items.

The success of our group is not just measured by the numbers of dolls and toys produced but by the friendships and support we provide one another in an undemanding and companionable inclusiveness. Everyone is proud to help to support the Uthando Project in any way they can.

Thank you, Julie Fletcher for writing this.

Happy dollmaking everyone, With love from Georgia and all dollmakers

---