



NEWSLETTER

Uthando Project Newsletter November 2019

Greetings to all our wonderful dollmakers and supporters far and wide. What an ever-expanding circle of love we have in Uthando Project, with beautiful dolls coming in from all over the globe. To our Uthando family old and new, thank-you immensely for your selfless contribution to Uthando and the joy you bring to the children who receive our dolls.

FROM KWAZULU NATAL

Uthando Project is proud to partner with Dlananathi, TREE, Lifeline, Sizabantwana and Family Literacy Project in Kwa Zulu Natal. These non-government organisations distribute our dolls to vulnerable children while supporting families and communities in their core work. Our Board communicates regularly with the partner organisations to obtain feedback which ensures the dolls and play accessories sent are appropriate and useful. It isn't possible to share all the feedback received, but all of the partners consistently report that the dolls received are a most appreciated addition to their work and that they provide children with joy and many hours of play.

You can find out more about the work of our partners by visiting their websites or by reading the Annual Reports submitted recently by TREE, Dlananathi and Family Literacy Project.

[Read 2019 Annual Reports from our Partners](#)

DOLLMAKING NEWS

School holiday library workshops remain popular with children in Perth,



Western Australia, with sessions held this year at Clarkson, Wanneroo, Alkimos and Leederville. Families at these events have enjoyed doll making with many purchasing additional doll making kits to take home. [Kits can be purchased from our online](#)

[shop](#) – a great holiday activity to share.

GROUP NEWS

Bunbury, WA

Bunbury group continues to produce a range of beautiful dolls and animals. They are also very proactive in fundraising to cover the cost of shipping their dolls to KZN, attending local events to attract donations, sell items and inviting others to join their efforts.



Christmas Craft Fair, Bunbury WA 2019

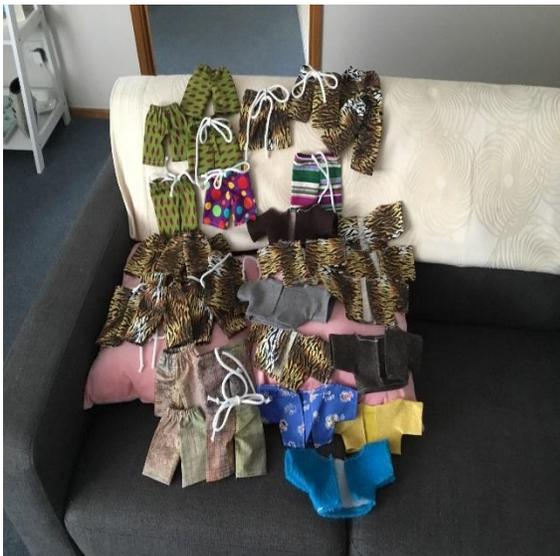


Buy it Back Fair, Eaton WA November 2019

Cygnets, Tasmania

Submitted by Irene Gill

We have had quite a journey with sending our dolls and toys to Family Literacy Project through Australia Post. Last year they rejected our zipper bags and required us to use their largest regulation boxes. We have repackaged everything and started posting by sea mail at the requested 6 boxes per week. But it has been a mammoth effort to turn 15 bags into 33 boxes and still counting. Thankfully we have 3 men on our Tassie team now and couldn't have done the work without Roger who makes up the boxes, fills out the postal details and packs everything really well.



Over the last 3 years we have sent occasional bags of dolls to Kwangwali refugee camp primary school in Uganda. This has been a great success and recently agreed to partner with Etieen Heart Foundation in providing dolls to more schools in other camps across western Uganda. Most of these children have escaped the war in adjoining countries and a large number are orphans. Samuel (whose

birth name is Etieen) was also a war orphan and having recently graduated from university has established this work to not only provide comfort to these needy children but also believes a good education is their only way forward out of poverty. We plan to continue sending most of our dolls to FLP but will also be continuing with our new work in Uganda.

We also receive dolls from returning east coast holiday makers who come to our state from as far away a Darwin. And our local and state wide doll makers continue to keep us well supplied.

We are a small group of 12 ladies and 3 men and keep in daily contact supporting one another through our Facebook messenger account. This is greatly appreciated by the older ladies who live alone in what can sometimes be a difficult climate. Our local school program continues and is now in its 8th year and from time to time we venture out to run a weekend workshop for women and children in more isolated parts of our state.

We send our greetings to other Uthando groups and hope you will contact us or call in if visiting our state.

As always, our centre at Anderson Road in Forrestfield, WA continues to be the beating heart of the Project, coming alive on Monday afternoons and Fridays as dollmakers meet to make dolls, sort donations and pack for shipping. Many of the regular attendees also contributed to events such as the Claremont Craft Show and Have a Go Day in Burswood, raising funds and promoting the groups to new

Forrestfield WA



Sorrento WA

Submitted by Rob Hamilton

Making dolls for children in Kwazulu Natal has continued to bring joy, purpose and friendship to the ladies of the Sorrento group who meet monthly. There are about 15 regular doll makers, and we have about 8 - 10 at each get together. Amongst us are skilled ladies who knit, crochet and/or sew, and these skills are happily shared with beginners. Sorrento has welcomed 4 new doll makers this year.

In addition to the monthly meetings, our group has hosted two sewing and kit making workshops at Henderson Environment Centre in North Beach and dollmakers from other Perth based groups attended these which were a great way for dollmakers to exchange ideas, materials share skills and maintain connections to other groups.

Sorrento has worked to produce doll making kits from the many donations of materials we receive, hoping to lessen the work for the Forrestfield group. We then have a supply on hand for the workshops and other events we organise. We have also enjoyed putting together beautiful sewing kits that travel to KZN to be used by the ladies who attend workshops held by dlalanathi. Lovely bags and dolls are made for Lifeline. Dolls made by school children here are given extra TLC where needed before being sent off to Szebetwana to be cuddled by school children there. Family Literacy and TREE receive dolls and puppets. The pleasure of providing a range of dolls and associated items to our partners in KZN is that there is always something for someone to contribute, suiting a person's skills and preferences. And there is always something new to learn.

During the school holidays, we have run 3 workshops at local libraries for children and their parents/grandparents, providing opportunity for intergenerational while making dolls together.

Thank you to the doll makers who have contributed to our Sorrento by taking on tasks, storing supplies, helping out at events providing enthusiasm and ideas. Together we develop our contributions to the wonderful

organisations we support in KZN, and our contributions to the children, women, families and communities with whom the NGOs work.



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Groat Street Festival, 2019

Mundaring WA



Mundaring WA group meets at Mundaring Sharing Centre, in school term time every Monday from 1230 to 3pm. Hard to believe these beautiful dolls emerged from the plain brown skin fabric being cut.

Albany WA

Submitted by Julie Fletcher

We have ready for the December shipment 14 bags totaling 901 dolls and toys making it our biggest yet. As we've just completed 8 years – and into our 9th Albany group can celebrate the total of 9565 dolls and toys made over those years. There has been a concerted effort to increase numbers of standard dolls and this year we've made 454 – many as a combined effort. Doll maker attendances remain at a steady

14-18 at each session with many busy travelling doll makers returning recently with lovely boxes full.



Any refurbished soft toys have been creatively altered and up-cycled but still with a preference for animals being homemade. Finger puppets and pocket dolls have been included as shoulder bag toys, again rather than bought trinkets. Many Lifeline bags and book bags have helped make use of the never-ending donations of beautiful fabrics.

While fundraising through events has been slow the money seems to trickle in with regular sales of doll kits at the Walpole Visitor Centre and donations mainly from our members. Often, we have an impromptu market at doll making when members bring books, plants, or preserves for sale.

We're now looking forward to the holiday break and meeting up with our city sisters visiting in February. Thanks go out to Robin for organising the Perth end.

SEWING KITS FOR KZN

Uthando Project will send just over 300 sewing kits in the upcoming December shipment to Dlananathi for use in their work. The kits have been in use since 2016 when dollmakers from Perth travelled to KZN and participated in dollmaking workshops facilitated by Dlananathi and are much appreciated.

FROM ROBYN HEMMENS, DLALANATHI, KZN

Judith, I can't tell you how helpful these sewing kits are for us. Myself and 2 other colleagues went down to Cape Town to train 46 community health care workers in a new programme we have designed for vulnerable pregnant women in the 1st 1000 days and your doll kits make preparation so much simpler. Having everything you need all in one pack made transporting across the country so much simpler and the women in the training felt like they were receiving a beautiful gift. So, thank you thank you. It also saves us a significant amount of money as we do not need to purchase any of these items...we just need stuffing. So, know this is an amazing gift. We love all of you and what you do to support us in our work.



[Contact us](#) to contribute to the making of the kits by sewing up the pouches or donating content materials. We hope to have another 250 complete for the first 2020 shipment.

ANIMALS

African animal toys are always included in our shipments to KZN and our book “[100 Dolls Countless Hearts](#)” has patterns including monkey, zebra and lion. Free patterns are available for download from our website for the [knitted monkey](#) and [crocheted lion](#). We are developing new African animal patterns and hope to add more patterns to our website in future.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Calico and Ivy store in Mosman Park WA, since 2006, have generously provided a collection point for countless dolls. Uthando Project now has different arrangements in place for doll delivery and will no longer be collecting from this store. Many thanks to past and present management and staff of Calico and Ivy for their years of valued support.



For information on delivery points for dolls please [Contact us](#) through the Uthando Project website. Our main delivery point in Western Australia is the Anderson Road Community Centre, in Forrestfield on either Monday afternoon or Friday between 10am – 2pm. Our postal address is PO Box 118 Forrestfield WA 6058.

Annual General Meeting was held on 24th September 2019 at our Forrestfield headquarters. Thanks to all those who attended the event. Board of Management members for 2019 – 2020 are:

Lynne Jones, Chairperson	Lyn Tognolini, Vice Chair	Pat O'Donnell, Treasurer
Ann Vivers, Secretary	Rob Hamilton	Karin Maltby
Susan Cromb	Sara Jane Roberts	

Our (2019) Annual Report can be viewed [Here](#)

As always, the whole project sends friendly hugs to everyone who provides comfort for children everywhere. As many of our groups prepare to wind down and take a well-deserved break over the festive season, we thank each and every one of you for all you do to make owning a doll into a reality for a child in KZN.

Sharing our work encourages us all. If you have news items and or a photo you are happy to have included in our Newsletter, please forward to our Editors at:

newsarticles@uthandoproject.org

Uthando Project

Email: info@uthandoproject.org

Website: [Uthando Project](#)

Facebook: [Uthando Project Inc](#)