

News April 2017

Hello Everyone,

This year dances along with verve, hard work and creativity and suddenly it is April and time for our **next shipment** of dolls to go to KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

It would be ideal for the dolls to be delivered at 24 Anderson Rd Community Centre, Forrestfield, WA within the first two weeks of May on Fridays 9.30 to 2.30pm or Monday afternoons, 1.30 - 4pm. Alternatively your dolls can be posted or delivered to 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill 6076.

We do have a good collection of doll's clothing to add to your dolls' shoulder bags if you are running out of time.

HELP PAY FOR SHIPPING COSTS

To help pay the shipping and delivery costs, it would help if dollmakers donated \$1 per doll. But please do not see this as mandatory. Uthando Project is grateful for all the generosity that is packed into each doll, and in no case do we want to create difficulties or put a brake on doll production. Simply make the donation if you can.

WARM FEEDBACK FROM FAMILY LITERACY PROJECT, UNDERBERG, KWAZULU NATAL

Email from Jill Frow who is our liaison friend in FLP keeping an eye on their Uthando dolls. In the last two shipments we have had a new focus on making families of dolls. The dolls represent different family members and are packed in separate bags of eg a granny or boy for FLP staff to make up the appropriate family for their specific needs. These dolls tend to be smaller than our classic Uthando doll. Dollmakers might like to make more of these family members.

Jill writes;

It was lovely to hear from you, and I was just on the verge of sending you a report that we received from the Simon Hoek Children's home in Underberg. There are just 12 children in the home and we gave them each a beautiful doll for Christmas from one of your bags. The Care taker said she put a little collection of donated gifts on the bed for each child on Christmas morning, and the dolls were their absolutely favourite presents. They have played and played with the dolls - especially the boys – given them names and personalities and completely adore them. I will send you photos of their play and also their thank you letters.

Seeing how therapeutic they are for the children, the Caretaker wondered if we could possibly give her more dolls so that they could make up families and 'play out' some of their anxieties. They are all children who have had really traumatic pasts, and some of them have no blood family at all. We did manage to take them some more which the caretaker will keep in a special place. We gave her one doll for her own bed too which absolutely delighted her!

There are at least 3 more children's homes in and around Underberg and I have realized that apart from equipping our own FLP projects, we can be a blessing to some of the others around us too.

Another exciting development is a new Reading Club in the library in Bulwer. This is a smart looking library which hardly attracts children at the moment. But as we begin to work there, we will be wanting to put a basket of dolls and other toys into the children's section, knowing how much that draws the crowds!

So Georgia and Wonderful Team of Workers, please be assured of how much your dolls are being appreciated and played with. We love to receive absolutely any of your little people, but I think your doll families are probably the most valuable of all. With warm gratitude,
Jill

VOLUNTEER GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED

Over the years, Uthando has developed many popular play or craft related items for fundraising. They have grown like Topsy and it is time to bring a quality marketing face to promote these patterns, kits, books, special dolls and brooches (more anon). Is there a graphic designer who would enjoy creating a family of templates suitable for labels, fliers, posters, patterns, instruction sheets? The basic art work is already done. Initially it would be one day's work, with infrequent input along the way. Ideally, this invaluable person would be familiar with Wordpress and social media. To have the support of a graphic designer would transform many levels of Uthando's activities and enable fundraising income to flow.

MAKE SOME HEART BROOCHES

We remember that the word Uthando means love in the isiZulu language. It seems a perfect fit that our creativity should include designing and making brooches in the shape of a heart. They can be all colours and sizes. Might have an African influence, or be a showcase for your embroidery. They will be popular for Mother's Day and to go into our website shop. Also light to post. There are two "levels". Outstanding brooches go into the collectible collection at \$20 each, otherwise they are sold at \$5 each. If you would like to make some at any time, as we will include them in our online Shop, please deliver or post to Georgia Efford, 2 Healey Place, Gooseberry Hill WA 6076.



Stunning Heart Brooches made by Fremantle Group at Hamilton Hill, with Glen Hall translating her blue machine embroidery samples into hearts.

Poised on the new extension over the famous Gap on the south coast at Albany and ... a happy gathering at



King River Hall.



Making dolls together in the old school room at the Western Australian Museum in Albany and on the right, Deborah Campbell (Bunbury coordinator) and Judy Mackintosh (ARC) planning something interesting...

Within the context of an Art Safari in Bunbury, 25th March, we car-shared from Perth to be on arrival, at Deborah Campbell's house, garden and studio, in awe of the magnificent output of the Bunbury group. The public responded generously by sponsoring 100 dolls, each with a personal note, @\$5 per doll. A glorious day.

At the Guildford Heritage Festival, we had a double gazebo enabling volunteers to talk with the public about Uthando, sell lots of kits and for many children to enjoy dressing the African dolls.

On a stormy day, the Sorrento team persevered with a stall at St Mark's school Fair and it was worth it.

There have been many other workshops, special sewing days and presentations which lead to small groups having regular meetings. It would be lovely, but impossible, to single out everyone and to be able to list them all and also the leading players in these events. Please know that everyone is valued for all that they do.



Left : happy girl at doll dressing at Joondalup

Library with Sorrento and Leederville dollmakers and Right : A delightful display at Fremantle Library by Fremantle Multicultural Centre to attract new dollmakers.

TASMANIAN TALES

We invited Irene Gill, the superlative leader of Uthando across the island of Tasmania, to send us a deeper description of their activities. The plan is to present a different group each newsletter, combined with feedback from one of our partner organisations in KwaZulu Natal.

Such a pleasure to hear from Irene. And this is just one week's activity!

Hi All,

We've had another busy and interesting week here in Tassie.

On Monday Jeannie and I visited Margate Men's Shed where a group of 25 ladies meet each week to knit. We had heard about this group at our recent outdoor weekend workshop for the Handmade in Cygnet craft event and what a busy chatty group they were. We went armed with knitting and crochet patterns and they were whizzed off the table with great excitement with lots of suggestions and new ideas for extras. We have been invited back in about a month to give another update and pick up the finished pieces. Two further invitations came from the visit so I'll be speaking soon at Hobart Probis with about 80 members and another women's knitting group at Kingston.

I opened my talk at Margate with having to confess to a 'senior moment' as I had packed the car the previous doll day with all the things I needed to show the ladies and about 1/2 an hour from home on my way to pick up Jeannie I realised I had jumped into Geoff's car with nothing but the printed patterns....was a great excuse to have to return!!!

Tomorrow I've been invited to give a 1/2 talk to year 6 at Cygnet Primary. Uthando project has been a part of their curriculum now for over 5 years and they are currently studying viruses so the talk has to focus on HIV+/AIDS and its affect on the families of KZN.

Tonight I hope to arrange the next Uthando afternoon for the ladies of North Hobart Uniting church where we ran a workshop in February and took home 18 beautiful dolls. They are interested in a workshop every 2 months as there are many African refugees living in the area who are very excited about our upcoming plans.

ORDERS SUPPLIED OF SPECIALLY DYED

100% COTTON KNIT FABRIC, 150 CMS WIDE.

Dollmakers, if you would like to use a beautiful, strong and easily sewn material for your dolls, Uthando at Anderson Rd Community Centre, Forrestfield, will receive 2 new rolls quite soon. Using our Classic Uthando pattern you would get 16 dolls from 1.5m costing \$10.50.

Although the dolls may be of many different shades of brown, this chosen colour seems to please everyone and it is very easy to work with. Please order through Lynne Tognolini, schools@uthandoproject.org. If posted, you will need to add postage costs.

Thinking of doll making, ARC could use donations of black wool suitable for hair.

Looking forward to receiving an avalanche of dolls to send to KwaZulu Natal over the next three weeks.

Please visit ARC any Friday to deliver your dolls, have a cuppa and meet other keen and handy Uthando dollmakers. Thank you everyone for your support,

Love, Georgia,

with help from Karin.