

touching hearts & bringing play to life



Uthando Project June 2018

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.

NATIONAL GATHERING PREPARATIONS FOR 7 – 9 SEPTEMBER

Plans are coming together for a Uthando National Gathering at the Retreat Centre at Serpentine, a cosy venue for 40 persons, south of Perth. Spend time with our two visitors from KwaZulu Natal getting to know about the lives of children there. Learn so much from other dollmaking participants. Share your skills too.

Registrations will be open at the end of June. Thanks go to all who gave Expressions of Interest which enabled confident planning. The inclusive cost will be \$150 per person to cover accommodation, extraordinarily good catering and participation costs. To register, please download the form [here](#) and save it to your own PC before completing. If you have any troubles with the form, please do contact us!

Between Sundays 2nd to 16th Sept visits to different Perth groups will be arranged on their normal meeting days. It will be wildflower time, so there'll be lovely walks in the bush and King's Park. On Friday 14, everyone is welcome to come for an Open Day to our HQ at Anderson Rd, Forrestfield for a farewell lunch.

If you live in Perth and would like to offer to billet interstate or country dollmakers for eg three days either side of the Gathering, please let us know through info@uthandoproject.org. It will be a very appreciated offer.

These photos show Claudie Munzai, Bertha Magoge and happily engaged participants at previous Serpentine Retreats and presentations in 2014 and 2015.

It means such a lot to be with our special visitors from the KwaZulu Natal organizations we send dolls to and this year, for the first time to have dollmakers from across Australia. It's a huge family gathering really.



ALL ABOARD FOR SHIPMENT!

It's that time of year again! Packing is well underway for the first shipment to KZN on **11 July**. The Anderson Road Centre is a hive of activity with volunteers sorting, checking and packing the hundreds of dolls, sewing kits, wraps and knitted balls which Uthando members have been working on since the last shipment.

Unless you have been involved in the packing for shipment process, it is hard to imagine the amount of work and the end result. As the bag fill, the floor space shrinks, until there is barely room to move.



Finally, with the help of the Forrestfield Mens' Shed, the bags are loaded ready for shipment.

And that's not all. The whole process begins again because the second shipment for 2018 is booked for 12 December, with final delivery of dolls to ARC Forrestfield by 23 November.

The centre is open Monday afternoons 1.30pm – 4pm and Fridays from 9.30am – 2.30pm for drop off, but if you just cannot make it during those times, we can arrange a time to suit.



Thank you to Judith Allen (ARC Monday Group) for the "behind the scenes" update and to Nick Gadd for some great photos

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

It is always marvelous to hear the great things that are happening in the various groups. The energy and focus of everyone in Uthando warms our hearts! Here is some news from three of our groups.

BUNBURY

Deborah Campbell writes:

Hi from the Bunbury Group. In March, our group participated again in the Tree Street Art Safari, a self-guided walking tour of artist's homes, including my own in Karri Street. We had five artists at my home as well as a doll display. Numbers were up on last year with 667 people through the door. We raised \$900, which was great. We found that lots of little craft items under \$5 are always a good thing, as is the doll sponsorship. It's always a great day for connecting with the community, and visitors, like Georgia and others who made the trip from Perth. So lovely to see you all.



At the end of last year, our doll making room at Cooinda Primary, was no longer available for us to use. We started the new year at the Bunbury Woman's Club. Initially, I thought it would be a great venue, but the lighting proved insufficient, and the room configuration didn't suit. Three of our doll makers are members of the Moorabinda Croquet Club in Hay Park, near the swimming pool. They were able to organize a generous deal for us, and we are very happy in their clubrooms. We have a beautiful skylight and full views of the green, kitchen space, and spacious tables and chairs. It makes for a cheerful, bright and airy space that is conducive to creativity. We still have a group around 12, some who travel over the winter, and we all swap fabrics and new ideas very happily.

FREMANTLE

Lynne Jones writes:

Ten doll makers got together on 27 May for a day of making the little Onesie dolls. A production line resulted in 18 completed dolls in a variety of colours. These dolls, made with polar fleece bodies are a very simple design and ideal for small children as they are so soft and cuddly.



The day was full of fun and chatter as well as cups of tea, much cake and other goodies.



If you would like to hold a similar gathering to make these little dolls, please contact me for the pattern and materials. Telephone 9384 8492 or email brilyjo@bigpond.com.au

SORRENTO

Robin Hamilton writes:

We had a lovely Sunday meet at the beginning of May when we had three visitors: two prospective doll makers were shown around as we packed some dolls ready for their trip. Nic was also here filming and chatting with our wonderful volunteers, to prepare footage and information for the revamping of the Uthando Project website.

Grateful thanks to Marianne for introducing UP to her weekly social group at "Super Tuesdays" Interested crowd, receptive to our aims, and they supported us with donation and purchase of doll kits.

Thank you to Nat who is supporting an after-school club at her children's school St James. Teacher Jo had chosen UP to provide input and enjoyment to the students who want to attend, and Nat volunteered her services to assist. Once again, the ready stack of doll kits were invaluable as a resource and we thanks Di and her team for getting these ready through -out the year..... well actually, through-out the 15 or so years!!!

Thank you to the lovely ladies who come along to Sorrento group first Sunday of the month, and the number who support us with their solo efforts from their own homes. Always a pleasure to see all the work come together, heading towards KZN and the children, families and NGOs we aim to support.

NOT ONE, BUT TWENTY-TWO SURPRISES

Earlier in the year, Uthando Project held a stall at the Carine Fair (once again, thank you to all the volunteers who helped out!) , sharing the work of Uthando into the community. On speaking to one of the many visitors on the day, Ann Vivers agreed with her that a suitable drop off point for her doll might be Sudbury House... well imagine Ann's delight when she got a message from Sudbury a couple of weeks ago to pick up a BOX of dolls! Twenty-two beautifully detailed dolls swept Ann off her feet! What a fabulous outcome!



TURNING SCRAPS INTO HAPPINESS

Thank you to Julie Fletcher, coordinator of the ever-creative Albany Group, for sharing with us the "Abayomi Doll". Aren't they just darling? Abayomi is taken from the Yorubi language and means "one who brings happiness".... we couldn't agree more!

The dolls are the perfect scrapbusters, fit well into the doll bags for extra play opportunities, and make a

great activity for school children.

Materials pictured here on A4 paper; full instructions available in this short Youtube video

at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLd08_0RkDo



GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE GOGOS

We are mutually delighted to be back in contact with Yvonne Spain. Yvonne was previously the director of CINDI, who in 2006 organised the first big conference in South Africa for those working with vulnerable children. It was through this conference that Georgia and Julie Stone first began the valuable relationships with NGOs that largely continue today.

Yvonne is now retired and recently commenced working part time at Hawkstone School, where 70 local children attend. On 16 June, Youth Day, Yvonne gifted each child with a Uthando doll, along with a fun educational session on Australia, and the journey the dolls had made. The boys were especially impressed that boy dolls even existed!

To all our huge hearted "Australian Gogos", thank you for all that you do in bringing comfort and joy to the



children. Until next time... we wish you all happy days of doll making and friendship,

Karin and all the dollmakers

PS if you would like to share some news from your group through our Newsletter, email me! karinamaltby@gmail.com
