



U3A Darwin Inc Newsletter

No 359 January-February 2026
PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811
ABN 97 908 391 549
u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com
www.u3adarwin.org.au

Activities for February 2026

All held at 10 am at Casuarina Library, Bradshaw Terrace unless shown otherwise.

We charge \$5 per person at meetings and mahjong sessions to cover room hire, audio-visual equipment and air-conditioning. Tea/coffee/bikkies are included.

The first meeting and first mahjong session held each month are fee free!

Thursday 5 February

(NO meeting fee)

Amanda Hollingsworth:

Solving Cryptic Crosswords

Thursday 12 February

Bonnie Poulter:

The Soldier Settlement Farms in the Riverland

Thursday 19 February

Jo Kieboom:

To Be Advised

Followed by Board Meeting

Thursday 26 February

Sue Bandias with Janie Mason:

The Role of High-Frequency Radio in Building the Outback Community

**Mahjong every Monday at 1pm throughout the year
(except public holidays).** *NO meeting fee on first Monday in month.*

REMEMBER – U3A AGM will be Thursday 19 March

Why not nominate to join the Board?

How about suggesting people you think might be interesting speakers?

*As we don't have a float, please try to have the correct money (or at least
small notes) when paying for admission and raffle tickets.*

Please have your phone switched off or silenced during talks.

Be kind - wash up your own mug, but after speaker and questions have finished!

From the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I trust that everyone is well after the holiday season.

Please note that I will NOT nominate to be President this year. Following repairs to my caravan I will return to travelling for about four months each year during the U3A Darwin season as well as some overseas travel. A couple of veteran Board members will also not be standing.

HOW TO KEEP U3A DARWIN RUNNING IN 2026.

1. At the AGM on 19 March nominate to be a mandatory Office Bearer.

- President
- Vice President
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer

2. At the AGM on 19 March nominate to be an Other Member and lead activities such as speaker coordination, 5th Thursday excursions and Christmas luncheon coordinator

If a Board cannot be formed there is a process to dissolve the Association at a future Special General Meeting.

Brian Radunz

Board Backchat – meeting of 20 November 2025

Six Board Members attended. Planning for the Christmas Luncheon held on Thursday 4 December was finalised. The major discussion was the end of financial year activities and preparation for the AGM on 19 March 2026.

Paperwork for the U3A Darwin Inc AGM is included with or in this newsletter.

- Please ensure you renew your membership (**form page 6**) so your vote counts in an election and to be eligible to nominate for a Board position.
- A nomination form is in the AGM documents accompanying this newsletter. A valid nomination requires compliance with the eligibility conditions on the reverse of the form.

2025/26 Board of Management and contacts

President	Brian Radunz	president.brian.u3ad@icloud.com
Vice-President	Julian Schüller	0447 373 659
Secretary	Christine Nekrasov	0408 137 149
Treasurer	Joan Mettam	0437 664 399
Board Members	Judy Dent <i>ex-officio</i>	8945 1446
	Anne Walker OAM	n/a
	Rosemary McEwen	0400 544 425
	Vijay Daniels	0404 707 501
Public Officer	Brian Radunz	rocketradunz@icloud.com
Coordination of Speakers	Christine Nekrasov	0408 137 149
Mahjong	Shirley Andrews	0407 710 173
Newsletter editor	Fiona Douglas	8985 4179
Website & general liaison	Judy Dent	8945 1446

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF U3A DARWIN
TO BE HELD AT 10:00AM ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026
AT THE CASUARINA LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

Documents for the 2026 Annual General Meeting are circulated with this newsletter.

- Agenda for 2026 Annual General Meeting including election of office bearers and other members of the Board
- Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting
- Nomination form for Office Bearer and Board member positions
- Proxy form is immediately below

If you are unable to attend the AGM, please consider nominating a proxy. A proxy form is provided below. Return the completed proxy form, prior to 19 March 2026, to u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com or give it to someone who will attend the meeting.

The audited accounts will be available from the Treasurer, on request, from 14 days prior to the meeting. The Audited Financial Report for 2025 will be circulated with the March newsletter.

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PROXY FORM FOR U3A DARWIN

I am a financial member of U3A Darwin and I am unable to attend the Annual General Meeting on 19 March 2026 at 10am.

I hereby authorise:

PRINTED NAME

OR CHAIR of the meeting *(Strike out whichever is not applicable)*

to be my proxy and to vote on all matters as she/he sees fit.

PRINTED NAME

SIGNED DATE

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From the Archives of the Aviation
Historical Society of the NT

This photograph, undated but probably from World War Two, may or may not have been taken in the Brisbane Botanical Gardens.

Each happy fellow is holding a treasure.

The reverse is annotated:

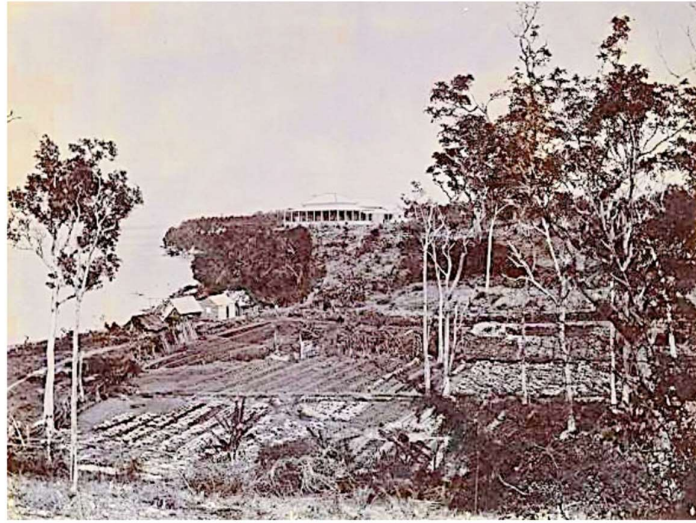
"One bottle, per man, per week, per-haps".



Historic Treasures

Our first hospital – Palmerston Hospital 1874-1942

From Janie Mason AM DLitt
Nursing Museum, Charles Darwin University



[P2009.625, Foelsche Collection, National Library of Australia]

A fifth attempted colonial settlement of Australia's northern coast was finally to succeed from Goyder's survey party on Port Darwin in 1869. Originally the town was known as Palmerston [officially re-named Darwin in 1911 with the Commonwealth Government take-over]. It was expected to develop initial colonising needs of infrastructure, church, hospital, law court, etcetera, by private enterprise and at no cost to the South Australian Government. Its focus was on completion of its contract to build the overland telegraph line.

Darwin's first hospital was locally funded, with later reluctant funding from Adelaide, and opened its doors in 1874, five years after Goyder's arrival. It was sited then, out of town on Packard Street, on the cliffs overlooking the market gardens in Doctor's Gully. A significant donor in those early days was Louisa de Costa. Today, a park is named for her on a remnant piece of the old hospital site on the cliff edge.



Tuesday 24 February | 11am

Purple Poppy Day

MAGNT Curator

Commemorate the National Day
for War Animals.

<https://www.magnt.net.au/whatsondarwin>



All cinephiles, please note that films in the 2026 **Flix in the Wet** series will be showing at the **MAGNT theatrette**, which is apparently to be upgraded with real cinema seats.

Full program and bookings:
<https://www.flixinthewet.com/>

We had a great Christmas Party!

A BIG THANK YOU to all the Board members involved in organising our annual party, this time in a new venue, the Novotel Airport Resort. This is a very large complex, which confused a number of us who felt we needed GPS to get to our function room. And some found it was rather a trek to the bar!

We also really appreciated President Brian's slide show of a snowy winter holiday he'd taken at Lake Louise in Canada.

Julie Schüller took the following photographs of the event. Thank you!





COMPLETE PROGRAM: <https://www.sff.org.au/tff/program/darwin/>

Thur 19 February 7pm Blue Moon

Fri 20 February 6pm Mistress Dispeller 8pm No Other Choice

Sat 21 February 12:30pm The Golden Spurtle 3:45pm My Father's Shadow
7pm Father Mother Sister Brother

Sun 22 February 12:30pm Deaf 3pm All That's Left Of You
6:45pm The Blue Trail

BOOKINGS: <https://www.sff.org.au/tff/tickets/darwin/>

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U3A Darwin Membership Form 2026

Name Phone

Address (if address change or new member)

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Email Joining Date

Newsletters are sent electronically if you provide an email address, otherwise by post.

Individual \$20..... Organisation \$30..... New*..... Renewal

*If you are a new member, please add \$10 to offset the cost of your badge and tick whether you would like a PINor a MAGNET Badge.

The badge will be available for you to pick up at a future meeting

Please email completed form to: treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com
or hand in, with the money, to Joan Mettam at a meeting

Payments may be made by bank transfer to: **Bendigo Bank**
Account Name: U3A Darwin Inc BSB 633-000 Account 216820035

Please put your name + 'renewal' in the description box

U3A Darwin Calendar for February 2026

All activities are held at Casuarina Library unless otherwise stated.

If Library is closed, access meeting room via the covered outdoor area. Use small black gate near the book return chute, walk along the outer library wall, go through the silver gate, and immediately on your right is the glass side door to the meeting room.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 1pm (NO meeting fee) Mahjong session	3	4	5 10am (NO meeting fee) Amanda Hollingsworth Solving Cryptic Crosswords	6
9 1pm Mahjong session	10	11	12 10am Bonnie Poulter Soldier settlement farms in the Riverland	13
16 1pm Mahjong session	17	18	19 10am Jo Kieboom TBA Followed by Board Meeting	20
23 1pm Mahjong session	24 8.30am Newsletter preparation at Nightcliff electorate office	25	26 10am Sue Bandias & Janie Mason Role of HF radio in building bush communities	27

Newsletter contributions to Fiona Douglas at u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com by the third Tuesday of the month preceding publication, please.

The Editor thanks Judy Dent for proofreading all issues, but the Editor owns all the mistakes.

Next newsletter preparation date will be Tuesday 24 February at 8.30am.

Printing and compilation will be in our preparation hub in Nightcliff electorate office, courtesy Kat McNamara MLA. Email u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com or call Fiona on 8985 4179 if you would like to help.

U3A Darwin Inc gratefully acknowledges the help of Kat McNamara MLA and staff of the Nightcliff electorate office for printing the newsletter and enabling us to use their community room to compile the printed copies.

This Newsletter is published by U3A Darwin Inc, PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811.

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The Back Page

U3A Darwin's Honorary Life Members

Judith Cooper, Lucy Cooper (dec.), Judy Dent, Sue Donnelly,
Yvonne Forrest OAM, Alex Gradussov (dec.), Lorna Hanssen,
Bob Lee (dec.), Colleen Lee (dec.), John MacDonald (dec.), David Swift.

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LAB RATS: A SCIENCE GAMESHOW (FOR ADULTS)

WHEN	AT	COST
Sun 1 Feb 6.30 - 7.30PM Add this event to your calendar	Top Floor Comedy, Air Raid Arcade Top End 35 Cavenagh St, Darwin NT 0800	Price General \$25



Comedy, science, games, and cookies collide in this adults-only live science game show with zoologist and comedian Donal Vaughan. Audience members form teams, tackle ridiculous science challenges, and compete for glory, laughs, and cookies. Winners eat. Losers miss out. Ages 18+ only.

BOOK HERE!

Booking details Compulsory

Booking website
<https://events.humanitix.com/lab-rats-a-science-gameshow>

If undelivered, please return to U3A
Darwin Inc, PO Box 42451, Casuarina,
NT 0811

Deliver to