



U3A Darwin Inc Newsletter

No 360 March 2026

PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811

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u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com

www.u3adarwin.org.au

Activities for March 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 March

(NO meeting fee)

Brian Radunz:

Mongolia – the animals

Thursday 12 March

Kirsti Abbott:

Ants running the world from beneath our feet

Thursday 19 March

(NO meeting fee)

U3A Darwin AGM

Followed by Board Meeting.

Thursday 26 March

Jo Kieboom:

TBA

Membership fees were due 1 January – form is on page 5.

Only financial members may nominate for a Board position.

People not renewing by 31 March will be removed from our contact lists.

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

*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

The AGM is on the 19th March. Please bring along the agenda and the minutes of the 2025 AGM which were sent out with the February Newsletter. Please ensure that you have renewed your membership prior to the meeting so that you can nominate for a position and also vote. There will be no meeting fee, but we will have the usual raffle.

Board Backchat – meeting of 19 February 2025

Six Board Members, plus one observer, attended. The first 5th Thursday outing for the year will be held at the Library and Archives, now located at the new CDU Building in Cavenagh Street on Thursday 30 April. Further details will be provided in the April newsletter or by a direct email to members in late March.
Brian Radunz, President.

Remembering Judith Cooper

Sadly, Judith recently passed away shortly before her 92nd birthday. Judith was a dedicated and highly valued member of Darwin U3A for many years.

She served as President twice: 2009-2012 and from 2015-2016. She also served as Vice-President and Treasurer and remained on the Board until 2020.

Judith continued to participate in U3A activities until health issues prevented her from attending. She later said that she missed her friendships from U3A. Vale Judith.

Sue Donnelly



2025/26 Board of Management and contacts

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
	Frieda Evans	0416 713 772
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

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

Documents for the 2026 AGM were circulated with the February newsletter: agenda for 2026 AGM; minutes of the 2025 AGM; nomination form for office bearer and Board positions; proxy form (and below).

The 2025 Audited Financial Report is circulated by email for those receiving emails and will also be available from the Treasurer, on request (*treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com* or 0437 664 399), from 14 days prior to the meeting.

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PROXY FORM FOR U3A DARWIN

I am a financial member of U3A Darwin and I am unable to attend the AGM 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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<p>Thank you, Northern Territory Government, for awarding us a Minor Community Organisation Grant</p>

U3A Darwin organises three excursions annually, for months in which there is a fifth Thursday.

Last year, U3A Darwin was successful in applying for a Minor Community Organisation Grant to subsidise coach travel for a visit to the Batchelor area in October.

A brief tour of the town was followed by the focus of the trip: a visit to the Batchelor Museum - thanks Jan Hills for facilitating this. The Museum showcases the history of Batchelor during the early agricultural development era, the considerable World War II activity in the district and the period of uranium mining at Rum Jungle. Members appreciated the displays, finding them absorbing and fascinating.

A pub lunch was enjoyed before the return trip to Darwin.

Brian Radunz, President



City of Darwin Libraries in collaboration with Darwin Social Chess Club welcomes players of all ages and skill levels to come along, learn or have a game and connect with others. No bookings required.

When: 4:15 pm - 6:15 pm on Sundays. Where: Casuarina Library

Information: Rajeev Thayil on 0437268185 or Brodie Driscoll on 0449518026.

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Library Lounge: Chinese Calligraphy Workshop



Discover the beauty of this ancient art in just 2 hours! Watch an inspiring intro video, learn about the "Four Treasures," explore three classic styles, and practice writing characters like "山" (mountain) and "水" (water). No experience needed, just bring your curiosity!

Casuarina Library, Tuesday, Mar 17, 2026 from 10 am to 12 pm ACST
 FREE workshop designed for mature-aged participants. Numbers limited!
 Bookings required: [library-lounge-chinese-calligraphy-workshop-tickets](#)

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Historic Treasures

For the Ear-Washout From Libby Webb, Registered Nurse & Midwife Nursing Museum, Charles Darwin University

This jug was positioned under the ear and usually held there by the sitting patient as the ear was washed out by warm [body temperature] water or normal saline. The liquid was held in a 50cc syringe with a large nozzle which was inserted into the ear canal. The most common after effect was dizziness.

Ear syringing was usually to remove excess earwax [cerumen] or other debris from the ear canal. Other debris could be various items from a green pea to a bead, poked into the ear by a small finger.

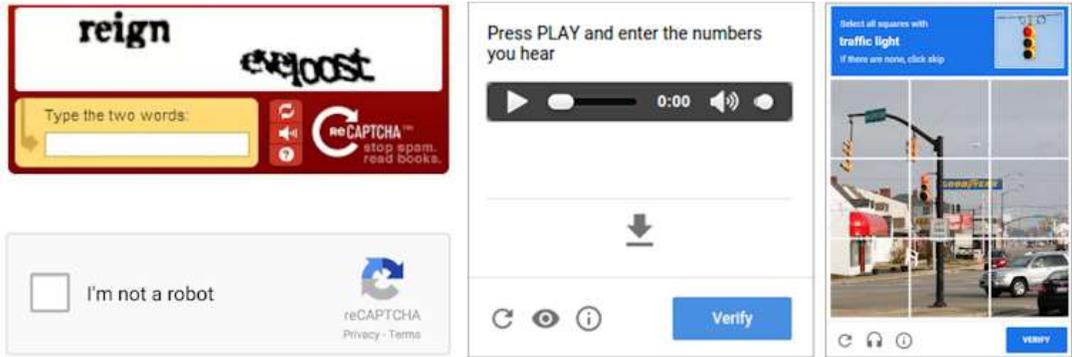
An ear wash-out is less common today. Mostly for excess earwax, it is sufficient to use wax-softening ear drops. An ear washout for earwax is usually performed today only after a course of wax-softening, but some children will still poke various objects into their ears!



Ear Washout Jug
 [H2014.082]

Is CAPTCHA all it's cracked up to be?

In 1997 two groups invented a way, using distorted letters or numbers, to differentiate humans from bots (programs that send spam) when websites were accessed. In 2003, four geeks coined the phrase "Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart". CAPTCHAs are tasks that humans find easy and computers struggle with.



Two principal ways to bypass CAPTCHAs are: using cheap human labour to recognise them, and creating an automated solver via machine learning. CAPTCHAs can be relayed to a 'CAPTCHA farm' of human operators employed to decode them. They are said to be able to verify hundreds per hour. In 2010, the retail price for solving one million CAPTCHAs was low as US\$1,000. Another technique consists of using a script to re-post the target site's CAPTCHA as a CAPTCHA to the attacker's site, which unsuspecting humans visit and solve within a short while for the script to use. In 2023, ChatGPT tricked a TaskRabbit worker into solving a CAPTCHA by telling the worker it was not a robot and had impaired vision!

U3A Darwin Membership Form 2026 – Fees were due 1 January!

Name Phone

Address (if address change or new member)

.....

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 **pin**or 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' or 'new' in the description box



Most MAGNT events are FREE, but bookings are highly recommended as numbers may be limited.

Information/bookings for events <https://www.magnt.net.au/whatsondarwin>

Exhibition in Focus

Tuesday 10 March | 11am
Cyclone Tracy

A walkthrough of the new Cyclone Tracy exhibition.

Exhibition in Focus

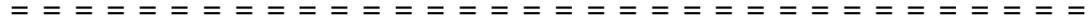
Saturday 21 March | 11am
'Unruly Days: Territory life 1911 - 1921'

Join MAGNT Curator of Territory History, Jared Archibald, for an in-depth tour of the exhibition.

In Conversation

Saturday 28 March | 11am
The Unique Art of Restu Ratnaningtyas

Visiting contemporary Indonesian artist and MAGNT Artist in Residence.



25% OFF selected Native Plants!

TOP END NATIVE PLANT SALE

WHERE: HUMPTY DOO VILLAGE GREEN, 85 CHALLONER CCT
WHEN: SAT, MARCH 28TH. 8.30-1PM

GET YOUR PLANTS IN THE GROUND DURING THE WET!
Create an edible garden, restore habitat and support native wildlife with bird and butterfly attracting feature plants, cyclone and termite resistant shade trees and fragrant flowering native shrubs.

2000 NATIVE PLANTS ACROSS 120+ SPECIES!

- Native Peanut & Nutmeg
- Bush Apples & Plums
- Eucalypts & Corymbia
- Rain & Flame Trees
- Grevillea & Acacias
- Boabs & Beauty Leaf

And much more! In all sizes up to 28ltr to suit your budget. Many species heavily discounted!

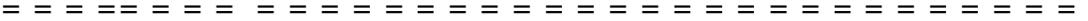
NOW AT HUMPTY DOO!

- Plant Society Fundraiser
- Freshly Brewed Coffee
- Ample Parking

FAMILY FUN
Shady playground, picnic area & skate park

NATIVE FLORA
Native Plant Gardening Advice and ID

Proudly supported by Litchfield Council and Darwin Community Arts



DARWIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SAT 14 MARCH | 7:30PM | AANT CENTRE

From Common Ground

Sound, silence and transformation - a concert of virtuosity and imagination.

[More Details](#)

U3A Darwin Calendar for March 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
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">2</div> <p style="text-align: center;">1pm (NO meeting fee) Mahjong session</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">3</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">4</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">5</div> <p style="text-align: center;">10am (NO meeting fee) Brian Radunz - <i>the animals of Mongolia</i></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">6</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">9</div> <p style="text-align: center;">1pm Mahjong session</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">10</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">11</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">12</div> <p style="text-align: center;">10am Kirsti Abbott will <i>explain why ants rule the world</i></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">13</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">16</div> <p style="text-align: center;">1pm Mahjong session</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">17</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">18</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">19</div> <p style="text-align: center;">10am (NO meeting fee) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Followed by Board Meeting</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">20</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">23</div> <p style="text-align: center;">1pm Mahjong session</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">24</div> <p style="text-align: center;">8.30am Newsletter preparation at Johnston electorate office</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">25</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">26</div> <p style="text-align: center;">10am Jo Kieboom TBA</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">27</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">30</div> <p style="text-align: center;">1pm Mahjong session</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 20px; text-align: center;">31</div>			

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

Next newsletter preparation date will be Tuesday 24 March at 8.30am at Johnston electorate office.

The Editor thanks Judy Dent for proofreading all issues, but the Editor owns mistakes! Printing and compilation will be in our **NEW preparation hub** in Johnston electorate office (small Jape shops, near traffic lights), courtesy Justine Davis MLA. Email u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com or call Fiona on 8985 4179 if you would like to help.

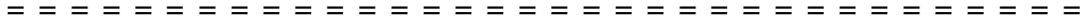
U3A Darwin Inc gratefully acknowledges the help of Kat McNamara MLA and staff of the Nightcliff electorate office for printing the newsletter and enabling us to use their community room to compile the printed copies for the last 18 months.

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 (dec.), 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.



Arafura Music Collective, 2026 Season

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/Arafura



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Deliver to