



# U3A Darwin Inc Newsletter

No 361 April 2026

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www.u3adarwin.org.au

## Activities for April 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 2 April  
(NO meeting fee)

Mark Ames:  
*Berlin Secrets 1968-1971*

Thursday 9 April

Peter Hopton:  
*The Future of Australian Short Sea Shipping*

Thursday 16 April

Adam Worrall, Director MAGNT:  
*130 Exhibitions in 30 minutes or so*

***Followed by Board Meeting***

Thursday 23 April

Janet Brown, COTA:  
*Navigating Aged Care*

Thursday 30 April

**10.30 am sharp, bus leaves library for excursion to NT Archives.**

Level 2, new CDU building at 54 Cavenagh Street,  
beside/behind the main Post Office and opposite Woolies.

**Booking form is on page 5 of this newsletter.**

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

**Membership fees were due 1 January** – form is on page 4.

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

President's Report for 2025  
Presented to the Annual General Meeting on 19 March 2026

There were 86 financial members at the end of 2025. We had 38 speakers including a few members who had travelled overseas. There were three 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday outings: Darwin Botanic Gardens, Parliament House and the Batchelor Museum. There were four trial History Group meetings coordinated by Carole Miller. I wish to acknowledge the Minor Community Organisation Grant provided by the Northern Territory Government to subsidise travel to Batchelor to visit the museum which was very informative and enjoyed by members.

I wish to thank current members of the Board for their education of a new President without any Board experience, especially Judy Dent, an *ex-officio* member as the immediate Past President, in her final year of Board involvement. Thank you, Fiona Douglas, providing a high-quality newsletter keeping everyone informed. Thanks to the team who every month assemble any required printed newsletters. Thanks to Julian Schüller who for ten years created the quiz held during the Christmas luncheons. Shirley Andrews continues to manage the mahjong sessions efficiently, thank you Shirley. Especial thanks to Christine Nekrasov, our Secretary and Speaker Coordinator, and Joan Mettam, our Treasurer. The Board relies heavily on these two functions. Special thanks to Elaine Hellyer for putting out the chairs each week

Finally, unlike recent long term Presidents, this is my first and last year as President as I will continue my retirement travelling both overseas and within Australia with my wife while we are still able to do so. Despite my travels early in 2025 and also in July, I agreed to be nominated to be President for the year as U3A Darwin almost folded at the last two AGMs due to the risk of not forming the mandatory Board of four office bearers.

As I have never been one to 'beat around the bush', I challenge all members to get involved if you wish U3A Darwin to continue in 2026 and beyond. As U3A Darwin has been operating since 1989 it would be a shame to have to dissolve the Incorporated Association. A General Meeting was held in August to discuss options that included other activities as well as speakers and a reduced number of meetings. It is very difficult to find 40 speakers each year. Consensus was to maintain the *status quo* and so members need to step up to form the Board and contribute as a speaker or use your networks to find potential speakers.

Brian Radunz,  
President U3A Darwin,  
19 March 2026

Board Backchat – meeting of 19 March 2026

Following the AGM on 19 March, there is a new President and a new Vice-President. Thanks to President Joan Kieboom and Vice President Roger Clifton for putting up their hands. They will be ably supported by experienced Secretary Christine and Treasurer Joan. Welcome Janet Fries and 'Mahjong Shirley' to the Board.

Joan Mettam has advised that this year will be her fifth and final year as Treasurer. She has offered to mentor potential replacement Treasurers this year on the systems and software that are used. Please take up this offer.

The first 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday outing for the year will be held at the NT Library and Archives, now located at the new CDU Building in Cavenagh Street on Thursday 30 April. Please consider attending.

Brian Radunz,  
Outgoing President

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2026- 2027 Board of Management and contacts

President	Joan Kieboom	0427 080 340
Vice-President	Roger Clifton	RogerClifton3@gmail.com
Secretary	Christine Nekrasov	0408 137 149
Treasurer	Joan Mettam	0437 664 399
	Rosemary McEwen	0400 544 425
Board Members	Janet Fries	0407 577 213
	Shirley Andrews	0407 710 173
	Brian Radunz <i>ex-officio</i>	
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 liaison	Judy Dent	8945 1446

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Does anybody know anything about drones? I bought this off a lad outside the pub last night and I can't get it to take off. 🤔🤔🤔



### U3A Darwin Membership Form 2026 (fees due 1 January)

Name ..... Phone .....

Address (if address change or new member) .....

Email ..... Joining Date .....

Newsletters 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](mailto:treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com) or hand in, with the money, to Treasurer 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





# U3A Darwin Excursion: 30 April 2026



## NT LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Level 2, Danala, CDU Education and Community Precinct,  
54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin City NT 0800

- Transport from Casuarina Library to Archives – **departs 10.30 am sharp.**
- Own transport attendees must arrive at Archives by 10.50 am.
- Tour booked for 11.00 am – duration approximately 40 minutes.
- *After the tour, you may like to stay in the CDU building (Danala) to view some of the free public exhibitions:*
  - *At the NT Library & Archives:*
    - *Konrad Winkler: red earth and chalk dust, a retrospective (until 5 June)*
    - *Meeting Ground: Territory Encounters (permanent display)*
  - *In the CDU Midpul Art Gallery on the ground floor:*
    - *Gapu: The Story of Printmaking at Djilpin Arts (from 27 March to 2 May)*
- Lunch at 12 noon is **at own expense, venue to be confirmed**
- Return bus to Library from Archives **departs at 1.30 pm**
- Cost for excursion is \$15 per member, \$20 for a non-member

### BOOKING FORM

**Booking and payment required by Thursday 23 April 2026**

Cost includes bus transfer to and from Casuarina library

Names of Participants @ \$15 per member (\$20 for a non-member):

1. .... \$15 or \$20 (circle)

2. .... \$15 or \$20 (circle)

TOTAL PAID \$ .....

Please indicate mode of transport (tick): Group bus ..... Own car .....

(Group bus leaves Casuarina Library at 10.30 am and return bus leaves Archives at 1.30 pm.)

Payment methods:

- Pay cash at a meeting, OR
- Bank transfer to: U3A Darwin Inc BSB 633 000 A/c No: 216820035 and please put your name and 'excursion' in the description box for transfer.

*Email completed booking form to: [treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com](mailto:treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com) OR hand in at a meeting with your payment.*

Historic Treasures

The physio building at East Arm Leprosarium  
From Janie Mason AM DLit  
Nursing Museum, Charles Darwin University



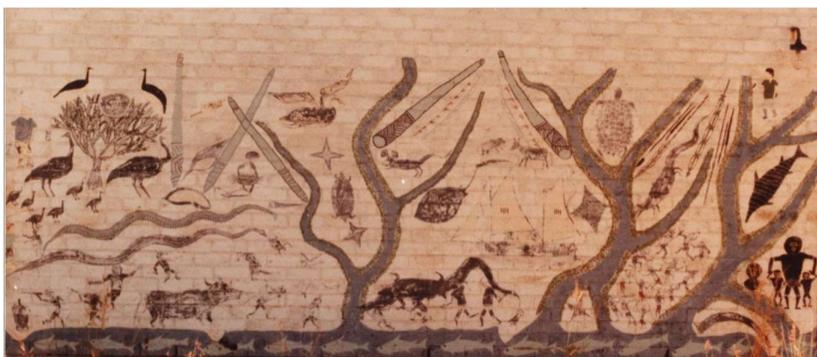
Painted by patients, East Arm Leprosarium [P2020.710]

The first Territory diagnosis of Leprosy was in a Chinese man who was isolated from 1889 on a spit of land in Middle Arm of Darwin Harbour. This Mud Island Lazarette, better known as Mud Island Leper Station, by the 1920s held an average 10 to 12 sufferers, a mix of Chinese and Aboriginal. Some Chinese were repatriated to China but most inmates died there, in appalling conditions of general neglect by authorities, staffed only by a Matron [Registered Nurse] and her husband. Mud Island was closed in 1931 with opening of the Channel Island Leprosarium in 1931.

Even as Channel Island opened, it was considered unsatisfactory and alternatives were discussed. It was soon grossly overcrowded. Aboriginal numbers increased with both children and adults removed from missions and settlements. The isolation policy of Leprosy [Hansens Disease] sufferers and general neglect by authorities continued. By the late 1930s, Australia was criticised internationally in influential medical circles for inadequate medical treatment and delay in modern treatments for the disease. Case numbers continued to increase with still only a Registered Nurse and handy man resident on the Island.

Nursing nuns of the Catholic Sacred Heart Order replaced NT Medical Service staff in 1943 and the Leprosarium closed in 1955. Staff and 180 patients moved to the new East Arm Leprosarium on the mainland, on Berrimah Road. Then in a bush setting, it included a hospital block, convent, priest's quarters, kitchen, cottages, school for 30 children and recreation facilities. Some of the buildings were decorated by patients as shown above. Gardens and lawns were maintained by the patients and many learnt nursing and care skills. The isolation policy was phased out in the 1970s as public attitudes were changing. Patients now had contact with family and East Arm Leprosarium closed in 1982,

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1984 image from Territory Stories.

East Arm Leprosarium, mural on hospital wall [detail].

Graeme Cheater  
<https://hdl.handle.net/10070/1003676>

## U3A Darwin Calendar for April 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
		1	2	3
			10 am <i>(NO meeting fee)</i> <b>Mark Ames</b> will let us in on Berlin Secrets	<b>Good Friday</b>
6	7	8	9	10
<b>Easter Monday</b>  <b>Library closed</b> (NO Mahjong)			10 am  <b>Peter Hopton</b> will discuss Australian short sea shipping	
13	14	15	16	17
1 pm  Mahjong session <i>(NO meeting fee)</i>			10 am  <b>Adam Worrall</b> will tell tales of art exhibitions  <b>Followed by</b> <b>Board Meeting</b>	
20	21	22	23	24
1 pm  Mahjong session			10 am  <b>Janet Brown</b> will help with navigating the Aged Care system	
27	28	29	30	
1 pm  Mahjong session	<b>8.30-9.00</b>  Newsletter preparation in the Johnston electorate office at the Bagot Rd entry to the Jape complex		<b>Excursion to NT Archives</b> & lunch. <b>Bus leaves from Casuarina Library at 10.30 am sharp.</b> Own car: arrive Archives by 10.50. Return bus leaves Archives 1.30 pm.	

Newsletter contributions to Fiona Douglas at [u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com) by the third Tuesday of the month preceding publication, please.

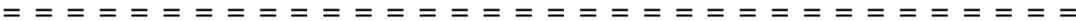
The Editor thanks Judy Dent for proofreading all issues, but errors are the Editor's. **Newsletter preparation date will be Tuesday 28 April at 8.30am at the Johnston electorate office of Justine Davis.** If you would like to help, please call Fiona on 8985 4179 or email [u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com).

*U3A Darwin Inc gratefully acknowledges the help of Justine Davis MLA and staff of the Johnston 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 (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.



**TRAVELLING BY AIR WITH POWER PACKS**

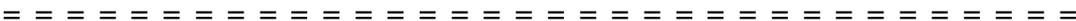
Information from AIRActive February 2026, newsletter of the Association of Independent Retirees.

Since December, Virgin Australia and Qantas have introduced new regulations:

- Power banks, spare batteries, and small portable electronic devices must be easily accessible during flight. They MUST be stored under the seat, in the seat pocket, or on your person, NOT in the overhead locker. They are also prohibited in checked baggage.
- You may NOT use power banks on board, but you may still charge your devices using the in-seat power ports.
- There is a limit per person of two power banks. Devices over 100Wh and up to 160Wh require Virgin Australia's approval before you fly. Anything over 160Wh is NOT allowed.

These changes follow a spike in mid-air fires and other incidents. Major international airlines including Emirates, Singapore Airlines and Thai Airways, have already taken similar steps.

Batteries can even be a problem in the airport lounges. On 7 November 2025, travellers were forced to evacuate Melbourne Airport's international Qantas business lounge after a man's pocket power bank ignited, setting his clothes alight and filling the room with smoke.



If undelivered, please return to  
U3A Darwin Inc, PO Box  
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Deliver to