



U3A Darwin Inc. Newsletter

No 365 August 2026

PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811

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www.u3adarwin.org.au

Activities for August 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 6 August
(NO meeting fee)

Peter Hopton:
The future of Australian short sea shipping

Thursday 13 August

Fiona Douglas:
Chihuly in the Adelaide Botanic Garden

Thursday 20 August

Louis Elliott (NT Herbarium):
Interesting Top End Plants

Followed by Board Meeting

Thursday 27 August

TBA

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

Meetings start at 10 am prompt, so as a courtesy to speakers, **please be on time.**
All phones should be switched off or silenced during talks.

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

From the President

The Darwin U3A Board met on Thursday 16 July 2026 and undertook a final clearance of the text to be contained in the updated U3A brochure prior to public distribution. All that remains to be done is finalisation of the new membership application form page, preparation of the brochure's new graphic design, and then printing and wide public distribution. Wide public distribution of the updated and redesigned brochure will be the first action in **raising the profile** of The University of the Third Age (U3A) in Darwin.

Further activities are planned. Change takes time however, and U3A has a present and ongoing need for an **active membership**. There are still unfilled 2026-27 U3A Board positions. Current members can still **act**.

The Board also checked and refined arrangements for the Thursday 30 July U3A excursion to the Chung Wah Society's NT Chinese Museum and commenced preliminary planning for the 2026 U3A Christmas Party.

Joan Kieboom

Board Backchat – meeting of 16 July 2026

Time does fly. The 2026 Darwin U3A Christmas Party may be the last of its kind. And, **if a Darwin U3A Board is not in place after the 2027 Darwin U3A Annual General Meeting**, there will also be no more challenging Mahjong; fascinating Thursday talks; meeting up with Thursday friends and making new ones (and coffee after); no more "last Thursday" excursions (and coffee after) and, no further brilliant, professional, informative and amusing U3A Darwin Inc. monthly newsletters.

Right now, the viability of Darwin U3A is not assured without an **active current membership and a significant number of active new members**.

Joan Kieboom

President

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Darwin Symphony Orchestra and Brown's Mart bring Shakespeare to life through music and theatre in 'Shakespeare & Symphony'

Date: Saturday, 22 August Time: 7:30pm

(Pre-concert talk at 6:30pm in The Gallery)

Location: The Playhouse, AANT Centre

To see more information on the program, visit the website [here](#) .

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
Board Members	Rosemary McEwen	0400 544 425
	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

U3A Darwin Membership Form 2026

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

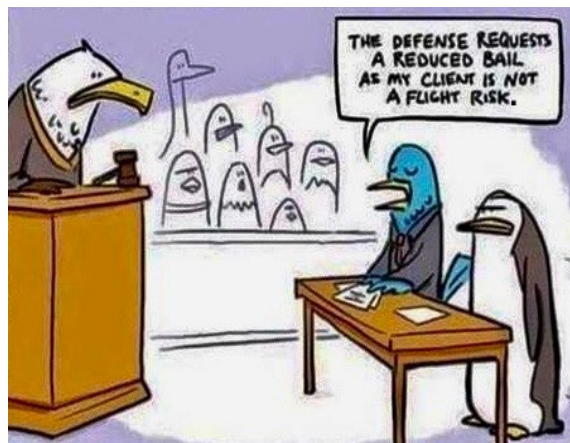
*If you are a new member, please add \$10 to offset the cost of your badge and tick whether you would like a **pin** or a **magnet** badge.

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

Please email completed form to: *treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com*
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



Payphones - did you know?

Telstra provides approximately 14,000 public payphones throughout Australia which continue to provide valuable services to the community in an ever-changing digital world.

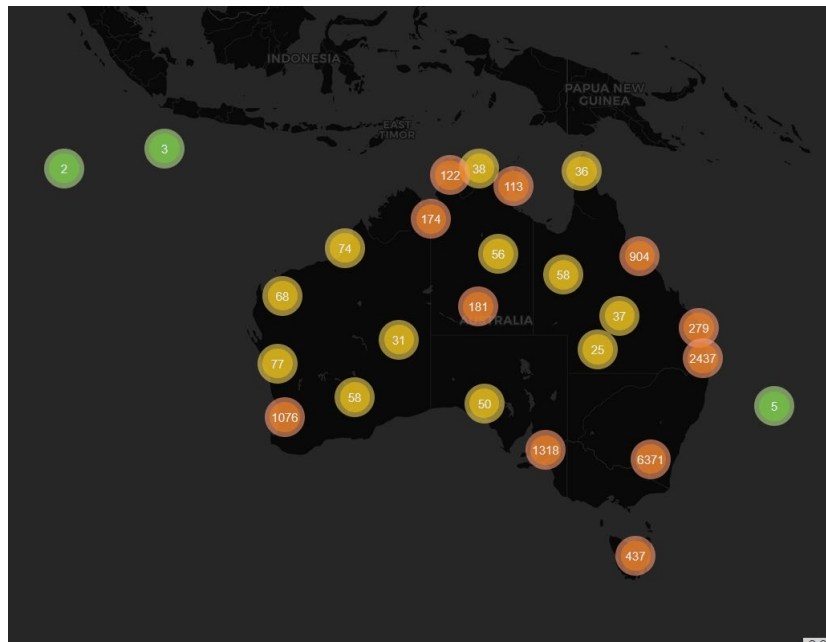
Payphones have always been and continue to be a vital piece of social infrastructure that are a convenient beacon of safety and connection, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the community.

Telstra has a [universal service obligation](#) to ensure that payphones are reasonably accessible to all people in Australia, no matter where they live or conduct business. They allow for public consultation on the location of payphones and try to resolve any complaints.

Standard national and mobile calls are free of charge from all Telstra payphones.

Payphones have stopped accepting coins. To make an international call or to call other charged destinations, you have the option of using a Telstra Phonecard or other third-party calling cards.

Free Telstra Wi-Fi has been available at enabled payphones around the country.



Graphics: <https://hakluke.com/payphones/>

Historic Treasures

The midwife's kit for the homebirth

From Libby Webb, Registered Nurse & Midwife
Nursing Museum, Charles Darwin University



A midwife's kit from the 1960s for homebirth [IN2010.235]

This standard midwife's kit of the late 1960s is from the United Kingdom and is for homebirths. It is contained within a purpose-made zip-up leather purse and holds:-

- Two artery forceps [clean] to clamp the babe's cord
- One pair of scissors [clean] to cut the cord between the clamps and later, to cut the string
- A roll of clean cotton wool
- String to tie the cord near the babe's umbilicus
- A tape measure in inches [British Imperial System] for measuring babe's length
- Ampoules of essential drugs

This midwife's kit, together with plenty of clean newspaper [needed to ensure a clean home birth delivery area], protective dress for the midwives, disposable syringes of various sizes, ampoules of some essential drugs and a portable gas machine for delivery of nitrous oxide with oxygen to assist the labouring mother, comprised the essential equipment for the midwife for a homebirth. The essential drugs were:-

- Vitamin K for the babe to prevent possible internal bleeding and thus potential permanent damage and/or death,
- Ergometrine for the mother to stimulate the uterus to contract to prevent postpartum haemorrhage, given either after birth of the babe or after delivery of the afterbirth [placenta],
- Syntometrine for the mother and used usually while in labour to stimulate uterine contractions but it can also be used after the babe's birth to stimulate the uterus to contract to evacuate the afterbirth [placenta], and
- Nikethamide which was used in the mid-twentieth century as a respiratory stimulant.



FORT HILL
PARKLAND IS
GETTING BIGGER
AND THEY ARE
HOSTING A BIG PICNIC TO CELEBRATE!

Sunday 30 August | 4pm - 7pm

Gather Darwin's Biggest Picnic at Fort Hill Parkland on 30 August - bring your friends, family, and neighbours, to roll out your mats and enjoy a sunset on the coastline.

How BIG? The Fort Hill green space is **doubling** in size!
That's around 16 000 square meters of prime picnic real estate.
What to expect?

- Live music ▪ Space for families ▪ Community activities
- Laid back vibes to enjoy nature and socialise
- A bite to eat (but BYO picnic baskets are also encouraged!)

Waterfront venue picnic baskets will be ready for pre-order soon!
Keep an eye out for these delicious packs of all your favourites.

<https://www.waterfront.nt.gov.au/big-picnic>

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Darwin Festival in Palmerston: Family Fiesta

Friday 14 August

Main Stage:

5pm Birmba

6.15pm Gaba Gaba Bayan

7.15pm Deline Briscoe

8.10pm Fiesta



Snap up a bargain at the market stalls, get your fill of some delicious food and discover free entertainment at every turn. There is so much to enjoy – and get involved in.

Circus, musical moments, dancing and more take place on the big stage and throughout the square. Witness a new acrobatic collaboration from world-renowned circus company Gravity and Other Myths and local stars from Corrugated Iron.

U3A Darwin Calendar for August 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
3 NO MAHJONG PICNIC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	4	5	6 10 am (NO meeting fee) Peter Hopton talks about the future of shipping	7
10 1 pm Mahjong session (No meeting fee)	11	12	13 10 am Fiona Douglas will show the Chihuly glass in Adelaide Botanic Garden	14
17 1 pm Mahjong session	18	19	20 10 am Louis Elliott will talk about interesting Top End plants Followed by Board Meeting	21
24 1 pm Mahjong session	25 8.30-9.00 Newsletter preparation in the Nightcliff electorate office	26	27 10 am TBA	28
31 1 pm Mahjong session				

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 errors are the Editor's. Newsletter preparation date will be Tuesday 25 August at 8.30 am at the Nightcliff electorate office of Ed Smelt MLA. If you would like to help, please call Fiona on 8985 4179 or email u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com.

U3A Darwin Inc gratefully acknowledges the kind contribution of Julie and the Nightcliff electorate office of Ed Smelt MLA. The office prints this newsletter and allows 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.



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NT 0811

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