



U3A Darwin Inc. Newsletter

No 366 September 2026

PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811

ABN 97 908 391 549

u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com

www.u3adarwin.org.au

Activities for September 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 3 September
(NO meeting fee)

Connie Jape:
My family's story: our journey to Darwin

Thursday 10 September

Roger Clifton:
El Niño ... misinformation and media panic

Thursday 17 September

Natalia Laska:
Making a film: 'The Piano Tuner'

Followed by Board Meeting

Thursday 24 September

TBA – members, why not offer to fill this spot? Or suggest a speaker?

**Mahjong every Monday at 1 pm throughout the year
(except public holidays).** NO fee on first Monday in month in 2026.

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

No report was received from the President.

Board Backchat

Due to many apologies, there was no Board meeting on 20th August. Financial matters were held over till next month.

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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
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

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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

Our July excursion to the Chinese Museum and Temple

Thanks to good scouting beforehand, we all entered the Museum with no trouble. Neville Hunt and Nen Nien Chin welcomed us before Neville gave us a 'tour' around the amazingly detailed model of Darwin as it was in 1942 before the bombing. The extent of Chinatown at that time was considerable and very impressive. The large number and variety of



items on display indicate the ongoing sense of pride and involvement felt by the Chinese community towards the Museum.

We then moved to the adjacent Temple, where Dennis Low told us its story. The Temple, from the first on the site built in 1897, is testament to the resilience and determination of the Chinese community, as it has needed to be repaired or rebuilt several times. From damage by cyclones in 1917 and 1937, damage again from bombing and being ransacked by Australian soldiers in World War II, it was finally destroyed by Cyclone Tracy. The new Temple opened in 1978.

Although uncommon in mainland China, overseas Chinese communities often worship at a Temple embracing more than one religion. In Darwin's Temple, Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism are all practised.

The large Bodhi tree in the courtyard is said to be a descendent of the actual tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment.

We had time to wander around and marvel at the intricacies of the Temple decoration or explore more of the history in the Museum, before going just round the corner to an excellent 'pub lunch' at the Cav almost next door.

Thank you to the U3A organisational team, and to the Museum and Temple volunteers who welcomed us.



Calling people with experience of medical devices such as:
Joint replacement – Intra-ocular lens – Neonatal phototherapy
or anything else that might be classified as a medical device

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has opened a public consultation asking for feedback on proposed changes to the information we share about the safety, quality and performance of medical devices.

The [public consultation](#) is open until 11:59pm (AEST) on 2 October 2026. We welcome your feedback and encourage submissions through the above link.

Background

The intent of the proposed changes is to provide more information to the public after post-market reviews or investigations of medical devices, particularly where review findings relate to the safety, quality, performance or use of a medical device.

The problem

Currently the TGA can only release information to external stakeholders (those who neither manufacture nor sponsor the medical device) if:

- a legislative instrument has been made specifying the information that can be shared, or
- a regulatory decision about a specific medical device has been made, or
- the information is required to facilitate the safe use of a medical device.

The legislative constraints still exist even where regulatory action has been undertaken. Sharing more information about device safety, quality and performance would enhance our current ability to protect public health and safety.

Where medical devices are investigated and no action is required or the devices are compliant, we think this information should be shared with the public. This would improve transparency for consumers and foster trust with the regulatory system. The administrative burden for consumers and manufacturers/sponsors would be reduced, as required information would be publicly available

The proposed changes align with the intent of [An Action Plan for Medical Devices](#) and requirements set out in the World Health Organisation's (WHO) [Global Benchmarking Framework](#).

The public consultation seeks feedback on:

- whether information about medical devices involved in a post-market review or investigation should be shared, and
- what types of information should be shared when a post-market review or investigation is being undertaken.

For more information, including the consultation paper, [view the public consultation](#).

Behind the Music

Stringed instruments are notoriously difficult to keep in tune in Darwin's climate, and pianos are no exception, not least because they are not portable.

The NT premiere of a documentary 'The Piano Tuner' will show at the Deckchair on 24 September, with a further showing provisionally planned for October.

STOP PRESS Our 17 September speaker will be the filmmaker, Natalia Laska, who lives in Darwin.

The film was eight years in the making and funded by Screen Australia and Screen Tasmania.

It premiered at the Sydney Film Festival this year with two sold-out screenings and received the Runner-Up Audience Award for Best Australian Documentary.



The film follows travelling piano tuner Martin Tucker and the wonderfully eccentric people keeping acoustic pianos alive across Australia. Darwin and the Territory are an important part of the story, and many senior Territorians participated in the film over the eight years of filming. Members may recognise local people and places, hear familiar tunes and perhaps find their own



memories attached to the pianos they grew up with, played, inherited or reluctantly gave away.

Along the way we discover how pianos work and age, what our domestic musical culture looks like away from concert halls, and how these instruments have survived in one of Australia's most piano-hostile climates.

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Darwin Libraries' newsletter

Darwin Public Libraries are about so much more than just books. The best way to ensure you don't miss out on anything is to subscribe to the newsletter. If you sign yourself up all the news will come into your own Inbox at the end of the month.

[Darwin library newsletter sign-up](#)



Historic Treasures

Sister Mary Agatha [olsh] 1930s-1984
Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart [dolsh]
Miriam Rose Midaringi Dulla of the Brinkin Brinkin

From Janie Mason AM DLitt
Nursing Museum, Charles Darwin University



Sister Mary Agatha [P2021.718]
Crayon drawing by Joy Oakley

Miriam Rose Midaringi Dulla was of the Brinkin Brinkin people, south west of Darwin and travelled a long journey from tribal life to mission settlement, entering religious life and becoming a nurse.

She was born on the coast around the Daly River country, near Port Keats [now Wadeye]. She moved to the Port Keats Mission, now Wadeye, with her mother and siblings when about 4 years of age. Her father had probably died in tribal warfare. In 1959, she left the Mission to work at the East Arm Leprosarium with the Sisters [Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart] before starting to train for religious life at the Daly River Mission. She undertook her novitiate in NSW and took her final vows in 1967, taking the name of Sister Mary Agatha.

She was one of a unique group of five indigenous women from Wadeye, professed religious, who lived "Their lives as indigenous women and consecrated religious, moving between two cultures and proud to belong to both" [Sister Elizabeth Little olsh]. On return to the Territory in 1969, Sister Agatha completed her training as a Nurse Aide [Enrolled Nurse] at East Arm Leprosarium. She died of cancer in 1984

U3A Darwin Calendar for September 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 10am (NO meeting fee) Connie Jape tells how the family got to Darwin	4
7 1pm (NO meeting fee) Mahjong session	8	9	10 10am Roger Clifton discusses the beat-up about El Niño	11
14 1pm Mahjong session	15	16	17 10am Natalia Laska introduces us to challenging film-making	18
21 1pm Mahjong session	22	23	24 10am An opportunity for a member to fill this space	25
28 1pm Mahjong session	29 8.30am News letter preparation at Nightcliff electorate office	30		

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 29 September 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.

Travellers targeted when logging into hotel Wi-Fi networks

Microsoft has warned that hotel, conference, and other hospitality Wi-Fi networks are being actively abused to target travellers worldwide. The campaign, dubbed "CaptiveCrunch", turns a routine Wi-Fi login event into an opportunity to compromise corporate accounts and devices.

From the user's perspective, it all looks ordinary: they connect to hotel Wi-Fi, get the usual login prompt, and perhaps see a message about needing to update something before they can browse. However, behind the scenes, the attackers position themselves to manipulate traffic from this captive-portal Wi-Fi. From there, several things can happen:

Logins are stolen, malware is downloaded, or internet traffic is quietly diverted through attacker infrastructure, putting the user in a position for further credential theft.

How to prevent this? Many things can be done, but the key is for you yourself to keep alert. Decide to undertake preventive actions, of which the following are some of the most basic:

- *Use your own phone's hotspot*, especially with a reputable carrier and eSIM.
- *Never download anything in order to login or connect.* Stop at once.
- *Secure your devices* by keeping browsers and important software up-to-date before you travel. Install an effective, anti-malware and web protection solution and keep it up-to-date,.
- *Subscribe to e-newsletters* from sources such as IDcare, Scamwatch or your anti-malware provider. Read them and apply their recommendations.
- *[Ed. I extracted information from a Malwarebytes e-newsletter for this snippet.]*

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NT 0811

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