# U3A Darwin Inc. Newsletter

**No 368 November- December 2026**

**PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811**
**ABN 97 908 391 549**
**u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com**
**www.u3adarwin.org.au**

## Activities for November-December 2026

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

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

Thursday 5 November

*(Last time the first meeting of the month is free – make the most of it!!)*

**Anne Clifton:**
*Glass and ceramics*

Thursday 12 November

**Ben Haythorpe (AANT):**
*The road ahead: driving as we age*

Thursday 19 November

**Carole Miller OAM:**
*The glories of Greece*
***Followed by last Board Meeting for the year***

Thursday 26 November

*(last U3A Darwin speaker meeting for 2026)*

**Speaker to be advised**.

**Please be on time** for speaker meetings as they start promptly at 10 am.

All phones should be switched off or silenced during talks.
Please wash up your own mug, but only when speaker and questions have finished!

**Thursday 10 December – U3A Christmas lunch**

*Tracy Village Sports & Social Club, Tambling Terrace, Lyons: 12 noon - 2 pm*.
To attend this fun annual social event you need to book & pay by Friday 27 November.
More details and booking form on page 3.

**Mahjong continues every Monday at 1 pm throughout the year (except public holidays).** ***From 1 Jan. 2027, a $5 fee applies at all sessions.***

## From the President

As I approach the conclusion of my first and last year as President, I have learned a lot. U3A Darwin is both wonderful and worrying at the same time.

Darwin U3A members are friendly, smart and funny and really do all share that thirst for knowledge and discovery of new and interesting things identified by Toulouse University twenty three years ago. All of us I have met read books and some even research, write and publish them.

But, worrying? U3A Darwin almost "folded in both 2024 and 2025 due to lack of nominations at the Annual General Meeting for some of the mandatory office bearer roles to remain an Incorporated Association and therefore continue to function as an organisation". And almost folded in March 2026 due to lack of any nominations for the role of President. These circumstances are not uncommon for this organisation and what is worrying is, that kind of luck is never reliable.

*President - Joan Kieboom*

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## Board Backchat

While there is still some time to Christmas and New Year, this is the last Newsletter for 2026.

The Board met on Thursday 15 October and thanks to Fiona Douglas who has provided the all-important draft U3A Newsletter dates for 2027 - a truly herculean task of accurate and informed calculation around public and national holiday dates and the availability of the printer.

The Board recorded a vote of thanks to Fiona and agreed to the following, that:

- The last U3A Board Meeting of the year will be held on Thursday 19 November 2026;
- The U3A Christmas Party date is 10 December 2026 and further details are available at page 3 of this Newsletter;
- The first U3A Board Meeting of next year will take place on Thursday 18 February 2027;
- **The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 18 March 2027**; and
- Formal notice of the AGM and the business to be discussed will be sent out next year.

*President - Joan Kieboom*

## 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 |
| | Robyn Wright | 0408 811 620 |
| | Brian Radunz *ex-officio* | |
| 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 Christmas Lunch 2026



**Thursday 10 December 2026, 12 noon - 2pm**

*Tracy Village Sports and Social Club*
*28 Tambling Terrace, Lyons*

The hard-working Board has arranged for our friendly social occasion to be held at a different venue this year. The parking should be very much easier than last year, with a much smaller distance to walk.

Cost of attendance covers the meal, drinks will be available from the bar.

The cost is being kept as low as possible: Members $30 per head and non-members $55 each. We welcome any non-members who wish to attend.

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### BOOKING FORM – Christmas Lunch

Booking and payment must be made by Friday 27 November 2026.

Members: $30 Non-Members: $55

**Names of Participants:** ***Please circle your response below***

1. …… Member Y / N $30 $55

2. …… Member Y / N $30 $55

***TOTAL TO PAY $ ……***

*Please book and pay by Friday 27 November 2026 in any of these ways:*

- Pay cash at a meeting,
- Bank transfer to: U3A Darwin Inc. BSB 633 000 Acc/No: 216820035
  *Please put your name + 'Xmas lunch' in the description box for transfer.*
- Email completed form to: *treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com* or hand it in at a meeting with your payment.



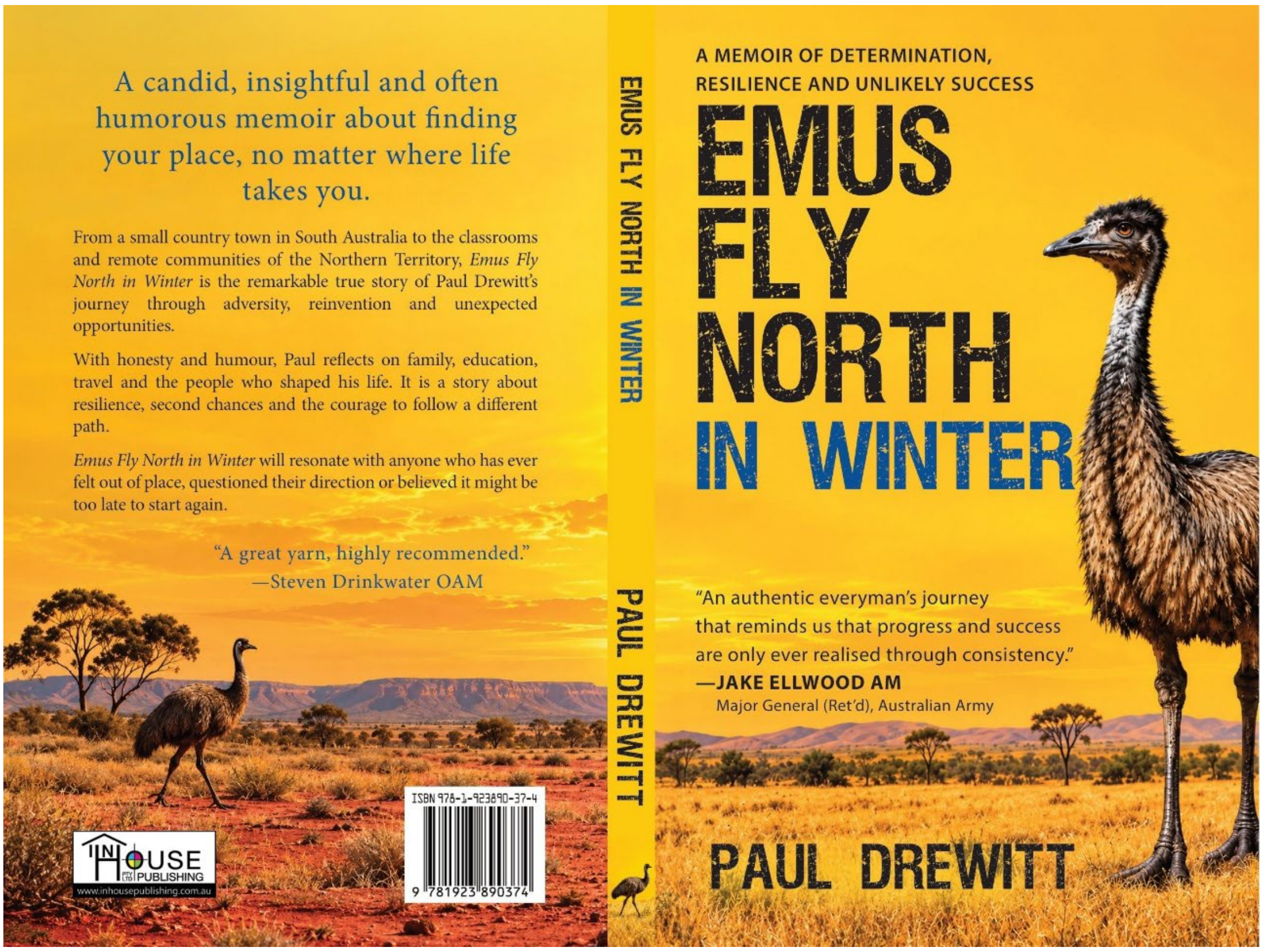

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## What a wonderful title!

In the tradition of authors living and working in Darwin after having found their way here by an often circuitous route, Paul Drewitt is a Darwin-based author who works in education. His memoir, *Emus Fly North in Winter*, is out and available through The Bookshop in the Mall.

Paul writes: "*My memoir explores life's challenges, humour, perseverance, personal growth and lifelong learning. It is being published internationally by Foreshore Publishing in London and in Australia by InHouse Publishing in Brisbane.*

*As a member of the NT Writers' Centre, I believe my writing journey may interest U3A members who enjoy literature, personal stories and lifelong learning.*"









**Sat, Nov 14 2026,** 7:30pm - 9pm

Join the Lord Mayor and Councillors for an evening of performances from local schools, choirs and community groups celebrating the joy of Christmas.

Civic Park will be aglow with lights, laughter, and live entertainment. Bring the family, grab a bite from the food trucks and soak up the Christmas spirit.

*Proudly sponsored by the Northern Territory Government and delivered by City of Darwin.*

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**U3A Darwin Membership Form (January – December 2027)**

Name ………………………………………………………………… Phone …………………………

Address (if new member or change of address) …………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Email ……………………………………………………………………………

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

Individual $30 ……… Organisation $40 ……… New ……… Renewal ………

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

or post to: U3A Darwin Inc., PO Box 42451, CASUARINA NT 0811.

or hand in to the Treasurer at a meeting.

*Payments may be made in cash at a meeting, or by bank transfer to*:

**Account Name: U3A Darwin Inc BSB 633-000 Account 216820035**

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

*Office use: Joining Date ……………………… Receipt Number ……………………*

## Do you **still** need more to do as the year ends?



### Walks for Curious People

### Creek Knowledge Walks - Sandy Creek

***Saturday 28 November 2026, 3-5 pm & 5-7 pm***

Creek Knowledge Walks invite the community to slow down and learn more about the places, stories and ecosystems that shape our local waterways. Guided by local knowledge holders, scientists and community members, these relaxed walks explore different aspects of creek life - from plants and wildlife to water, culture and care.

Bring along your hat, walking shoes, water bottle, sunscreen and snacks.

Places are limited and tickets are essential - Curiosity at Sandy Creek

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## COLLABORATIONS IN CHAMBER

**Stories of Water and Earth** FRI 13 NOV | 7PM AT BROWN'S MART COST $24-$41 INFO *brownsmart.com.au*



**MUSIC LOVERS ARE** invited to experience the collaborative beauty of chamber music, contemporary style.

This month, Whistling Kite New Music return to Brown's Mart.

The ensemble officially kicked off in 2020, born from a Darwin Fringe Festival performance in 2019 when Yates pitched the idea to his music peers. Made up of a round six, the ensemble presents several performances throughout the year, and have performed at Darwin Festival, AANT Centre, Brown's Mart, George Brown Botanic Gardens Events Centre, and Audit House in the years since.

"The show, Stories of Water and Earth, features music by Mizrahi and poetry by Melanie Mununggurr. The work premiered a couple of years ago at Darwin Festival. It's had some performances since then in Sydney, but this will be only the second time it's been performed in Darwin.

We'll have some other surprises in there, too. There's going to be a new piece that I'm writing, and Steph's going to play a solo cello piece as well."

# U3A Darwin Calendar for November-December 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 – last time!)* *Anne Clifton* talks about glass and ceramics | **6** |
| **9** 1pm Mahjong session | **10** | **11** | **12** 10am *Ben Haythorpe* explains about driving as we age | **13** |
| **16** 1pm Mahjong session | **17** | **18** | **19** 10am *Carole Miller OAM* regales us with the glories of Greece **Followed by Board meeting** | **20** |
| **23** 1pm Mahjong session | **24** | **25** | **26** 10am *Last for the year* Speaker TBA | **27** |
| **30** 1pm Mahjong session | **1 December** | **2** | **3** | **4** |
| **7** 1pm (***Last time for NO meeting fee!***) Mahjong session | **8** | **9** | **10** **12 noon until 2 pm** ***Christmas lunch*** Tracy Village Sports & Social Club | **11** |

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.

Next newsletter preparation date will be Monday 25 January 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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