

Tall tales
and a cuppa



Artback NT and the City of Palmerston have joined forces for the council's Voices of Palmerston initiative.

Voices of Palmerston

Voices of

Palmerston is a new and exciting arts project focused on the people and places of Palmerston. It aims to capture and share the stories of everyday people living, working and playing in Palmerston. These stories may be told in many different ways and about a million different topics! So that your story can be shared with your friends, family and neighbours as well as the broader Palmerston and Top End community, the Council will be launching a brand new website called Voices of Palmerston.

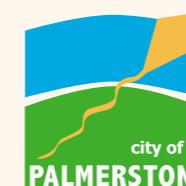


Artback NT

Artists on Tour

Artback NT's Artists

on Tour initiative is a high quality program supporting the development of established artists, young people and the community within their regional and remote location. The program is available for NT arts and community organisations and schools with options to book for one off or ongoing holiday workshops. Artback NT has brought together leading artists from across the Territory to deliver workshops around a range of art forms.



Tall tales and a cuppa

During her Artists

on Tour workshops, Gail Evans spent time in dialogue with two seniors groups in and around the Palmerston area: the 50+ Club and Mulligas and Cudgeries. These intimate one on one conversations provided a unique space to share and uncover the vibrant lives of people from the Palmerston region. 'Tall tales and a cuppa' are their stories.

All photos by Eve Pawlik,
unless otherwise credited.



Australian Government

Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund

Anne Marie Leutwiler

Coming to Australia from Switzerland in 1969 as part of an initiative to attract more immigrants – Anne Marie paid \$25 and signed a contract to stay for two years. A nurse in Switzerland, she became a registered nurse in Australia, and with one year left on her contract, went travelling round the country with her former partner. Anne Marie found herself in Darwin and survived Cyclone Tracy, despite bricks falling into her unit – she and her new husband went to work the next day at the hospital and power station. Now living in Bees Creek, Anne Marie is buoyed by the wide open spaces of the place she calls home...



What brought you to Australia? I was born in Switzerland and I came to Australia in 1969, because there was a special program that the Australian Government organised to attract more immigrants into the country. All we had to do was pay \$25 for the trip and sign a contract saying we would stay for two years. The trip was by plane. I came here with my first husband, but nobody else from the family came with us.

What happened when you arrived? We landed in Sydney and then were taken to hostels in the old army barracks at the Villawood near Liverpool. That was fine with us. We just stayed there and looked for jobs and learnt the language, because we didn't know any English or anything!

I was a registered nurse in Switzerland, but I couldn't initially get a job as a nurse as they told me I had to learn English first, which was fair enough. I worked as a nurse's aide for six months, and then they recognised my Swiss Red Cross diploma and I became a registered nurse in Australia.

What happened next? After twelve months in Sydney we decided to go travelling around Australia, as we had a year to go on our contract, and we ended up in Darwin. Here's me - still here forty years later! We stayed in Darwin for three years, but then our relationship went a bit sour and things happened, so I went back to Sydney and stayed for nearly a year and returned to Darwin in 1974.

Then I met my new partner at the caravan park. He is also Swiss. We were friends for a while first. He worked at the

power station at Stokes Hill. I went back to work at the old Darwin Hospital in medical... surgical... all the different wards. Then we went through Cyclone Tracy!

Can you tell me about your cyclone experience? When the cyclone hit we were with friends having dinner. After dinner we went home to our unit in the city, a top floor flat, at about twelve. It was already windy. We taped up all the windows and listened to the radio but we weren't too concerned because we had never been in a cyclone before. It was just big wind and lots of rain!

So we went to bed, until things started blowing in through the window and things started disintegrating around us.

We got up and went two floors down, because we had bricks falling into our unit. They had put show bricks in front of the windows! They didn't know how bad it would be. We stayed in the flat underneath, and the whole night the building shook with these tremors.

After the cyclone we assessed the damage: the lounge room was destroyed from the bricks but some roof was left over the bedroom so we could sleep there without getting wet. All the cupboards and drawers had swelled up so we couldn't open them.

We weren't evacuated because we were essential services. The day after we both went straight back to work - I went to the hospital and my husband went to the power station. So we stayed living in our broken flat. The friends we had spent

Christmas Eve with were evacuated and they told us we could live in their house. It was an elevated house, from the cyclone their house was gone on top. We put a caravan underneath the floorboards. That is where our first daughter was born in 1975.

What are your recollections of the old hospital? It was a very user-friendly hospital. Lots of different demountables, and lots of greenery around. We had movies outside where the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal patients went out on the grass and watched movies. Very different to the hospital we have now. I mainly worked in intensive care which is really really interesting, but it is quite high stress. The people there, the staff, they have this incredible, weird sense of humour, because they deal with death and really horrible trauma every single day. That stays in my mind.

Have there been many changes to Palmerston in your time? When I first moved here there wasn't much here at all. It didn't have a very good reputation from the Darwin point of view, or even from the rural point of view, because there weren't that many people or that many houses. But then it just grew and got better! Living out in Bees Creek now for over 30 years, we want to die here. All our children grew up here, had all these animals on the 26 acres - snakes, chickens, rabbits, horses. As the animals aged and died, we never replaced them just let them live out their days. My husband's man shed is where he does his leather work and stone polishing, I used to make clay work pots, and sculptures until my arthritis became worse.



Any personal highlights? My husband and I have been married for 44 years and we're still going strong! Both our daughters were born in Darwin and still live in the Territory - one right here in Palmerston too! The climate here is great, and we have lots of personal freedom compared to Switzerland, which is a very small country. In Switzerland, because there are so many people, and lots of mountains and lakes, the area where people can live is actually quite restricted. So we have rules, and more rules. Lots and lots of restrictions, for fishing, for sports, just for living.

So this is like wide open spaces! ■



Mark Hunter

He can still remember the sweet burning smell from his childhood in Nightcliff when his neighbours would burn off in their backyard - this was a time when there were no fans in houses in Darwin. Mark recorded an album at his home with Skinnyfish Music, he calls himself a backyard singer, and is happy for people to take his songs and sing them. From Nutwood Downs where he worked as a Jackeroo to hanging out with his mate Johnny in his EH, Mark has led a fascinating life...

Can you tell me about your childhood? I was born in Darwin. My first abode was at Knuckey's Lagoon in Berrimah, my old man had a block there and that was like the rural area back then. I can still remember it, we left there when I was about four.

We moved to Nightcliff in the early 60's and it was new then, all new subdivisions. We lived in Frangipani Street. I can still remember the smell, the burning smell, because that was all jungle then and the neighbours used to burn off in their garden and it was a real nice sweet kind of smell, maybe there was some sandalwood in there.

We lived there a couple of years and then we moved to Millner after me and my brother burned the garden shed down playing with matches... that was our relations block.

Growing up in Darwin, we had no fans in our rooms and when we moved to Millner we had no fly-screens only louvres, you'd just lie on your bed and when you feel that cool breeze coming before a storm - you never forget that.

What about your teenage years? I started doing a spray painting apprenticeship when I was fifteen, but it only lasted a couple of months. I had a couple of days off, then I felt too shame to go back to work because I knew the Boss was going to bore it up me in front of every one, so I took another day off and then I wasn't game to go back at all then.

So I thought 'How am I going to get out of this?'

There was this mob up town, not sure what they were called, but they were an agency and they did all the hiring for Vestey's stations, so I thought I'd do that, go bush, take

off, because the old man would go off if he found out I'd left me job. I went in there and they said yeah, you can go to Nutwood Downs as a jackeroo, so I got on a bus a couple of days later and went there.

There was one horse there that I used to ride that I used to be scared of, he had really wild eyes, I'd sat on a horse before I went there, but I'd never really rode one. A good stockman would have recognised he was a good stockhorse, but I didn't know, I was just scared of it. It threw me a couple of times.

Anyway, one day the overseer noticed I wasn't riding him and he said 'You're riding Plonk today' and I said 'No, I'm not' and he said, 'Well you're sacked!' I went back to the camp, sulking, had tears in my eyes too. He came back later and told me I didn't have to go, but I was still sulking. I'd made my mind up, so I left and came back to town.

What happened next? After that I did a lot of different things, jobs all over the place. I never stayed in any job for a long time. Lot of us mob were like that, we'd work for a little while and then work somewhere else. You'd hitchhike all around Darwin looking for jobs and go to all the places where you knew there was work and you'd just keep doing that until somebody gives in and gives you a job.

How did you spend your leisure time? When I was a teenager we all used to go to Freshwater at Rapid Creek. Everybody used



to go there, because it was the only swimming hole close to Darwin. There was a lot of going bush, we used to go shooting wallabies, it was legal then, or pigs and geese when it was the season, but the big thing really was just going out there.

For entertainment I used to drive around with my mate Johnny in his EH. We used to just drive around and around, you'd go uptown, drive up the main street, see what was going on up there, drive to the Dolphin Hotel, see who was there, then you'd go the Berrimah Hotel, look in there for a while, then when it's getting a bit late you go to the 24 hr service station at Airport gates, see what's going on there. Now and then there'd be a fight or something, at the Dolphin

there was usually a fight. I've written a song about the Dolphin just recently.

So you're a musician? I've always been musical minded, but I never got professional. When I was growing up a lot of people used to play guitar, like at parties and that. I actually got sick of every time I went to a party people wanting me to sing. You never got time to just sit down and just talk. Sometimes you don't want to be in the centre, just hide around in the shadows.

How do you spend your time? I write and record songs. I come to 'Mulligas and Cudgeries' once a week and we get together, have a feed and a chat, every second week is Karaoke. We also have a NAIDOC do and a Christmas do.

My culture is old Darwin culture and we still act like that.

Any personal highlights? I made an album with Skinnyfish Music, but I recorded it at home, I wouldn't go in there, I'm too shy, I get stage-fright. They usually send their artists to Melbourne to record, but I didn't want to go.

I call myself a backyard singer. I don't want to be an entertainer, I just want people to take my songs and sing them, that's what they're there for. 

Edwin Cross



Edwin was on the first plane to fly to Australia, everyone else before him came by ship. With an English accent so thick, Edwin became Ted – during the week he worked at the Snowy calibrating instruments but on the weekend, he was a professional wrestler competing for money. Edwin was a workaholic, chasing a dollar all around Australia, and found himself in Tennant Creek starting a relationship and a building company. These days Edwin still does weights, but he also grows desert roses and orchids, and is experimenting grafting different flower colours together so you have different species on the same plant. The hardiness of these plants appeals to Edwin; he likes how they thrive in harsh environments...

What brought you to Australia? I was born in Bolton, that's in the north-west of England.

I was doing an apprenticeship as an electrician. I had a lady friend and she was going to go to Peru with her family, so that's where I was going to go. I applied for jobs, got jobs, but I had to speak Spanish and I have trouble speaking English! So then I was going to go to New Zealand, but the friend I was going with backed out and it was £10 to come to Australia and £25 to go to New Zealand, so I came here, being a tight Pom.

I got here in 1962 as soon as I finished my apprenticeship. I'd worked on guided missiles and I came to Australia to work at Woomera of all places. I came on the first plane to fly here; before that, everyone came by ship. There were 125 people on the plane, mostly teenagers, all single, I was twenty one and it was a laugh a minute.

What happened when you arrived? We were sent to Bondi. I couldn't go to Woomera straightaway as that didn't start till December, so I went to the Snowy and worked there calibrating instruments. I used to be a big weight-lifter, I trained 30 hours a week and they used to bring wrestlers up from Sydney, so on the weekends I was a professional wrestler, competing for money. People when I first got here couldn't say my name properly because my accent was so thick, so Edwin became Eddie which became Ted.

What happened next? I went back to Sydney and I worked in a gym. Then a friend of mine from Manchester, he had a 25-acre farm

outside of Sydney, he was in dire straits so I bought it off him.

And then I went money mad, you'd go down the road for a job for a pound a week, so you'd chase the money. I went down to Whyalla, then I went over to Dampier and I was the Union delegate for the ETU. We had a big strike over working conditions, and management was going to move me, so I went back to Sydney.

I went back to the farm, I was married then and we had a daughter and we bought her a horse. We had it a few weeks and it had a foal and then we bought another one and then I bought a racehorse, a stallion, it didn't do any good, then we bought an Arab. We finished up with 30 horses, the farm was called the Dude Ranch.

But I was a workaholic, I chased the dollar all over Australia.

Then me and the wife drifted apart, it was fine, all very nice, she had the kids and the horses I kept working.

When did you come to the Territory? I came to Darwin 35 years ago and it was pretty wild and woolly back then.

Then I went to Tennant Creek and that went real good, it was booming and the population went from 3000 to 9000. We built a new fire station, a new police station and the high school. I had a company called Tennant Creek Builders, a hardware shop, a video shop and a number of flats. I tried to build a caravan park but due to a number of things and bureaucracy it fell through.

I met the partner I'm with now in Tennant Creek. She's an Indigenous woman from Alice Springs, so I went down to Alice and formed a building company.

Where else have you lived? I've worked in communities for the last twenty five years, building houses using local labour and my wife works in health on communities. We lived in Kalkarindji, Wave Hill for a few years. I remember collecting orchids that would grow in the hollow of the trees. It's one of those places where you find things that's surprise you like that. It is why I like living in community.

I was involved with CDP training with the local Indigenous people and we'd train them up and then they'd build the houses. I built 30 houses a year all with Indigenous people I'd trained.

How do you spend your time? I couldn't retire. I tried twice. It's hard when you've been busy all your life. My wife's still working and I'll travel with her to communities when we can drive there. I still train my weights, it's always been a part of my life. I still work, I grow desert roses and orchids, selling them from the house in Palmerston. My wife grows them too, one side of the house are her orchids and desert roses, the other is mine. My wife wants me to get rid of some of mine, just focus on the special ones. The ones where I graft different



flower colours together so you have different species on the same plant. I like them because they are tough plants, hardy, you can throw them into that harsh environment and they thrive. ■



Phillip Quall

A good shot with a shanghai, Larrakia man Phillip remembers getting up to some mischief as a kid in Darwin - raiding the local fish trap, pinching chooks from people's yards and crafting canoes from the roof of Sydney Williams huts. It was a good life growing up at Parap Camp in Stuart Park: exploring the bush, fishing and crabbing at Dinah Beach, and swimming in Rapid Creek. As an older man, Phillip worked many odd jobs - on a garbage truck, at the abattoir, the hospital, and labouring here and there. A fan of the local music scene he and his mates were familiar with all the old pubs: The Dolphin, Lim's, Sea-breeze, and Hotel Darwin. Phillip played in the rugby league team the 'Brothers'. He could have made it big with 'East' in Brisbane but his missus had other ideas...

Can you tell me about your childhood? I was born in the old Darwin Hospital in 1950. I've got two brothers and two sisters, I'm the third eldest. My Mum's Larrakia, my Father he's from Adelaide. I grew up mainly in Stuart Park, at Parap Camp, in an old Sidney Williams hut, down near Dinah Beach there. There were about thirty or forty huts. It was good living there. Mum made a partition inside, she used to have church in the front there and run Sunday School and we lived in the back.

There was a lot of bush around then, we used to walk down to the gully and shoot birds with a shanghai. I had a little bag and I'd put all little stones in it, marbles and that.

We'd sit up in the trees and wait for the birds to come and knock them down, then we'd pluck them and chop their heads off and cook them up. I was a pretty good shot. Sometimes we'd jump on me uncles truck and go out shooting geese, pluck 'em and sit down and have a big feed.

There was a big hill out the back and we used to walk down to Dinah beach and go fishing and crabbing, Mum mob used to sit around there all day and fish and hunt and get cockles and mussels and all that. Us kids used to get the timber and corrugated iron off them Sydney Williams huts and fold it up and make canoes, carry them all the way down to the Beach.

Them old Darwin mob, they used to have fish traps and we used to go raid them. Paddle over to the trap, cut a little hole,

chuck the line in, pull up all the snapper and other fish. Then it would get late and we could hear their car coming, because that's when the tide was turning and they were coming to empty the trap, but we'd emptied out all the fish! We used to paddle out into the mangroves when they came so they couldn't catch us.

We used to get up to a bit of mischief, sometimes pinch people's chooks on the way home.

What did you do in your teenage years? I ended up running away from school and getting a job on a garbage truck. I also worked at the abattoir and did labouring, parks and gardens, worked at the hospital too. We'd moved out to Rapid Creek then, Mum mob. We used to go swimming at freshwater and we'd go to the pubs. The Dolphin, Lim's, Sea-breeze, Fannie Bay pub, Hotel Darwin - we used to go everywhere, listen to all them bands. Do some dancing.

We used to go down the beach, light a fire, sit down, have a big sing along, drink and yarn. Have a swim at Rapid Creek at night time in the Yankee pool there. I used to play rounders and basketball. I played football and rugby. I used to play with 'Brothers' here in Darwin in the seventies. I used to play half back.

I could of went to Brisbane and played with East. My Missus was at work and my mate come to my place in his FJ Holden and he said "C'mon, you want to come to Brisbane?"



I packed my gear, but my Missus she just come around the corner, she worked at the hospital and she come home that lunchtime and she called out “Where the heck you mob going?” She caught us, so I didn’t go. But my mate he went and ended up playing for East.

What's one of your favourite memories? Living at Croker Island, living over there with my Auntie Dulcie Williams. I was there for about 5 years, working in the powerhouse, doing labouring, driving machinery, graders and all that. Used to come back on the weekends, see my mates. It was good there, real beautiful, good hunting.

Can you tell me about your life these days? I been in Palmerston a long time now, moved down here with my Missus. There wasn't many people here in them days. I got big family here, all over Darwin. The Llew Fatts, the Ahmats, my Grandfather is Jaffa Ahmat. My Grandfather wrote that song “Old TI”. I got two kids and six grandkids. I'm a pensioner now. I had a triple bypass. I'm sixty-seven. I walk up the top here, go to the shopping centre, go for a drive.

I been in Mulligas and Cudgeries since it first started, I know all this mob long time.

We come here, talk to everyone, have karaoke. I never sing.

The only time I sing is down at my old footie club ‘Old Buffaloes never die’.

That's my favourite song. 🎵

Ann Brown

Midwife Ann arrived in Adelaide from freezing Glasgow in Scotland in 1966, and found a job within a few days. Following sunshine and jobs, Ann ended up in Alice Springs where she worked at the hospital in accident and emergency, in awe of the toughness of patients. Working at the time of the East Timor occupation in 1999, Ann saw 2,000 refugees arrive in Darwin and worked to prepare the eventual Tent City at the Greek Club in Marrara; three weeks of organised chaos ensued. Nowadays Ann is hugely involved in senior's community groups, and was awarded the Palmerston Citizen of the Year for her contributions...



What brought you to Australia? I was a nurse with midwifery training and I was going to work one day on the bus in Glasgow Scotland, with frozen feet and frozen ears and frozen hands and I thought there must be something better in the world than this!

My mother's sister lived in Adelaide, and she found out that I could come out to Australia for ten pounds, so in 1966, at the age of 25, I came out to Adelaide to do nursing.

What happened when you arrived? I was here for a few days and thought I better contact a local hospital and see if there were any jobs around, so I called up the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woodville and they asked if I could come in for an interview that morning. So I brought in all the paperwork, not knowing what was going to happen... and they asked if I could start at three o'clock that afternoon! They were desperate for staff back then.

Did you have any specific plans? My idea was to travel around Australia, so I went to Sydney with one of the girls I'd befriended and worked in the Royal Hospital for Women in Paddington. I lived in the nurse's quarters, and all the money I'd saved in Adelaide I spent in Sydney, it was very expensive for young people.

After six months I thought, OK, I'll go up to Brisbane, so I got on the bus and off I went. When I arrived it was bucketing with rain and I thought it was a miserable place, I went into

the employment bureau and asked the chap if there was any chance of any jobs further north, where there's sunshine.

And there was.

At Home Hill, a little country hospital with fourteen beds, out past Townsville. I got on the bus that afternoon, got to the lovely little hospital up there.

I actually met my husband in Home Hill, but he was just a boyfriend then. After six months I told him I was going to Alice Springs, he came after I settled in. I worked in Alice Springs Hospital for a time in accident and emergency and that was quite an experience.

What are your main recollections of working there? The toughness of some of the people. People would come in with some terrible injuries or broken limbs that they'd had for a couple of days. There were also a lot of Aboriginal patients who had Tuberculosis and they were really good at painting, like Albert Namatjira style. I was given three beautiful little paintings by one of the artists, but we lost them in Cyclone Tracy.

Can you tell me about when you worked as a nurse in Darwin? I remember working during the East Timor situation, 1999. The Darwin community was well aware of the situation in East Timor, we were seeing the horrific scenes on TV. When it was decided to evacuate 2,000 refugees to Darwin a large network of people worked together to prepare Tent City at the Greek Club grounds.

We set up a triage area to deal with over close to 50% of the refugees who were really sick, all were dehydrated. We had three weeks of organized chaos. It was most frustrating not being able to speak the language, mostly Tetun. We had some very dedicated translators who worked around the clock but we did not have enough.

We had six babies born in the first two weeks. By the time the refugees were transported to other states, the majority were in good health. It was an unbelievable time.

How do you spend your time now? When I first moved here, my neighbours invited me to come and play community carpet bowls, which I knew nothing about, but I went along and now I run it! Twenty five seniors attend each week and we also do fundraising throughout the year and go on different excursions.

I also set up carpet croquet. I got funding from WayneZerbe of PRBA and twenty of us play once a week at a big carpeted area at the fitness centre at the pool. Last year I won the finals!

Around that same time I was also instrumental in setting up the 50+ Club at the Gray Community Hall, and it has come on in leaps and bounds since then. We have more than forty members and they come every Tuesday, we play cards and scrabble, do craft, go on outings, have quizzes, play



bingo, have guest speakers and a big Christmas party for over a hundred people.

I've also been on the Senior Advisory Committee for the past five years. It has representatives from over thirty different seniors' clubs and we meet with Council every six weeks to discuss different issues. All of this time with the community meant I was awarded the Palmerston Citizen of the Year! ■

John ‘Sambo’ Damaso

You might have seen Sambo around Darwin before; with a red kerchief tied around his neck, Sambo spent months walking back and forth along Dick Ward Drive to ward off a family curse. Never living far from the ocean it’s no surprise his family has a history of working on the high seas. Coming from an old Larrakia family, Sambo enjoys a good yarn...

Photo by Mark Hunter



Can you tell me about your family? I was born in Darwin. I've got three brothers and two sisters. I'm the oldest brother. I'm twenty years older than my youngest brother. We were really close, when we grew up.

I grew up Fannie Bay, Stuart Park, Darwin, Larrakia, all over. Toured the lot. As a traditional owner I got a right to. There's only seven Larrakia families left. Three hundred brothers and sisters.

My mother was part of the Stolen Generation. Her two Aboriginal parents came from Daly River. When the war came to Darwin, they got evacuated down south and the cold killed them. They are buried in Elizabeth (South Australia).

My grandfather was Basil 'Babe' Damaso, an Aboriginal Filipino. He was born in 1910, out at Borroloola. His father was a Filipino Trepanger working in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

That's why I've got the nice skin! Filipino skin, Aboriginal face.

My father started working on the wharves at sixteen years of age, a boy working with men. So he learned how to drink and swear and carry on. It was all manual labour in those days. All the hand luggage was hauled in wire nets. He pulled himself up and got his fork-lift license.

My old man was rough as guts. He drank like a wharfie. And wharfies in the fifties would have been rough as s***! And back then men were men! So I grew up when boys were boys,

and men were men. But the drinking took its toll. He lost both of his legs. I had to push him around in wheelchair for six and half years. His pain was my pain.

Do you believe I had a family curse? All the way back from the second century AD. The curse was the eldest son of the eldest son has to pay his debt, he's got to cope with witchcraft and sorcery... and the debt was that the eldest son of the eldest son couldn't do a trick right. That was me, I couldn't do a trick.

My life was s*** for years! I had to get rid of that curse.

So I walked... For five years, twenty kilometres a day. Just walk, walk, walk, walk, walk. Seven days a week. Never missed a day. My birthday, Christmas day - didn't matter. Didn't drink alcohol, just drank water. I had to walk until I was done because I made a promise to myself, you know, that I'd beat that f***ing curse... and I did! I'm over a hundred kilos now but I got down to seventy-five from all that walking.

How did Mulligas and Cudgeries come about? All of us fellas got together, and said 'How come everyone else has got their club? There's a Timorese club, Italian club, Greek club, Portuguese club, but how come we got no blackfella club?'

So we said 'Let's do something about this, boys.' And that's how it started.

So we used to meet at Yilli Rreung, out the back of Casuarina. Surrounded by bush... demountables everywhere.



Talk and carry on... like the old Darwin style. People would bring a plate of food, someone brings a bowl of rice, someone a stew. Drinks. And we'd be yarning, carrying on, talking, playing music... old Darwin sing-a-long... you don't see it no more.

Then we moved to the Nightcliff Youth Centre. Then we got this place in Palmerston a year ago. We meet every Thursday night. Every payday night, Les Huddleston brings his music box, his speakers, flashing lights, he just comes in. Plays whatever, you know. Put a request in? He goes 'Yeah brother, just go through my things and here it is!'

It's a good thing. Good food... good people... have a good yarn! ☕



Gail Evans

Gail Evans is a director, writer and actor based in Darwin. She has trained overseas in Anne Bogart's Viewpoints method of direction, which focuses on space, shape and movement to generate a deep connection to truthful and honest actor delivery. She works regularly with young and Indigenous people regionally, remotely and overseas through Corrugated Iron Youth Arts and has a history of excellence in her directorial process and product. Gail has extensive experience in delivering directing workshops.