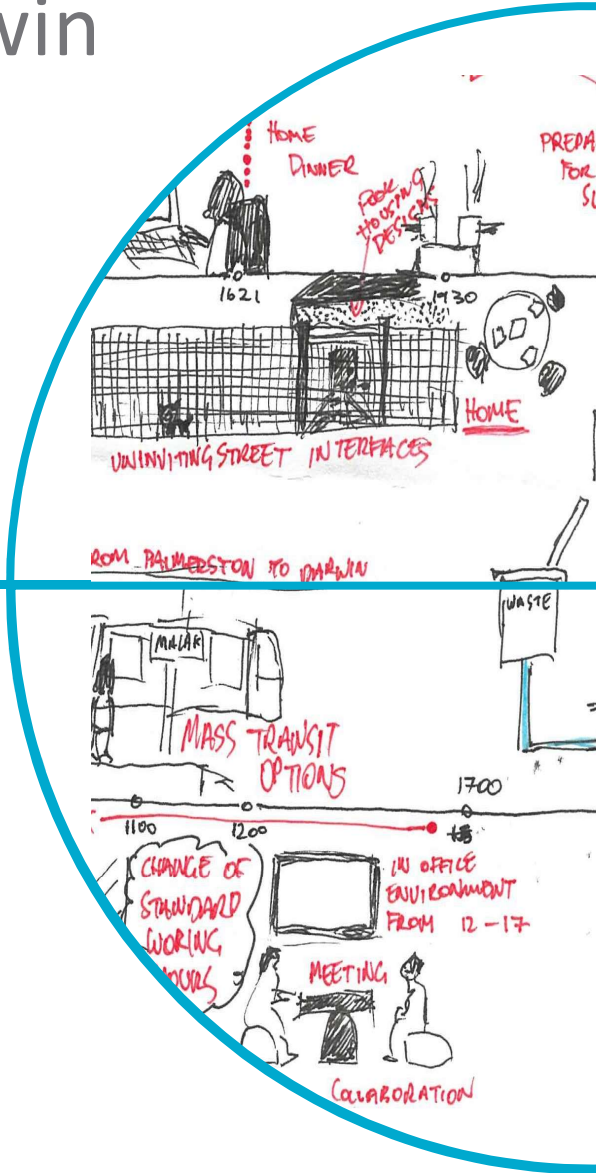




Thriving and Cool Darwin

A Day in the Life 2030



Urban Design and Heat Mitigation in the Tropics

13 December 2019. Charles Darwin University, Waterfront Campus, Darwin

About

This report was delivered as part of the work of the Darwin Living Lab and was carried out by CSIRO with the assistance of Village Well. The Darwin Living Lab was established to foster improvements in the liveability, sustainability and resilience of the city. The Darwin Living Lab is an initiative under the Darwin City Deal and is a 10-year collaboration between CSIRO and the partners of the Darwin City Deal: Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and the City of Darwin. The City Deal was signed by the Prime Minister of Australia, Chief Minister of the Northern Territory and Lord Mayor of the City of Darwin in November 2018.

More information and contacts available at: <https://research.csiro.au/darwinlivinglab/>

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the greater Darwin region, the Larrakia people, and recognise their culture, history and connection to this land and water. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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Contents

1	A Thriving, Cool Capital of the North.....	5
2	A Day in the Life Narratives	6
2.1	Altered work hours, mass transit and 100% renewable energy homes	6
2.2	Integrated tropical design and community connectedness in outdoor spaces....	6
2.3	Off-grid home, in an accepting and safe society where arts are valued and active transport encouraged	6
2.4	Driverless vehicles, digitally-enabled and troubled mob assisted	7
2.5	A renewable and bright city featuring colourful trees and water	7
2.6	A tropical garden where community meets.....	8
2.7	A friendly, safe and inclusive city	8
2.8	Cool, green, welcoming and sustainable.....	8
2.9	The land of endless summer (and petrol-heads)	9
2.10	Wildlife-friendly Darwin	9
2.11	Cooling, greening and bringing marketplaces outside.....	10
2.12	Up at midday, living tropical, story-telling and embracing the hovercraft.....	10
2.13	Harbour-focus, less cars, and all-season festival days	10
2.14	Walking in shade via public markets and comfortable at 27°C.....	11
2.15	Green canopy; public and active transport	11
2.16	Wild Darwin	11
2.17	Working and living at night	12
2.18	Creative and green with an empowered indigenous population	12
2.19	The simple and local life: starting and finishing the day outdoors	12
2.20	Community hub, community garden, family sunsets	12
2.21	Loving local and a culturally and environmentally aware Darwin	13
2.22	Rich culture beyond crocodiles	13
2.23	A safe, green and local Darwin	14
2.24	Naturally cooled, fine local food and free public transport.....	15
2.25	Dynamic at night and encouraging cultural exchange	15
2.26	Green with trees and a unique and vibrant trading culture	16
2.27	Underground train hubs, colourful and peaceful streets.....	16
2.28	Meditating in nature, living locally.....	16

2.29	Digitally-connected, wearing sarongs & thongs and joining-in.....	17
2.30	Life is for living.....	17
2.31	Quirky and fun, sustainable and active at night.....	17
2.32	A social place: multicultural, responsible and accepting	18

1 A Thriving, Cool Capital of the North

The CSIRO-led Darwin Living Lab was announced as part of the Darwin City Deal in November 2018 and involves a ten-year collaboration with all three tiers of government in Darwin that will test and monitor new ways to improve Darwin's liveability, sustainability and resilience in the wet/dry tropics.

A key objective of the Darwin Living Lab is to support innovative, climate-appropriate responses to heat mitigation and tropical urban design that not only informs future development in Darwin but builds local tropical city knowledge and expertise that can be exported to cities that face similar heat migration challenges, such as tropical areas of the Asia-Pacific region.

The Inception workshop for the Darwin Living Lab was held on 7-8 March 2019 and a vision for Darwin to be a ***'Thriving, Cool Capital of the North'*** was co-developed in conjunction with 26 representatives from Northern Territory Government, City of Darwin, Commonwealth Government, Bureau of Meteorology, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Charles Darwin University, Power and Water Corporation, and CSIRO.

The Inaugural Darwin Living Lab Annual Science Symposium brought together experts, local community and practitioners to transfer knowledge developed from Living Lab activities and collaboratively identify priorities for further experimentation in heat mitigation and urban design. The Symposium was attended by more than 75 participants on Day 1 and more than 50 participants on Day 2.

During a session facilitated by Gilbert Rochecouste, Founder and Director of Village Well, participants were asked to consider what a 'Day in the Life' would look like when living in Thriving and Cool Darwin into the future; what is their vision, what 'rituals' would take place and what will be the 'great things' about Darwin in 2030. This document captures the narratives developed by attendees¹ at Day two of the Symposium, held on 13th December 2019.

The workshop was approved by the CSIRO's Human Research Ethics Committee (#181/19)².

This report is intended to be made publicly available to assist the people of Darwin to continue conversations about their visions for the future.s

¹ Note that all attempts were made to use the raw inputs and text from attendees. In some stories minor modifications were made to improve grammar and flow of text to allow for broader comprehension.

² Within CSIRO ethics approval we disclose that one or more of the Darwin Living Lab project team owns property in Darwin.

2 A Day in the Life Narratives

2.1 Altered work hours, mass transit and 100% renewable energy homes

Time is valued differently in the future - where working hours are changed to suit the Darwin climate and typical activities are available in the cooler hours of the day.

I arrive home from work at 7 pm and cook dinner using biogas generated from household waste and captured rainwater. At 8:00 pm the family goes out to children's sport, then we do our night shopping and entertainment, enjoying the cooler evening climate. Most retail shops remain open until 12 am. Returning home at midnight we relax before bed at 1:30 am. After sleep I'm ready to work from 9 - 11 am, which I do under the shade of a tall garden tree and my verandah. At 11 am I catch a mass transit option from Palmerston to the Darwin CBD, ready to work from 12 – 5:30 pm.

2.2 Integrated tropical design and community connectedness in outdoor spaces

I live in an appropriate tropically-designed home that sits within an integrated built and natural environment that supports people, biodiversity and the outdoor lifestyle which I enjoy. Community connectedness also benefits and has led to a more welcoming society.

The workforce has also changed to suit the environment. Those working outdoors do not work in the heat of the day, but those working inside an office continue to work through the heat due to cooling natural ventilation.

The rituals we undertake are:

- going to dinner in an outdoor restaurant and connecting with community
- attending vibrant community events in public places.

The great things about Darwin are:

- community events
- ability to take pets to public spaces
- outdoor lifestyle
- community connectedness.

2.3 Off-grid home, in an accepting and safe society where arts are valued and active transport encouraged

I wake and acknowledge Larrakia country. I leave my shared living environment, an off-grid building where I have my own bed, outside bath and kitchen. There are no fences and I have a shared garden that grows our food – I share this space with the young, the old, the rich and the poor. I collect a banana and mango from the street orchard, then catch the bus, loading up my bike for the trip. The bus-drivers uniform was designed by Larrakia. From the bus-stop I ride my bike the rest of the way to work.

I work in a shared space with fellow creatives, then cycle around the city to get to my various meetings. I utilise public shower facilities before going out for the night. I attended an exhibition opening where the

government has paid the artist for the development of their work. I pay (because I can – if you can't afford it you don't have to pay) to attend a showcase of local and NT musicians on the water. I eat food from any and all cultures that call this place home. People clash, talk, get to know one another – and no one speaks of 'anti-social' behaviour. I cycle home and pass affordable and accommodating housing in the inner suburbs. I cycle through a continuous stream of tree-lined streets. I arrive to my local bar/coffee shop to catch a drink at closing time. I walk my bike home with no fear as a woman – what a revolution.

2.4 Driverless vehicles, digitally-enabled and troubled mob assisted

I came into Darwin yesterday with my auntie who needs to have day surgery. The trip was a bit scary down the Arnhem Highway in one of those buses with no driver. I was so relieved to get to the new hostel that allows us to stay with our mob in the one place. Even though it is the warm season we sat outside in the family circle to share our stories and concerns about why we were in town. Ever since they introduced the managed alcohol program the picture has changed for a lot of our troubled mob. Now they stay safe and out of the city. I don't feel so much shame when I walk around now – less humbug for me too.

I used the free WiFi to log into my website and check the sales from my online shop. It is so handy to not have to stop work while I visit town. I made some appointments with some international buyers who happened to be in Darwin too. In the morning I will take my auntie to hospital in another of those cabs with no drivers – I like them better than the buses. The Translation App really helps us understand at the surgery.

The rituals we undertake are:

- checking the Weather App to understand extremes and where I will spend my time during the hot part of the day
- connect with global partners and investors for my bespoke craft business
- putting jugs of water into the fridge because tap water is so hot

The great things about Darwin are:

- safe and cool outdoor spaces for different and multiple cultures to relax
- incredible sunsets (because of increased shoulder seasons)
- increased bird life, internationally renowned.

2.5 A renewable and bright city featuring colourful trees and water

I'm an office worker in 2029. As I walk around the city its covered in a thick canopy of palms, poinciana and jacaranda's. I can buy fresh produce at lunch that is grown vertically and embraces multicultural cuisine. The streets are shady. Water features are everywhere. Shade and water is featured in artistic styles. People sit in outside café's and restaurants and street vendors are open at all hours of the day and night. Old and young people mix and interact throughout the city.

The transport to connect the greater Darwin region to the CBD is fast, clean and efficient. There are less cars as a result.

Indigenous art is everywhere through murals and sculpture. The rock pools on the esplanade are filled with people and I can swim in one on my lunch break.

The city is connected to the harbour and Mandorah is a short ferry ride connected to the CBD. People like to visit and look back across the water to the green, vibrant and artistic features with beautiful solar-run lighting.

Darwin city is the leader nationally in smart city lighting, safety, and it's run on renewables and is known as the tropical city capital of Australia.

Population and retention of people is achieved, but still with a laid-back entrepreneurial spirit. It's the only place you'd want to live.

2.6 A tropical garden where community meets

My day begins with yoga and meditation in the botanical gardens, then I walk back home via mist and tree-filled gardens with edible food, taking in breakfast along the way. I have a shower from recycled and desalinated water that is powered by renewable energy. I cycle to work along a car-free shaded path and enter a ventilated, green filled work place. I have lunch in a cool air flowing plaza square and there is lots of conversation and innovation as we share with people doing different jobs and seek input into what we are working on. Following lunch I have a siesta, rest and meditate again in one of the cool, quiet and green-filled soft resting places.

After work I attend a community shared meal in a cool space where there are water play opportunities. Sometimes I go to the CBD community garden and the new water and energy efficiency demonstration park.

The rituals we undertake are:

- weekend brunch places where sharing and swapping of resources, ideas, and connection happens
- new safe swimming places in the harbour combines food, kids, dogs and swimming
- everyone bikes or walks to work, and shared electric cars are used for further travel

The great things about Darwin are:

- Incredible sunsets
- basket market and weaving with first nations
- Celebrating multicultural.

2.7 A friendly, safe and inclusive city

Recycling is organised at a household level and feeds into local SME's and specialist exports. There are lots of well-designed public spaces for gathering, and in addition, there are strategically-located airconditioned points that provide a break from the hot weather. These are both indoor and outdoor spaces and there are many air-conditioned café's that allow people to linger. There is frequent and efficient public transport, so only have a need for a personal car once a week to carry large items or do multiple destination trips.

Darwin is green and vegetated in all seasons, and is diverse with birds and animals. All are respected and accommodated in city planning and life. Larrakia people and culture valued and at the foreground of public life. It is a friendly, safe and inclusive city.

2.8 Cool, green, welcoming and sustainable

Darwin is green, leafy, cool and open, and I am an engaged person moving through the city's scaled environments and precincts. We gather in public places that are welcoming, diverse, safe and friendly – I feel relaxed.

We are smart and have used technology to enhance the quality of life for the whole population – making us more connected to our city and each other. We are prosperous through our knowledge culture, drawing on indigenous and other diverse histories of this place. We are 100% sustainable and contribute positively to the world environment. We have a closed circle of resources such as water and waste.

The rituals we undertake are:

- watching the sunset from the esplanade forest (which is cool, welcoming and grounding)
- swimming in the croc-free seawater pools
- celebrating arts and culture in mass

The great things about Darwin are:

- safe, cool, welcoming public precincts
- social, cultural and economic interchange with SE Asia through joint economic zones
- free, accessible public transport
- sustainable local food production
- open natural spaces accessible to all.

2.9 The land of endless summer (and petrol-heads)

By 2030 air traffic has increased to bring a steady flow of tourists to Darwin. The city centre targets most of its services towards backpackers. The image of Darwin as a ‘hell hole’ has turned to ‘the land of endless summer’ and is now attracting retirees from everywhere.

Darwin is the last place in Australia where gas is used, which attracts many conservatives and petrol-heads.

Now north of the ferocious cyclone belt, Darwin attracts survivors of destroyed cities such as Cairns and Karratha.

2.10 Wildlife-friendly Darwin

Darwin is a place where you can walk through extensive plantings of native species, including mangrove forests, wetlands, vine thickets and savanna – it is an ecosystem city built within nature. You can experience unique wildlife in the city, e.g. frill-neck lizards, green tree frogs, black-footed tree rats. It is a thriving ecosystem within the city where biodiversity is improving, and the community is educated and engaged with our unique nature.

Visitors come to Darwin to experience the unique integration of built and natural environments that are managed and informed by indigenous ecological knowledge. Spaces are created to maintain and enhance physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing, that embrace the unique culture and environment. People come to Darwin to ‘Reconnect with nature in the City’ – to have coffee with magpie geese, to eat locally-grown foods in urban food gardens, walk and cycle along shaded pathways. People are out of cars and interacting.

The rituals we undertake are:

- going to markets for breakfast, listening to music, sitting under shaded trees, catching up with people and buying locally-grown food
- watching the sunset over the ocean, seeing the bats fly out at night
- walk along the beach in the afternoon looking for hermit crabs, shells and exploring rockpools.

2.11 Cooling, greening and bringing marketplaces outside

I use public transport on most occasions. There are people in the city on a weekday morning with their kids, going for breakfast, exercising – the morning is being used. There are cool green outdoor spaces to meet up during the day and there are airconditioned areas and malls. There are increased outside places and mall type areas where people can shop – rather than shopping centres like Casuarina. There is improved integration between comfortable inside and outside spaces – and it's not a big shock when you come inside or go outside. Families and people are in the city in the afternoon past end of work. There are less people leaving Darwin and a less transient population

The rituals we undertake are:

- markets
- sitting on deckchairs
- using the early morning.

2.12 Up at midday, living tropical, story-telling and embracing the hovercraft

My day starts at midday when I get up in my apartment on Smith St. I have my green juice and a handful of pills before I head off on my electric hovercraft into the cool green tropical city mall. I park in the charge slot in the mall and have a delicious tropical fruit salad lunch amongst the orchids and colourful plants with my friends from many different countries.

After lunch I wonder over to the new CDU campus to mentor several students from overseas with my ancient wisdom and historical (hysterical) business in the 1990's stories.

I return and pick up my hovercraft and go home for a Siesta before getting ready to join the family for dinner where there are four generations of family and their spouses and children. The 'Uber' hovercraft picks us up for the short flight across the harbour to PeeWee's for the end of the sunset and dinner. We enjoy a virtual reality show of indigenous music and dance in the evening aided by airflow systems that create a cooling breeze.

The great things about Darwin are:

- a world class multicultural wellness village on the old Darwin hospital site – all set in a wonderful native garden designed and coordinated by the local Larrakia elders
- village kampongs from all of Darwin's original settlers – Japanese, Greek, Malaysians, Chinese – a special area set aside for an elder living facility for Larrakia elders with a feature of their health and wellness techniques
- a beautiful tropical mall running three blocks through the city.

2.13 Harbour-focus, less cars, and all-season festival days

Considerable effort has been made to improve connectivity of spaces like CBD to waterfront. There has been a focus on water features and a greater emphasis has been placed on the harbour as an attractor to the city – creating a natural harbour that draws people to it.

There has been a reduction on the reliance on cars, peak hour and car parking. It is now easier moving around using public transport, cycling and walking.

There has been significant greening of suburban streets as well as the CBD.

The expansion of the Darwin festival has expanded through investment into indoor and undercover spaces, allowing festivals to occur in the wet season and have built upon dry season activities which are now more

regular throughout the year. The sheltered areas allow celebration during the wet season. There is now increased social and cultural connection with people and events throughout the year – 365 days of Darwin. There has been a reconsideration of workplace hours, which are now more flexible. We embrace tropical even more and are less dependent on transferring southern views, designs and approaches – creating an unique Darwin identity.

2.14 Walking in shade via public markets and comfortable at 27°C

I am able to walk to work from Parap to the CBD, and basically the whole way under shade - I pass lots of people walking. I really appreciate being able to go via the public markets to get my food for the day. The markets are located within a permanent structure and are open day and night.

My building is passively cooled to about 27°C.

There's a thriving nightlife in multiple areas of the city and greater Darwin.

There are numerous clean, public showers and bathrooms around the city.

Local artwork is celebrated all over the city and is a talking point and provides meeting points for people.

The rituals we undertake are:

- walk in shaded streets to work
- visiting the urban farm

The great things about Darwin are:

- passively-cooled buildings.

2.15 Green canopy; public and active transport

When I looked at Darwin using Google Maps I got confused because I was looking at the city but it looked more like a forest as the green canopy was so green and extensive.

Darwin has achieved net-zero emissions and most people walk or cycle – passing people is friendly and it makes me feel good. There is a high rate of public transport usage and the city has removed on-road parking. There are many car-free streets and most roads are lined with large trees.

The rituals we undertake are:

- visit markets
- year-round community engagement activities such as Darwin Festival, etc.
- sweating on the way to work.

2.16 Wild Darwin

Darwin celebrates wildness of nature and has an overlay encouraging overgrowth. Darwin is wild in its vegetation layers. It has an organically-based equity that is illuminated by its history in its layout, its buildings, natural foods and environment etc. It displays a very low impact of humans and is truly multicultural. When people visit Darwin they are reminded of nature's importance. It has an authentic coast line reflecting natural times.

The rituals we undertake are:

- Appreciate natural events, such as sunrise, observation of noon and sunset.

2.17 Working and living at night

I can't believe that we used to have core working hours in the day time. On the weekend we'll go to the beach, we used to get sunburnt but now it's lit up with super LED's

"In Xanadu (Darwin) did Kublai Khan, a stately pleasure dome decree, where Alph the Sacred river ran through caverns measureless to man, down to a sunless sea."

The great things about Darwin are:

- swim in the harbour
- fish
- barter
- feel cool
- walk in the shaded streets.

2.18 Creative and green with an empowered indigenous population

In the morning I have a breakfast of fruits and vegetables sourced locally from the NT that is grown ethically and sustainably. I travel on public transport that runs on green hydrogen or electricity derived from a renewable energy source. During the day my work is dynamic, full of options and creative. In the evening there is a choice of markets, cultural events, social events and excellent restaurants. House prices and schools are good.

The great things about Darwin are:

- It's strong and resilient
- Empowered indigenous population.

2.19 The simple and local life: starting and finishing the day outdoors

I live a simple life and am surrounded by vegetation and wildlife that starts in the suburbs and extends into the city. I ride my bike and walk along shady paths. Arts and culture are on the street – public art is constantly changing and there are buskers, small sculptures, screen printing, jewellery and painting workshops scattered around. It feels like Darwin is shaped by the environment, recognises our culture and embraces innovation.

Most of my food is locally-sourced and seasonal. There are many small businesses close and accessible and I know the owners by name – there is no Woolworths or Dan Murphy's.

People spend a lot of time outside – I see a lot of people on the street and in the parks.

The rituals we undertake are:

- starting the day outdoors and finishing the day outdoors
- community food fests – based on markets, culture and sharing
- evening 'toast' to living in the best city in the world.

2.20 Community hub, community garden, family sunsets

Wake up and enjoy a coffee on the balcony whilst practicing meditation. Listen to the city start to wake and get the kids up and ready for school. Grab the dog and the kids and walk to the waterfront café for breakfast with friends. Drop the kids off at school and walk to work where the dog is welcome. Complete

the office-based activities in the morning and then return the dog home at lunch before continuing the day with meetings and site visits. Pick the kids up from school and take them for a swim before heading home for homework and emails/contacts for work.

Walk down to the community garden to nourish the food and flora growing there, and the kids take part and hang out at the community hub. We pick seasonal ingredients for dinner and then walk down to markets for things that we don't have. We cook on the rooftop garden and watch the sunset – winding down for the day.

Have the babysitter look after the kids whilst they are asleep and meet friends for a drink (not always alcohol) and take part in dance or trivia. Go home and start again.

The rituals we undertake are:

- connect with people
- connect with food
- connect with family

The great things about Darwin are:

- togetherness
- seasonality
- connection to growth lifecycle.

2.21 Loving local and a culturally and environmentally aware Darwin

In the morning I go for a short walk to get a Vietnamese Iced Coffee and have Poa Pia for breakfast – it's so good to live and love local. Darwin is also culturally-aware and environmentally-friendly. I catch the high quality, zero emissions, public transport to work. My workplace is active in integrating cultural and environmental thinking into day to day activities.

After work I stop into the local bar and enjoy a green-ant gin and tonic, and settle in to experience the live art and music. I visit the nearby street food area and am delighted that chilli mud crab is again on the menu. I either catch public transport home or walk whilst sucking on a salty plum picked from a street tree.

The rituals we undertake are:

- markets
- art and cultural experiences
- natural environment is a part of everyday

The great things about Darwin are:

- local food
- culture and art
- fun people
- tropical beauty (water, plants, animals and storms)
- beautiful places (tropical architecture, natural spaces)

2.22 Rich culture beyond crocodiles

I walk from one end of town to the other unaffected by the heat and mesmerised by the vibrant and lively CBD. There are noticeably less cars in the city.

Darwin has embraced its indigenous roots as well as its more modern culture, iconic and unrivalled on the world scale.

Thank goodness the city has started to develop a culture and a brand beyond crocodiles... - that was so boring!

2.23 A safe, green and local Darwin

I am 17, a student and I can catch public transport or ride my bike into Darwin from home (in the inner burbs). I come from the North and once I pass the CBD threshold (around Duke St/The Gardens), a green shade line is crossed and I am immersed in green shade and cool.

The city has places to enjoy and there are many things to do that are safe for everyone – things like eat, gather, dance, patronise the arts.

On this particular day I meet with my friends to watch a dance (to live indigenous music) performance outdoors. We buy good inexpensive vegan food and continue to dance for hours. We travel home safely by public transport and bikes.

The rituals we undertake are:

- yoga at dawn in a naturally-ventilated space connected to gardens
- eating vegetables, locally grown organic
- drinking tea, locally made with recycled greywater
- sharing dinner with friends in our outdoor garden breezeway, enjoying the change from day to evening
- relaxing in our cool, shady pool between house and workplace on our property, which is now saltwater as we have removed the steel corrugated walls and “crimsafe” walls (that would otherwise corrode).



2.24 Naturally cooled, fine local food and free public transport

I am a tourist visiting Darwin. I wake in a hotel that is naturally cooled and head out for breakfast at a funky café with great food. I spend the day exploring the local culture and environment, using easy, free and frequent public transport. I grab a drink and watch the sun go down and then take my pick of the many choices for inspired local food. I wonder around the markets and lights while eating ice-cream.

The rituals I experience are:

- families and friends meeting to have a cool drink while watching the sun go down
- active transport to local markets to source locally produced foods
- connection to local culture and environment, a chance for people to reflect on what is important and become inspired.

2.25 Dynamic at night and encouraging cultural exchange

I believe the best experiences that people remember in Darwin are through exchanging culture. I regularly meet a lot of people from different countries and cultures. I love the festivals that have been happening in Darwin and regularly go to Mindil Beach which has continued to evolve into a fantastic experience.

Darwin has become a lot more dynamic at night – this allows people to experience the much nicer weather. The green nature is fantastic in Darwin and I enjoy it particularly in the wet season.

2.26 Green with trees and a unique and vibrant trading culture

Darwin's streets are lined with rows of trees. The footpaths are broad and are shared by walkers, cyclists and other transport devices. Darwin has become increasingly asian-centric and there is a marked increase in the number of small authentic traders that have turned the streets into activity zones. It has a vibe with many layers of cultural diversity. It feels like a very welcoming and local place with tall public spaces.

The rituals we undertake are:

- sharing food and drink in six seat traders (small is beautiful)

The great things about Darwin are:

- strolling
- shopping
- eating
- gathering
- exchanging.

2.27 Underground train hubs, colourful and peaceful streets

I take a train ride from an outer suburb to an underground station that at ground level emerges at one of three strategically placed hub of activity areas. Late afternoon and evening I stroll through a tree-lined and vibrantly coloured street scape to relax in a soft surfaced landscape that is safe and inviting. Smells of the market food are in the wind and whilst people are enjoying a drink, there is no yelling to be heard.

The rituals we undertake are:

- Friday night local produce market for some bush tucker
- Swim in the seawater baths on Saturday morning at the esplanade
- Friday arvo drinks at Mandorah jetty and pub with a ride across the harbour

The great things about Darwin are:

- colour
- attitude
- culture
- nature
- unwind.

2.28 Meditating in nature, living locally

I wake up to the gentle sound of birds playing in the trees. I observe nature eating - it has been awake for a while and is already busy. I take a sip of my morning tea that my husband has made me. I meditate. I stretch outside on my balcony/veranda and then walk by the ocean or ride my bike through East Point Nature Reserve and do yoga by the seaside. I buy some breakfast and eat outside overlooking views of nature gardens. I return home and start work, which is computer-based and I do this out of my home office. I regularly arrange to have lunch or café meetings which I have at city cafes and local organic healthy food breezy cafes with natural foliage and local art.

I have good access to local neighbourhood hub shops, cafes, art and the library is an easy walk to in the shade or I can ride my bike. There is seating beneath the shaded footpaths along the routes from home to shops so people can rest if they are hot. The food gardens along the verges are much-appreciated and give some beautiful seasonal food.

I often support the evening markets in city and go to the local neighbourhood hub for dinner with family and friends.

2.29 Digitally-connected, wearing sarongs & thongs and joining-in

I am Anneke, a design student from Thailand and am studying eco-living in the tropics at CDU. I also work as a graphic designer and e-commute to Thailand for work. Since moving to Darwin I have volunteered at Larrakia nation and help them to create online learning resources. I get around on an e-scooter and the bus, which is now free. I am also part of a food cooperative that gets together once a week to create meals, share-a-meal and share knowledge about tropical and native foods. One of the participants captures short videos that I help to share online. My favourite things to do are meeting friends at the markets for Crepes and watching the sunset at Nightcliff jetty.

The rituals we undertake are:

- meeting friends at the market for breakfast
- Watching the sunset from the rocks or jetty at Nightcliff
- Dancing in the rain when monsoon comes

The great things about Darwin are:

- “Sarongs & Thongs Festival” to celebrate kickoff and build-up (which teaches how to survive and thrive in the dry tropics)
- social sports at night in the city (drop in and join in)

2.30 Life is for living

Darwin gives me a happy and fulfilling lifestyle. Today I am going fishing in the harbour and will spend plenty of time playing with my grandchildren. I’m also looking forward to going to the markets and tomorrow I will go out for my regular round of golf.

- Meeting friends
- Having fun
- “life is for living”

2.31 Quirky and fun, sustainable and active at night

My city attracts people for informal activities and downtime – it has a whimsical evening culture that is quirky and fun – it has its own unique identity. The city provides vast opportunities to try new things. The city is accessible for all and has universal design. It is cool, green and sustainable. Stories are encouraged to be told and the collision of different cultures is cherished. There are a variety of last mile transport options. Darwin is leading the country in reusables and the circular economy. It is an importer of ideas and aware of global best practice – it is knowledgeable but relaxed.

There are lights on all ovals to enable night time sports when its cooler and I participate in one of the many evening running groups.


The city, like Rome, has invested in numerous water fountains to refill water bottles – they are unique and a feature within themselves.

2.32 A social place: multicultural, responsible and accepting

Darwin is multicultural and celebrates equality. It is 100% accepting of all cultures and beliefs and socially cohesive. It is a green tropical and walkable city that has ample canopy-covered walkways. Families choose Darwin as its identified as a cultural accepting hub where children are brought up without racism and have great respect for the past and elderly. Darwin is a place filled with responsible and global humans. Increasingly more people choose to stay in Darwin as retirees/elderly as there are healthy homes and clean water. There is enhanced understanding of the 7 seasons from first nation Larrakia.

The rituals we undertake are:

- Markets and food
- Edible food gardens and gatherings
- Wet and dry season celebrations and cultural festivals.



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Contact us

1300 363 400
+61 3 9545 2176
csiroenquiries@csiro.au
www.csiro.au

For further information

Nerida Horner
Darwin Living Lab Coordinator
NT Principal Research Consultant
+61 8 8944 8423
Nerida.horner@csiro.au

Dr Tim Muster
CSIRO Urban Living Labs
Principal Research Scientist
+61 8 8273 8133
Tim.muster@csiro.au

<https://research.csiro.au/darwinlivinglab/>