

2009 Opening Night of the Deckchair Cinema, 22 April 2009  
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC  
Administrator of the Northern Territory

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When the dragonflies appear and south easterlies become the dominant breezes, when Mindil Market stallholders ready themselves and the Deckchair Cinema opens its doors – then we know that it's the time for yet another perfect Top End Dry Season.

Tourists scanning Google for hints for their holiday experience will find recommendations such as *best independent cinema in the Northern Territory*, *the ultimate cinematic experience*, and *spectacular outdoor tropical environment*. And for those of us old enough to have enjoyed the drive in, this cinema provides a trip down memory lane.

I cannot think of anywhere better to watch the film '*Australia*', for instance, as although they did not capture much of Darwin, it was at this small beach here, on 5<sup>th</sup> February 140 years ago, that South Australia's Surveyor General, George Woodroffe Goyder, came ashore and began planning what is now our magnificent capital city.

One of my pleasures as Administrator of the Northern Territory is to meet a wide range of not-for-profit organisations that work for the benefit of others. So I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the Darwin Film Society. Not just those here tonight, but all who have contributed over their forty-five year history of bringing cinematic magic to the community.

Finally, I wish management and patrons a wonderful 2009 season and declare it officially open.