

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

NOVEMBER 2019

Dear members and friends

2019 Member and supporter survey feedback

We are really grateful for the survey responses we received. The synopsis of the results is attached. We hear that we need to communicate with and engage you better. Please reflect on the results and share your analysis. We are interested in further feedback if you have any. How would you like to help CAPaD do what you think it should do?

CAPaD - making change in 2020

What can a group of volunteers do to get a better democracy, what actions will create the right sort of change?

We want to do more than just describe what a better democracy might look like, we want to actually make it happen in the ACT.

We approach democracy as a complex system, an “ecosystem” of institutions, behaviours, and practices. To change the system we want to promote the conditions that enable positive change and the actions that are likely to move us toward our goal. Change emerges from the way the whole system behaves, not just the actions of any one project or organisation.

So, in 2020 we will:

1. Work with community groups and citizens to develop a set of clear expectations about what MLAs need to do to do their job for the common good, and what it is citizens need to do;
2. Find and promote ways for governments to help citizens participate meaningfully in:
 - shaping the policy agenda,
 - developing policy, and
 - monitoring policy implementation;
3. Using our Candidate Statement exercise to help voters select candidates who will work while in office to change the system to promote citizen engagement, and improve mechanisms for integrity.

There are lots of ways for you to help. We need:

- Thinkers and analysts
- Activists and campaigners
- People networked into other organisations with whom we can collaborate
- People who can talk with and help friends and neighbours to also be active
- Artists and writers who can help inspire people and spread ideas.

Please get involved in one of our [action groups](#) and help get a better democracy!

What we have been doing

Our new Committee

From the AGM, our new Committee are: Beth Slatyer, Convener, Peter Tait, Secretary, Mark Spain, Treasurer and Bob Douglas, Petra Cram, Sue Ingram, and Margaret Lee as general Committee Members.

Committee meetings are open to member and dates and place are on our [website](#).

Some thank yous ... the November General Meeting

Thanks to Denis and Millie: Denis Ginnivan inspired us with the story of how the [people of Indi](#) set the policy agenda and then elected community based independents to represent them in the Federal Parliament (first Cathy McGowan, for two terms, and now Helen Haines). And Millie Rooney shared stories of what has inspired her in the work of [Australia ReMADE](#) - a clear statement of the outcomes Australians seek. (* Check what she said!)

SouthFest 2020- thank you to the 69 people who put their idea on our whiteboard, answering the question: *what selection criteria would you suggest for MLAs?* In brief, people want strong leadership on the big issues, honesty in messaging, closely followed by transparency, a capacity to listen and a readiness to put people before party or personal interests; civility also featured.

Christians for an Ethical Society November Forum. CAPaD [spoke](#) about **Getting the democracy we want: government with the people**. If you know a group that would like to hear from us please let peter know - we want to get our message out.

What's coming up

Deliberative Democracy Prospects? International and Australian experience. December 5, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm AEDT; Museum of Australia Democracy at Old Parliament House
CAPaD's Beth Slatyer is speaking.
Register [here](#).

Seeking help

We are looking for a **Wordpress Engineer** to help revamp and maintain our website; a **Resource Curator** to set up and help with the library; and a **Communications Assistant** to help with keeping members and supporters up to date with what's going on. Please share this in your networks.

New stuff to read and look at

Rebecca Vassarotti reports on our MLA interviews report, [Exploring political representation in the ACT, piece in RiotACT](#).

What else is new (in Australian and the World)

[With the people](#): from the Kettering Foundation Deliberative Democracy Exchange

No-one is doing what CAPaD is to actually change the way democracy works in practice in Canberra. One key idea is "government with". Citizens have power beyond voting when they do things together, which they do all the time, to produce solutions and innovation. What if citizens use their power not only act on their own solutions, but also hold their representatives to account for doing the things citizens cannot do?

[Making Governments Open](#)

"An open government is one that works hard to strengthen democracy, is transparent, accountable, empowers communities, is respectful of its citizens, and ensures people can meaningfully participate in government decision-making and designing policies and services." 15 domains for government to be more open and accountable.

Peter Tait
Secretary

Contact us: secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au

Keep up to date: <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/>

Share ideas: [Twitter](#) @CAPADACT

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487360858250888/>

Our mailing address is: Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy, 91 David Street, O'Connor ACT 2602

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If you would like to be removed from our list please reply with **Take off list** in the subject line.

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