

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

MAY 2020

Dear members and friends

Keeping democracy in times of pandemic

Despite our petition and a broad public outcry against the adjournment of parliament, the federal Executive has gone ahead and refused to call parliamentary sittings before August, apart from a brief sitting in May. This is of concern. We put [out a media release describing our concerns](#). At this time, we need our representatives to be debating our future. In a [Canberra Times article](#), Mark Kenny and Mark Evans explore how the community might be involved in planning our post Coved future. CAPaD's ideal would be MPs and community co-designing this future we need to create.

Getting better representation for better government

Revitalising democracy: possibilities for electorate level mobilisations to achieve better parliamentary representation

CAPaD Zoom Event – [link in details](#).

Save the date: 31 May, 1400 to 1530, a conversation with Rob Salter:

Learning from the electorate of Indi, we can create a 'third domain' of citizen engagement in our democracy.

Rob's [background paper is on our website](#).

The 2020 ACT Election on October 17th.

Recently we sent a questionnaire asking how we can maximise publicity and effectiveness of the Candidate Statements. The responses we received [are summarised here](#).

We will be in contact soon to explore further how we can use the Statements in the election.

We have explained our broad strategy for the election in [an article in John Menadue's Pearls and Irritations](#) (a copy is [on our website](#)).

Electioneering in the time of physical distancing: Candidate Statements can help voters get to know the candidates better.

Peter Tait was interviewed as part of an ABC piece, [Amid a coronavirus pandemic, ACT election candidates are preparing for a very different campaign](#). "The alliance hopes this year's campaign will force candidates to use such options {candidate statements} to connect with voters.

And Dr Tait says that, with the usual campaign tactics suspended and politics out of peoples' faces, voters may turn to candidates' statements to figure out where their vote should fall."

CAPaD - making change in 2020 despite Covid.

Just as reminder: the plan for 2020 is [on our website](#). Please get involved in one of our [action groups](#) and help get a democracy where our elected representatives work for us to protect and improve the public good!

Asking for help with organising Zoom events

Anyone who is interested and able to help organising online events, please contact the secretary at secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au. The three events in the pipeline are:

- How to use the Candidate Statements during the election campaign

- A conversation with Mark Evans on the Democracy 2025 project
- Lyn Stevens reflecting on the ACT experience with community engagement through minipublics.

New stuff to read and look at

Webinar run by Tim Hollo, on organising during isolation. The [transcripts of the webinar are here](#). This link goes to part 1. From part 1 you can access part 2.

Reset Reading group

A new initiative, [the Reset Reading group. Ideas for a Just Future](#). “How things unfold from here is up to us. This reading group is a chance to take the time to develop shared ideas and visions for a just future, together.” Tim Hollo is running a group on **Rivitalising Democracy** on June 8 to 13, with reading material available on June 1st. For details follow the link.

What else is new (in Australian and the World)

Commission for the Human Future humansforsurvival.org/node/84

Please stay safe as we all look after each other and focus on what matters in this crazy time.

From your committee

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

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

Share ideas: [Twitter @CAPADACT](#)

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