

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

AUGUST 2020

G'day members and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): the AGM is coming, our August Zoom event; we need your help; more about our election campaign; more on democracy during the pandemic; the follow up from the Rob Salter talks in May – Our Democracy and four new things to read or watch.

COMING UP

AGM Save the date. November 1st, 2pm, probably still on Zoom. If you are interested in helping out on the committee, please let the Secretary know.

Note memberships are due – email sent.

BUT if you joined in or since May this year, your membership carries over into this year.

CAPaD Zoom Event

Sunday August 30th

Democracy 2025 – bridging the trust divide with Mark Evans. [Register here](#).

Help needed

CAPaD is asking for your help in a couple of areas to help us to expand our capacity.

1. We are still looking for a person with skills in Microsoft Excel (or Access) to set up forms in those applications to help us analyse the 2020 ACT Election Candidate Statement responses.
2. We are looking for some people to help the Secretary move our Ideas and Resource Hub content (as on our website and other content) into the new format (see website tab headings) and list them in categories.
3. We are asking for additional financial support to pay for a series of advertisements in the City News election section. So far we have received \$100. [Please give soon so we can buy premium space](#).

Please [contact the secretary](#) for more details if you would like to help.

Getting better representation for better government

The 2020 ACT Election on October 17th

Candidate Statements

At present there are 73 candidates and we have received eleven completed statements. [Statements are on our website](#). Please keep asking candidates if they have made a statement. Even better, if they have, tell them you have read it.

Distributing the flyer

Margaret Lee is coordinating distribution of our flyer about the statements ([copies on the website](#)). If you can [let her know if you](#) download and where you handed them out please.

Extended voting

This year, Elections ACT have decided to hold **extended voting from 28th September up to the election day of October 17th**. They are encouraging people to vote early (but not often). More details of where and when are [available on their website](#).

Keeping government democratic in times of pandemic and after

Saving democracy post Covid The [Museum of Australian Democracy](#) and the [Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis](#) at the University of Canberra are inviting people to join a really exciting unique experiment: [How can we save democracy in a post-COVID 19 world?](#) This is about reviewing a new book as part of [a Facebook group](#) or by [emailing Mark Evans directly](#). This is part of [their Democracy 2025 project](#). More details if you want to join at the end of the links.

Further [concerns the coronavirus pandemic has concentrated executive power, bypassing the Parliament, aired](#). This is serious but what is government doing?

CAPaD - making change in 2020.

Electorate-based-mobilisation

Since Rob Salter spoke with us about electorate-based-mobilisation in May, CAPaD has been working with him and some others to develop a website for “sharing ideas, information and stories about electorate-level action for better representation and better governance.”

New stuff to read and look at

Links to the July Zoom

Government with the people - building trust in deliberative processes on 26 July with Lyn Stephens; [presentation is now up on YouTube](#).

A new [page on the website](#) collects all this years Zoom Events.

Jolene Elbert [Democracy must start with us](#) (ACF Democracy Campaigner)

A key tenet of democracy is representation. Democracy is, by definition, rule by the people. *In a representative democracy such as ours, we give decision-making power to individuals who we elect to represent us.*

When those individuals reflect the values and concerns of our communities, that's when democracy works best. Yet on so many issues and occasions, our democracy is failing to represent the will of the people. We have a representation problem.

Manfred Hellrigl "[Local development and empowerment, methods and inspiration](#)" at Göteborg 2012, describing practical developments with citizen participation (modelled on Wisdom Councils) in western Austria (Osterreich).

French Citizens Assembly.... [Can we follow the French out of gridlock on climate?](#) A way forward?

'Mad as hell' Victorian town takes bushfire recovery into its own hands

Mallacoota made international headlines when the skies turned red and thousands fled to the beach for shelter. [Now the isolated community is leading its own bushfire recovery, bypassing government.](#)

Humans are wired for kindness, though sometimes it gets in the way. Democracy is a method to get this right. Rutger Bregman, *Human Kind*, wonderful and easy read.

From your committee

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/>

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The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy