

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

JUNE 2021

G'day members and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): Our Democracy ACT progress; New Australian Democracy Network initiative, Sizzle for Democracy, and more things to read and watch.

COMING UP



Are you sizzling about democracy?

Please join us at **Weston Park barbeque area**

4th July next, 1 pm to 3 pm

Sausages (gourmet, vegan and non-vegan options) and breads provided.

BYO salads, drinks, plates, cutlery.

A social event to meet and chat.

RSVP for catering: <https://events.humanitix.com/sizzle-for-democracy>

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Our Democracy ACT & Australia

Good progress at gatherings working out what we plan and how to carry that out. We have finalised our position document and are beginning to lay out a plan for engaging people and building the electorate groups.

Next meeting: Jun 27, 2021 02:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Register in advance please:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEIeigrz4sEtbCisoByxpTft1BzJBGzZvH>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Updated details about Our Democracy can be found on the draft [Our Democracy Australia website](#) and [on the CAPaD website](#).

To **get involved or find out more**, visit the websites, come to the zoom or [contact the Secretary](#).

See #OurDemocracy below.

Demfest 21 – Awakening Democracy 2021

With all that is happening in the electorate action space this year, including Our Democracy, Voices4, IndependentsCAN (see below) and the Australian Democracy Network #OurDemocracy, we want to hold this national event to bring all the players together to share what people are doing and learning.

We would be very grateful for anyone who wants to join the team to help with organising this event over the next 5 months. For actually running the event in November, we are looking for people with Zoom management skills.

OTHER ACTIVITY

We appeared before the Inquiry into the 2020 Election

Our submission was that Elections ACT should continue to host an extended candidate statement that included some guidelines suggesting candidates include some information along the lines of the CAPaD candidate statement, as well as offering them opportunity to include other information about themselves. Our Submission is [available on the Inquiry Website](#).

NEW STUFF TO READ AND LOOK AT

#OurDemocracy – an [Australian Democracy Foundation](#) (ADN) project launches on the same meme. CAPaD signs on. ADN is an umbrella organisation coordinating a broad coalition of civil society, faith and other NGOs around action to safeguard and strengthen democracy in Australia. #OurDemocracy is a project assembling civil society around tackling corporate capture of our government.

The Australian Democracy Network has **launched a campaign** to grow toward achieving that. More details about the campaign and the petition can be found on [the #OurDemocracy website](#).

Please **share the campaign** and **sign the petition**.

Like Our Democracy: the Deliberative Democracy group Connecting to Parliament.

The ACT Fenner electorates [Connecting to Parliament project report](#) at Participedia Net. The purpose of [Connecting to Parliament](#) is to augment the democratic functions of existing political institutions like the Australian Parliament, by specifically establishing more direct connections between constituents and their elected representatives. This is done by situating a representative sample of constituents in conversation with elected official about controversial issues that are subject to parliamentary debate.

New Independents group

[Independents CAN - an Alliance of Independents](#). They aim to build a New Political model to support Independents to get elected into Australian politics and bring democracy back from the two party system we currently have. And they have a podcast in which they interview notable political figures about how to mend democracy.

Democracy in Danger

[Thomas Edsall \(New York Times \[->\\$\]\)](#) introduces in this analysis of the state of democracy in the US a valuable distinction between conservatism and authoritarianism. It's like there are two axes in politics: the progressive - conservative and the anarchic - authoritarian.

Literature about progressive and conservative brains being 'wired' differently (assessed by psychological testing) has been around for a decade. So adding an anarchic - authoritarian (totalitarian) dimension makes sense.

It definitely sheds light on what Morrison and 'dry' Liberals and the Nationals are doing. It also explains I think some of their popularity given the gift covid handed them by allowing them a crisis to respond to and look good.

DEMOCRACY AS FUN 'COLLECTION'

Just a reminder to send in ideas.

From your committee, with best wishes

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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