

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

NOVEMBER 2021

G'day members and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): DemFest21 outcomes, Active Democracy ACT progress, and more things to read and watch.

COMING UP

The calendar is clear for the rest of the year as we see where covid is taking us and a wet festive season approaches. Weather and covid permitting, watch your inboxes for an invitation to a Democracy Sizzle between now and the election.

The Active Democracy Bean group is meeting regularly; [email Cath Blunt if you want to join in](#).

ACTIVE PROJECTS

Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

The [new Active Democracy Australia website is live](#) and ADAus is keen to launch it in the near future. Have a look at [the Active Democracy ACT pages](#).

Demfest 21: a festival celebrating locally driven democracy in Australia.

DemFest21 was a small event with lots of deep discussion about big ideas: 19 presenters from all eastern Australian states and Ireland; 36 presentations and recorded sessions; 33 registered (see table for breakdown). Core themes emerging included: building connections particularly within electorate communities, and between electorate communities and MPs and through MPs into the parliament and decision making, looking at using deliberative techniques for making such connections; people want to participate, be heard and belong.

Registrations

ACT	16
NSW	10
VIC	3
QLD	1
TAS	3

All the presentations and recordings of the sessions [are up on the website](#) to dive into if you missed the live event.

For those who tweet, there is also fly-offs from the discussion searching for **#DemFest21** (and a few under #DemFest – tho this brings up a lot of other demfests).

Should we hold a DemFest22? What would you like it to focus on?

Big Deal Follow on

If you haven't seen it, watching [the Big Deal](#) is worth it, just to see the extent of the legal but unethical and absolutely dodgy ways big business buys the political outcomes it wants. Still up [on ABC iView](#). Having watched it, and wondering what to do, here's a couple of ideas:

Want to hold a debrief? We are happy to run further debriefing session for groups; in the ACT [email us](#).

Join or start an Active Democracy Australia group in your electorate; in the ACT [email us](#). In other jurisdictions, [contact ADAus](#).

If in Bean, [contact Cath Blunt](#) who will be happy to run a kitchen table conversation for you.

In Fenner and Canberra, Mark Spain offers to help people host a kitchen table conversation if they can gather 8-10 people ready to go; [email us](#).

Look at [the #OurDemocracy project](#) at things you might support.

OTHER ACTIVITY

With a federal election looming, [proACT](#) is exploring an independent senate candidate for the ACT. [Kim Rubinstein](#) has registered herself as a political party (it's all about Australia's above / below the line voting process) to stand as an independent. [ACT Labor](#) and [the ACT Greens](#) have candidates announced, while the [ACT Liberals](#) list their team (which includes Scott Morrison – I don't think we get to vote for him this far south of Port Hacking).

NEW STUFF TO READ AND LOOK AT

Roslyn Fuller

Irish author and Director of the Solonian Democracy Institute.

Author of *Beasts and Gods: how democracy lost its purpose*, and *In Defense of Democracy*. A sweeping analysis of what is wrong with democracy today and how we might improve it.

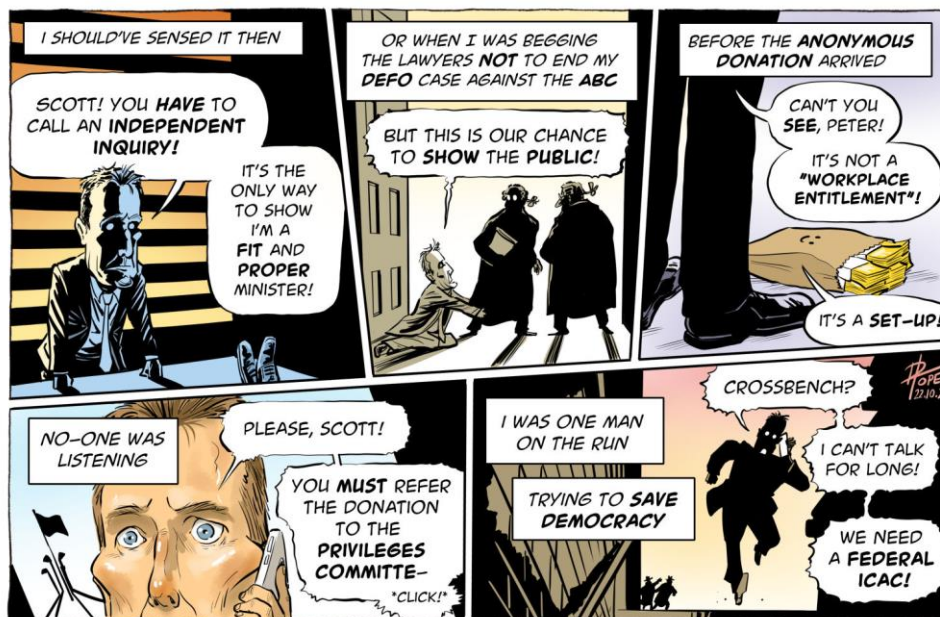


By popular request, the song from the Big Deal: [She'll be right](#).



DEMOCRACY AS FUN 'COLLECTION'

By David Pope, courtesy Canberra Times.



Contributions welcome.

From your committee, with best wishes

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