

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

DECEMBER 2021

G'day members and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): Festive Seasonalities, and lots more to read and watch.

COMING UP

The Festive Seasons kicked off with DemFest21 a month ago and is winding up into the summer pagano-Judeo-Christian festivals of northern hemisphere mid-winter. We might go a bit quiet and have a rest. Wishing you all the best for the end of 2021 and 'birth' of 2022.

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](#).

The Bean group continues to meet and they would be happy for you to join in. [Contact Cath Blunt](#).

We are happy to help you launch kitchen table conversations in the ACT if you get a small group (6 to 10) together. [Contact us](#). We will get back to you in January.

In Canberra (the electorate), we are looking to work with DemocracyCo on a proposal for a citizens' assembly in the new year. See [DemocracyCo's presentation to DemFest21](#).

OTHER ACTIVITY

DemFest21 [presentations and session are up on line](#) to watch, read and share.

NEW STUFF TO READ AND LOOK AT

It has been a very literary month from CAPaD members:

- Peter Tait is encouraging Australian voters to [be angry and vote thoughtfully](#);
- Peter is also pushing the message [Vote as if your life depends on it](#) for the next election that he characterises as The Climate Change and Integrity Election.
- Bob Douglas is [spreading the word about DemFest21 and ideas for a trial citizens assembly in the ACT](#);

Anne Tiernan, over [four weekly articles in the Griffith Review](#), starting in Edition 75, "unpacks attacks on liberal democracy, politics in a post-truth era + the impacts of unwillingness to accept the checks and balances that work against unfettered executive power." A couple of quotes from number 1:

"[democracy] means more than simply turning up to vote on polling day. It means accepting that we have an obligation to be informed, engaged and committed to act to protect our democracy. This includes a willingness to call out and demand action from elected representatives to address a lack of transparency and accountability and other breaches of the unwritten rules."

"If we are to avoid a descent into authoritarian populism, corruption, incompetence and policy failure of the kind experienced internationally, Australians should care deeply and passionately about democracy and become active to defend it."

Anne has written previously about [active citizens' role in democracy](#).

“... we can choose whether to remain passive while principles and traditions that we supposedly value – fairness, equality of opportunity and respect for institutions, differences of opinion and perspective – are eroded and undermined, or we can choose to get involved.”

“... it is time to ask whether our current malaise is less a crisis of political leadership than the inevitable consequence of abrogating our collective responsibilities to be active, engaged citizens.”

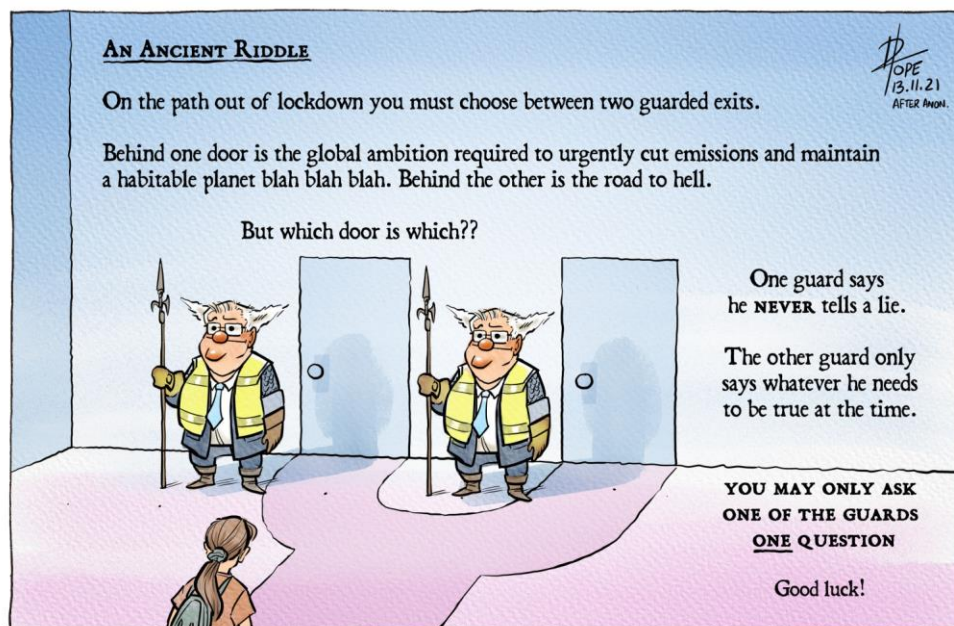
I think her message is, that while we decry a lack of leadership, it is our responsibility to press for it. We Australians have a long and proud tradition of democratic innovation. We can do more of it.

I say this in the context of knowing life goes on, housework has to be done, kids got to school and sport, work deadlines met. However, if we want a country worth living in, we also need to see what we can do to contribute to that, however small that contribution might be.

And from [The Conversation on November 21, Josh Roose on why the Victorian protests should concern us](#).

The good news from all this however is that more people seem to be waking up to the threat we face. How this translates into voting in 2022 is still open.

DEMOCRACY AS FUN ‘COLLECTION’



By David Pope, courtesy Canberra Times.

Contributions welcome.

From your committee, with best festive wishes

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