

## CAPaD 2020-21 Annual Report - draft

### Achievements in the past year (summary):

- Running an expanded Candidate Statement exercise for the 2020 ACT Election.
- Designing and building the new Ideas and Resources Hub.
- Upgrading the main website.
- Submissions made to the Senate Inquiry into Delegated Legislation and the 2020 ACT election.
- Helping set up the Active Democracy Australia organisation and website.
- Taking on support for an Active Democracy group in the ACT.
- Successful monthly newsletters Awakening Democracy.
- More regular emails to members.
- Beginning the planning for DemFest21 – a celebration of locally driven democracy in Australia.
- Four Zoom Events.
- Citizen assembly / deliberation assessment tool for communities.
- Successful application for Charity Status.

### Committee Members

Name / Position	Selected	Due re-selection for 2 years in:
Peter Tait / Co-Convener	2020	2022
/ Co-Convener	2020 vacant	
/ Deputy Co-Convener	2020 vacant	
Deputy Co-Convener	2020 vacant	
/ Secretary	2020 vacant	
<b>Mark Spain / Treasurer</b>	2017, 2019	<b>2021</b>
<b>Bob Douglas</b>	2019	<b>2021</b>
<b>Petra Cram</b>	2019	<b>2021</b>
Sue Ingram	2020	Resigned April 2021
<b>Margaret Lee</b>	2019	<b>2021</b>
Gilles Rohan	2020	2022

### Details of 2020-21 achievements

#### Candidate Statement exercise for the 2020 ACT Election

A three-month campaign that involved designing new pages for the website, intense publicity including a crowd funded foray into paid advertising in the City News, and a mainstream media cone of silence. A [full report is available](#). This election featured several competing avenues for candidates to make a statement: the Elections ACT was required to offer a site; a new group from Brisbane

*voteasy* appeared and the ANU Smartvote detracted from our own campaign. This election also had a huge early voter turnout. A rethink for what we do for the 2024 election will be required.

### **IT Developments**

The new Ideas and Resources Hub was designed, built, content loaded and launched with the assistance from a Nurturing Evolutionary Development Foundation grant.

A series of upgrades to the main website was undertaken to make it more appealing in response to the [new Resources Hub](#).

**Submissions** made to the Senate Scrutiny of Delegated Legislation Committee and the Inquiry into the 2020 ACT election, to which we were called for questioning on our recommendations. Our core recommendation was to require Elections ACT to continue to host candidate statements and to require some statements on good governance to be included for all candidates.

### **Active Democracy Australia organisation and website**

CAPaD members have been instrumental in working with Rob Salter to get the Active Democracy Australia group up and running. This has also involved working with the Australian Democracy Network who launched a parallel #OurDemocracy campaign and were involved in marketing and after viewing activity of the [Big Deal](#) film. This excellent documentary uses comedy to demonstrate how money in Australian politics undermines democracy will be screened in cinemas in Sept 2021 and also for local community groups. [Let us know](#) if you would like to attend a community screening followed by Q&A.

### **Support for an Active Democracy group in the ACT**

A group of CAPaD friends and members have been meeting regularly to map out how an Active Democracy group would work in the ACT. A Bean electorate subgroup has started meeting and has hosted its first excellent Kitchen Table Conversation. The idea is for many KTCs to happen and then write a report from the results that can engage more people and make clear expectations of the local MP.

### **Successful monthly newsletters Awakening Democracy**

The format seems to work well and positive feedback has been received.

With so much happening in the democracy world this last 12 months, both threats and opportunities, we have been reaching out more frequently to members and supporters on our email list with ideas about things that they may do.

**Beginning the planning for DemFest21** – a celebration of locally driven democracy in Australia. Working group has been meeting regularly. Invitations for expressions of interest have gone out widely.

### **Four [Zoom Events](#) were hosted as general meetings for members and guests**

- July Citizen Review of 2017-18 ACT Deliberative Processes
- August Mark Evans, Democracy 2025 – bridging the trust divide
- September: two Empathy and Collaborative Meaning-Making: An Overview of Citizens' Councils.

These were very successful.

### **Citizen assembly / deliberation assessment tool for communities**

The Genuine Citizen Participation sub-group is currently working on developing a Citizen Assembly / Deliberation Assessment Tool for citizens and communities to use to help sponsors design and give

feedback to public engagement processes. The tool is designed as a series of clear simple questions asking for the presence of evidence to demonstrate the principle has been met in each of the [11 OECD Good Practice Principles for Deliberative Processes for Public Decision Making](#). This comes from [2020 report Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions](#) that CAPaD was involved in contributing to.

### **Application for Charity Status**

To enhance our capacity we are looking to apply for philanthropic grants. In order to help with this, we have applied for Charitable Organisation status with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. They have indicated we have a charitable purpose and just need to amend our constitutional objectives further to reflect this. We have done this and are now a charity. We are now investigating applying for Donor Gift Recipient status so that people can make tax deductible donations. Anyone with experience who can help with this, [please contact us](#).

### **Financial reports**

See the attached audited 2020-21 Financial statement. We have \$3,487.75 in the bank.

### **Plans for 2021-22**

The big plan for the near future is the **DemFest 21: a festival celebrating locally driven democracy in Australia**. To be held virtually in the week of November 1 to 5 with some zoom events on the weekend of November 6 and 7. The aim is to invite the multiple people involved in electorate based democracy action to come together to share their experience and to learn from others. Planning is well underway but as we approach the pointy end we are keen for help in making this happen successfully. [See the website](#) for more information.

Our **Active Democracy in the ACT** is the second big project we are supporting. Building on Rob Salter's presentation last year, CAPaD has been working with Rob and others to set up Our Democracy Australia – becoming Active Democracy Australia. This is a web platform that provides tools and ideas for electorate groups to use to set up and be successful. In the ACT CAPaD is supporting formation of up to three local Active Democracy groups in our three electorates, as well as an umbrella Active Democracy ACT group. The Active Democracy group is looking for people to join the exciting work of making democracy more local and robust in Australia. [More information here](#).

### **Summary**

It has been a tremendously busy year and the following year is shaping up similarly. We invite every one to become involved in shaping our democracy locally. Even if you are constrained by time and energy, you can still help by letting other people know of our activity, being a member and donating.

Thank you

Peter Tait  
Convener.