

CAPaD 2021-22 Annual Report

Achievements in the past year (summary):

- Holding a very successful [DemFest21](#) – a celebration of locally driven democracy in Australia in November.
- Promoting the [Big Deal documentary](#) and holding a Big Deal reflection event in October 2021.
- Running [an education campaign on preferential](#) voting for the 2022 federal election.
- Helping with the [#OurDemocracy pre-election National Integrity Survey](#) recruitment.
- Continuing to help [Active Democracy Australia](#) organisation and website revisions and resources expansion.
- Continuing support for [Active Democracy Bean](#) in the ACT.
- Working with the ACT Greens on their Neighbourhood Democracy proposal and advocating for implementation of this with the ACT government.
- Working with DemocracyCo and Alicia Payne to organise a Citizens' Jury event, the **Canberra Forum**, in the federal seat of Canberra.
- **Charity Status achieved.** Application for DGR status in progress.
- Development of an [Education Strategy](#) to coordinate and focus our activities.
- Continued to refine and add content to [the Resources Hub](#) (core component to the Education Strategy).
- Finalise and self-publish the [Genuine Engagement Tool \(GET\)](#) and [background paper explaining the development process](#).
- Successful monthly [newsletters Awakening Democracy](#).
- Continued regular emails to members.
- Active in the Twittersphere.
- Restarted Zoom Events after the election campaigning.

Congratulations

We congratulate all the successful House of Representative and Senate candidates who were elected at the recent federal election.

Thanks

I would like to thank the committee members in particular, and the other CAPaD members and supporters who have contributed, practical, moral and financially, to our efforts this past year. I look forward to their support continuing. I especially want to thank the Active Democracy Bean team and our Election Campaign donors.



1 The Resource Hub home page

Committee Members 2021 - 22

Name / Position	Selected	Due re-selection for 2 years in:
Peter Tait / Co-Convener	2020	2022
/ Co-Convener	2022 vacant	
/ Deputy Co-Convener	2022 vacant	
Deputy Co-Convener	2022 vacant	
Cath Blunt / Secretary	2021, resigning 2022 AGM	Vacant
Mark Spain / Treasurer	2017, 2019, 2021	2023
Bob Douglas	2019, 2021	2023
Petra Cram	2019, 2021, Resigned March 2022	Vacant
Barbara Dwyer	2021	2023
Margaret Lee	2019, retired 2021 AGM	Vacant
Gilles Rohan	2020	2022
Vacant position		

Details of 2021-22 achievements

DemFest21 – a festival of democracy celebration of locally driven democracy in Australia

Held over the weekend of November 6-7, we had 31 registrants from all across Australia, 23 submitted presentations for pre-reading across the week of November 1 to 5th, and 13 actual presentations with accompanying conversation sessions across the Saturday and Sunday.

The recording of these session and the pre-reading papers are stored on [the DemFest 21 website](#).

Promoting the Big Deal documentary

In collaboration with the #OurDemocracy campaign, extensively promoted the [Big Deal documentary](#) through our network. We followed this up by holding a Big Deal reflection zoom event in October 2021 for the ACT. We framed this as an Active Democracy ACT promotion.

2022 federal election education campaign

With the focus in this year's election on integrity and climate change, the importance of voters understanding how Australia's voting system works emerged as an issue. Conversations in the media and with our friends and family revealed poor understanding. Particularly this applied to preferential voting



2 The 2022 Election advertisement

and the Senate proportional preferential system. Accordingly CAPaD set this as the focus for the [2022 election webpage](#), gathering links to informational / educational documents and videos for voters to use. To promote the page we ran information on Twitter and Facebook and with the help of donations from members and supporters two advertisements in the City News.

Our report on this campaign [is here](#).

In parallel CAPaD worked with the [Australian Democracy Network](#) and the roll out of their **#OurDemocracy** campaign around raising the profile of their [Framework for a Fair Democracy](#) and the pre-election [National Integrity Survey](#). This mostly involved publicising the campaign to members and keeping people in touch. Members of CAPaD were involved in letterboxing in Fenner and in handing out the survey cards in Gungahlin.

Support [Active Democracy Australia](#)

Mark Spain and Peter Tait have continued active engagement on the management committee of Active Democracy Australia (ADAus), along with founder Rob Salter and Marcus Crowley. The main focus this year has been creating and launching the website, developing a strategic plan and supporting communications plan, and ongoing maintenance of the website and expanding / deepening the resources / toolkit. ADAus is also running second monthly zoom sessions for people needing support in setting up electorate action groups.

In June ADAus ran a demonstration national KTC to introduce the practice to interested people. [The report of this activity is here](#).

In parallel, CAPaD has continued to support [Active Democracy Bean](#) in the ACT as it finds its feet. At the moment ADBean is resuming its activity.

Neighbourhood Democracy

The ACT Greens took a proposal for a Neighbourhood Democracy to the 2020 ACT election; essentially it proposed a participatory budgeting allocation be given to a pilot group of suburbs. We held discussions with the Greens about this and wrote a letter to Mr Barr advocating for its implementation.

A Citizens' Jury event of the federal seat of Canberra

Bob Douglas is leading a project to trial an alternative pathway to building an electorate action group. He is working with DemocracyCo, with whom we cooperated in 2018 over the citizen juries processes run by the ACT government (the GET tool is one outcome of our involvement there) and Alicia Payne to set this up. Alicia Payne is keen to be involved and DemocracyCo have a source of funding. Now the election is passed, development is underway.



This complements the activity in Bean with ADBean, and the University of Canberra Connecting to Parliament events run last year with Andrew Leigh in Fenner and Alicia Payne in Canberra.

Charity Status under the education category achieved

The purpose of charity status is to enhance our capacity to raise funds to expand our efforts to achieve our objectives. Charity status on its own enables us to apply for philanthropic grants. It is

also a step toward pursuing Donor Gift Recipient (DGR) status, which will further enhance fund raising by making donations tax deductible. Application for DGR status in progress.

In assessing our charity status application, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) decided we fit into the education category. We realized that this was accurate, and so lead us to develop an education strategy (see below).

Since CAPaD doesn't fit the education categories within the ATO system, we have having to apply for specific inclusion in the Income Tax Assessment Act.

Education Strategy Activity

As mentioned, the need for such a strategy arose from our DGR application process. It has been a useful exercise and will help to guide, coordinate and focus our activities.

Activity that can fit within an educational framework includes [the Resources Hub](#) which we have continued to refine and add content to during the year. Should anyone have an interest in curating this Hub, please feel free to contact us.

Other educational activity we undertake includes:

Successful monthly [newsletters Awakening Democracy](#),

Continued regular emails to members publicising other organisations activity and events,

Regular activity in the Twittersphere to promote our own and others' activity and events; this was especially useful during the election campaign, and

We are restarting the [Zoom Events](#) now election campaigning is over.

Genuine Engagement Tool (GET)

Based in the experience of developing with ACTCOSS in 2017 a set of criteria for assessing the citizen juries run by the ACT government, and the eleven OECD good practice criteria from the OECD [2020 report Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions](#) report, which Petra Cram had contributed to in collaboration with the University of Canberra Centre for Deliberative Democracy, we developed a set of questions to be applied to the development and running of a citizen jury to look at the quality of that process from a citizen's (rather than a government or academic) perspective. We tested that with the Gene Editing citizens jury run in 2021. A [paper explaining the history and development process](#) is available. CAPaD's vision is to institutionalise effective citizen assemblies into each parliament in Australia.

This year we finalised and [self-published the tool template](#) for communities to use themselves. We hope the GET enables them to get clear insights into how they can keep their own power and agency over what can work better (for their community) and how they can communicate more transparently about how governments can engage better with them (also a component to the Education Strategy).

Financial reports

See the separate audited 2021-22 Financial statement.



3 Cathy Wilcox's take on our role ...



Plans for 2022-23

Active Democracy Australia and ACT

We intend to continue our support for the formation of active electorate groups across Australia to build on the community independents and other electorate level activity that has been growing for the past two or more years.

Canberra Forum with Alicia Payne and DemocracyCo

We hope to develop and help run this in late 2022.

Education activity

We intend to continue our current activities while developing new initiatives in line with our strategy as opportunities arise.

Other activity

Increasing younger people's involvement is a focus, particularly through engaging with universities such as through internship programs. For instance, we need the 2020 ACT election candidate statements analysed in preparation for decisions about the 2024 ACT election.

Note: a digital version of this **Annual Report** is available at: <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/about-us/#sctabannual-reports--agms>