

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

JUNE 2023

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#), Active Democracy Bean Voice activity, The Canberra Forum reflection, Education for Civics, like death, taxes and winter, elections are coming ... and much more to read and watch.

COMING UP

How to live Democracy into being?

July 2 14 to 15-00; on zoom. Register here.

Together, Yes Conversations

Active Democracy Bean's focus this year is having respectful conversations and encouraging community engagement with the Referendum on the First Nations Voice to Parliament. This will be done within the framework of ADB supporting a Yes vote.

Dates and registration links:

Thursday 6th July – Together, Yes hosts support session 7 – 8pm

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/together-yes-support-for-hosts>

Tuesday 1st August - Together, Yes hosts support session 1 -2pm

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/together-yes-support-for-hosts-br5a4xhf>

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Future Zoom events – [listed in our Events Calendar](#). More are in the planning stage.

2024 ACT Election

19 October 2024 to be precise. Watch this space for activity details as they emerge. Our intent is to modify the candidate statement exercise while continuing focus on how to choose the candidate who will be the MP who best facilitates participation and represents us.

2025 Federal Election

Date uncertain. However CAPaD wants to expand and explore further the idea of how do we know our representative is doing a good job. With our sitting MPs, how can we tell. For challengers, how would we pick between them and them and the sitting MP? How are they balancing their party/personal wants and agendas and the wants and priorities collectively decided by us, the voters?

If you want to be involved in this, [please contact me](#).

ACTIVE PROJECTS



The **Canberra Forum** final session was on Sat 29th April 2022. The participants are now writing up their report on how the government might support provision of affordable housing in Australia.

When complete, the report will be available at [Alicia Payne's website](#).

Genuine Engagement Tool Update

We have updated the Genuine Engagement Tool (GET) in line with feedback from our event earlier in the year. The updated tool is here <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/activity/#genuine-engagement-tool>



Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

Active Democracy Bean

Active Democracy Bean Facebook Page

Additionally Active Democracy Bean [has a Facebook page](#) on which they will promote what is on and latest information regarding their activity.

Contact Cath or Jane at activedemocracybean@canberra-alliance.org.au for any support or further information.

More about ADB on their [webpage](#). If you are interested in joining, please [email Cath](#).

The Active Democracy ACT [site is here](#).

OTHER ACTIVITY

Education for Civics

A small group met by zoom. While all are busy we have agreed to continue meeting to define what education for civics is and how we might take action to help support it within the school system and for adults.

The next meeting is June 11 at 2pm for an hour. Teachers are particularly welcome because we need your experience. If you are interested in this topic, [please contact me](#) so I can join you in.

Get Political: Communities taking action June 3

The Community Independents Project 2023 Convention was held on Saturday June 3rd. The main focus was on the community independents who were elected last year reflecting on their experience in order to help more independents get up in the 2025 federal election.

One particular session was looking at why young people join in. The single work answer is **rage**. Their priorities were: helping young people understand the political system, action on climate change, integrity in politics and the quality of the policy debate (rated very poor). Their suggestion: listen to us. And make being involved fun. Unsurprising but salutary.

There was much more. The links to the videos of the session will be out soon and I'll put them into July's Awakening Democracy.

THINGS TO READ AND LISTEN TO

Our standing reminder about:

- **Democracy Sausage podcast** from the ANU Public Policy Institute. Lots of very topical topics, and
- **The Remakers podcast**. Australia ReMADE's podcast has a fascinating series of discussions and interviews and is well worth a listen. Both **available** from your favourite podcast service.

Australian Community Futures Planning (ACFP)

is [a community-based research and planning entity](#) that is organising to involve Australians in planning a better future for themselves and for future generations.

At ACFP we are using a new community engagement and planning framework called:

National Integrated Planning & Reporting to help Australians build **Australia's first National Community Futures Plan**, Australia Together. Find out more about [Australia Together](#).

Their **2022 Election report** about parties' commitment to the vision is [here](#).

Health and Democracy Forum

#OurDemocracy Campaign with PHAA, AHPA, FARE and HRLC. [Recording here](#).

Speakers discussed the pervasive tactics used by harmful industries to influence policy outcomes, why a strong democracy is the key to progress, and how we can work together to make our democracy work for all of us, not just the powerful few.

The behaviours of commercial entities and how they influence health, are now becoming known as the Commercial Determinants of health. See more about this in the [Lancet Series on the Commercial Determinants](#).

Uncivil Wars: How Contempt Is Corroding Democracy , Scott Stephens, Waleed Aly

While looking at how current social relationships undermine democracy, [this article](#) also looks at what is democracy.

Democratising energy zoom session

The video of this May 28 event is now online [here](#).



From your committee

Contact us: secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au

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The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy