

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

SEPTEMBER 2023

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this **Awakening Democracy**: CAPaD supports the Voice, three things we want to do this year, Living Democracy into being 3, AGM, revised objectives and contributing to our mission, Active Democracy Bean Voice activity, how to tell a good MP, The Canberra Forum reflection, report and a video, ... and much more to read and watch.

COMING UP

CAPaD supports the full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart

The Voice to Parliament is the first step and CAPaD supports its enshrinement in the Constitution as a means to better enhance Indigenous Australian's democratic participation. You can read our [full Statement of Support is here](#). We also respect that members and supporters may have other views on this and will vote accordingly. That is also democratic. We encourage everyone to become widely informed about the arguments for and against a yes vote.

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

Three things for 2023 24

1. Publicising the Canberra Forum and working with DemocracyCo to develop and promote a kit for community groups and MPs to use to hold similar deliberative events in other electorates,
2. Running a series of conversations at community and kitchen table level to look at how we can tell if our MPs are doing a good job. This will lead into:
 - a. Developing a way to feed back to the community how well the current MP is working for us, and
 - b. How to tell in an election which candidates are more likely to work well for their community,
3. Working up the Education for Civics project.

If you want to help, [please contact me](#).

How to tell a good MP – 2024 ACT Election and 2025 Federal Election

How do we know who to vote for? Who is the best candidate for the job? 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 with other concerned people in the ACT in designing and building a process to answer these and other questions, [please contact me](#).

HAPPENINGS

Living Democracy into being 3

Third in this series of Canberra Conversations about **living democracy**, we explored in more depth **how to build new political systems to which we can transfer our consent**.

[Video of the event is here](#).

Conversation 4 in the planning stage.



2023 AGM – August 20, Report.

Your new Committee, same as the previous Committee.
Minutes and Reports are [here](#).

Changes to the Constitutional Objectives were passed.

Our prime objective is now: To promote individual and community well-being and the common good in a healthy environment by ***advancing education to inspire people to participate in strengthening democracy.***

HELP NEEDED

To **set up Google Analytics 4** so we can monitor visits and downloads from our website; if you have the skills, [please contact me](#).

ACTIVE PROJECTS



The CAPaD Committee has used our [Genuine Engagement Tool \(GET\)](#) to reflect on the **Canberra Forum**. We have finalised our reflection and seeking feedback from Alicia and DemocracyCo, and will share it soon.

Meanwhile the [Report is up on Alicia's website](#) and a 3 minute [video reporting participants experience is also available](#).

Active Democracy ACT (ADACT) & Australia (ADAus)

Active Democracy Bean - 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:

Monday 4th September – Together, Yes hosts support session 1-2pm AEST

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/together-yes-support-for-hosts-q7b2eua6>

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

Get Political: Communities taking action event (June 3) Video links - coming still

The CIP Convention site is [here](#) if you want to keep an eye out.

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.

Democracy and the price of a vote [from The Economist](#).

“The difficulties of democratisation may also help explain why so many countries are stuck somewhere short of full democracy. Although a popular vote offers sizeable economic benefits, they take time to emerge, while the costs are more immediate. People who are no more able to make ends meet after overthrowing an autocrat, despite the grand promises they were sold by popular leaders, are more likely to turn their back on reform altogether. The path to democracy is fraught.”

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The Economist measures democratic decline differently and finds it is maybe not good but not so bad as Freedom House and Dem-V find.

Lots of measures of good governance and democracy exist ([see list in this blog](#)). The economist has looked at using Bayesian methods to come up with a less subjective one; [democratic backsliding seems real even if it is hard to measure - here](#). [maybe firewalled\$]

Sharing profits equitably

More about changing the finance system so that profits are shared rather than accruing to the banks.

And the petition Kevin Cox is running in support of this change: please sign if you haven't already.

[Petition to the Reserve Bank asking for home loans interest be shared between the Bank and the occupier.](#)

Amitav Ghosh, the Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis, highlights the role of modern hyper-capitalist culture in causing our present disconnection from nature and humanity's present predicament. Well worth a read. For a 60 minute experience and the core message, [listen to this conversation](#).

From your committee

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

Keep up to date: <https://canberra-alliance.org.au/>

Share ideas: Twitter [@CAPADACT](#)

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487360858250888/>

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The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy