

Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2023

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy](#): despite the Voice referendum failing, AD Bean continues to support, Living Democracy into being plans, The Canberra Forum reflection report and a video, make a bequest, help ask, how to change geopolitics ... and much more to read and watch.

COMING UP

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 Conversation to continue in the new year.

A group of us are meeting informally to discuss and plan how we might move forward with this in real time, face to face, at a social event.

In parallel CAPaD has supported the Council for the Human Future to set up a process for gathering interested Canberrans (initially) to dialogue on “How can our democratic system be modified or used in ways that will ensure that our governments respond urgently to the multifaceted challenge of human survival?”.

If you would like to join any of these conversations, [please contact me](#).



HELP NEEDED

1. To **set up Google Analytics 4** so we can monitor visits and downloads from our website; if you have the skills, [please contact me](#).
2. To advance our **Education for Civics** project, I'm keen to open conversation with **teachers** who have a better understanding of how this might work.
3. Fundraisers – CAPaD is entirely dependent on the resources we can raise to operate. We receive no government and at this stage no philanthropic income.

New – Bequest option

Use your will to help Awaken Democracy

Making a gift to the Awakening Democracy Foundation in your will is a very special act of generosity and foresight that supports the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPaD). Please [read how you can do this here](#).

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

Extensive support was provided to the Together Yes campaign over the past four months. A more complete report is being finalised and we will share that soon. AD Bean is regrouping to decide what next they might do. There are both ACT and Federal elections in the next two years, and possibly other ideas in formation.

They are holding a gathering on 26 November with Yes23 volunteers wanting to work out if and how to continue to support First Nations recognition and justice. [Check out their Facebook page](#).

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

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

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.

The Struggle to change geopolitics

Ever wondered why nothing changes? Well, here's one take on that.

Picking up on the ideas from Amitav Gosh's geopolitical analysis (see The Nutmeg's Curse), a recent Pearls and Irritations piece elaborates more on how the military-finance-petro-chemical industrial complex is organising to make the planet less hospitable to humans (It was helpful of [Greg Sheridan to advertise in The Australian \(27/10\) the new ultraconservative con](#)). While not a conspiracy in the classic sense, the dominants of human society are definitely organising.

Our only hope is to organise a resistance, through strengthening democracy. This links to the Living Democracy conversation (see above). If you are interested to join, [contact me](#).

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

Copies of these and other events CIP has held [are available on their Events page](#).

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/>