

# Awakening Democracy

CAPaD – the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

MAY 2024

G'day members, supporters and friends

In this [Awakening Democracy: 2024 Democracy in Action](#) Conversations, seeking donations, Education for Civics in the ACT, ... and more to read and watch.

## COMING UP / HAPPENINGS

### Democracy in Action Conversations

Three 90 minute Democracy in Action Conversations.

Conversation 1 on **12<sup>th</sup> May, St James Hall, Curtin**

#### What makes a good MLA?

1. What's a representative?
2. What qualities are we seeking in our MLAs?
3. How can we know our MLA is working well for the community?



#### **Register here.**

More information [in the ACT election tab.](#)

The outputs from this conversation will be collated and circulated and feed into -

Conversation 2 on June30

#### **How can we know which candidate will be a good representative?**

How can we apply the criteria for a good representative to a candidate?

How important is the Party or individual policy platform?

How important is the person's demonstrated commitment to integrity and community participation in policy and decisions affecting us?

The outputs from this conversation will be collated and circulated and feed into -

Conversation 3 – **Know your Candidate forums** in late September

How do the candidates wanting your vote plan to represent you?

How are they going to hear their community's voice?

How will they involve us, the people, in policy and program planning decisions?

### Getting Community involved in Local Government

Scope for democracy at the local municipal / town / suburb government level is rich. Anne Jedzini will talk about their research in this area and open up discussion about how this knowledge can help strengthen democracy.

**When: Wednesday Jun 5, 2024 07:00 PM Canberra / AEST**

[Register in advance](#) to receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## May you contribute to our Annual Funding Appeal?

**You sure may. Please do.**

CAPaD is totally reliant on you acting on your concerns about and care for awakening democracy by contributing financially to us.

Volunteers are wonderful but we need cash to pay for the website, insurances and the practical things that help us operate.

This year we are also running the election education **Democracy in Action project** (see above) and this requires hall hire, materials, media advertising and other resources (eg paper, postit notes).

Thank you to the people who donated earlier. Wonderful, appreciated but we need more.

**Double your effect.** We have a donor who is prepared to match donations received dollar for dollar during May.

**Please manifest your support by donating.** See [how you can contribute here](#).

## ACTIVE PROJECTS

ACTIVE  
DEMOCRACY  
AUSTRALIA

**(ADAus)** The project with Change Politics continues. Planning is underway for an event to bring all the people who have expressed interest together.



### Active Democracy Bean

A monthly forum and other events are being planned. Watch the Events page on our website.

Any questions or interest to join us? Contact [activedemocracybean@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:activedemocracybean@canberra-alliance.org.au)

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

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

## Education for civics

**What is provided for students about the ACT Assembly and our Hare Clarke voting system?**

Well, a whole suite of programs in fact. See <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/visit-and-learn/programs>. For school aged and adults.

**Do you want to help with this project? [Email us](#).**

## THINGS TO READ AND LISTEN TO

**Our standing reminders** 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.
- **Juice Media** for an [irreverent and spicy look at current politics](#) in Australia and beyond.
- **Crazy Town** From [the Post Carbon Institute \(go to Products/Podcasts\)](#). 2025 season looking at how to get out of Crazy Town.

**NEW PODCAST Series - [How to Citizen](#).**

Imagine citizen as a verb, not a birthright or a legal status. *To citizen, I citizen, you citizen, we citizen*. US based podcast but explores a wide range of relevant topics. The last season is Creating a Culture of Democracy; season 3 was Using Tech to Citizen. Starts Aug 2020. Stopped being made in May 2023. Plus resources on the website.

All **available** from your favourite podcast service.

## **Book – Citizens**

How to be citizens not consumers. [Sneak \(marketing\) look inside](#). “This book reveals what is quite possibly the only thing that can save us now: the Citizen inside every one of us. Which is to say: there is still hope. The future is up for grabs...”.

## **DEMOCRACY AS FUN**



*David Pope, Canberra Times, 24/4/24.*

*From your committee*

**Contact us:** [secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au](mailto:secretary@canberra-alliance.org.au)

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

**Share ideas:** [Twitter \(X\)](#) @CAPADACT

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Election related material authorised Peter Tait 91 David Street O'Connor