

The newDemocracy Foundation Chairman's Report 2021

Summary

In this Covid year, we have been reasonably shielded from the worst of the disruptions endured by many other public-facing organisations. Having said this, all of our proposed in-person citizens' juries were either postponed or shelved altogether. Fortunately, as there weren't that many prospects, little was lost. For the UNDEF jury in North Macedonia, Kyle Redman, as Project Manager, was able to reasonably manage Plan 'B': the on-line option. Others, such as Mornington Peninsula, disappeared on the arrival of a new Council, and one or two others, including Water NSW, continued to be pushed back. A milestone for the year (if I might say!) has been the publishing of the *ABC* book written by Kyle and I.

The real highlight has got to be the behind-the-scenes preparation work on *Change Politics*, which is being launched on Monday 15th November, the day before our AGM. The *CP* initiative follows a strategic decision made by the Board, in conjunction with increased funding from the ALBN Foundation, to activate grass roots awareness and support for political reform. Credit must go again to our amazing executive team of Iain Walker/Polly Cameron/Kyle, who have worked together so well in managing the various consultants and service providers to design and deliver what promises to be everything we hoped for.

Locally

Not much happened by way of actual, realised projects. Iain has doggedly pursued a small number of politicians and advisors — sympathetic to the deliberative democracy agenda — seeking to get traction for a jury project at the Federal level, on various topics, whether Climate Change or Affordable Housing or, in at the State level in NSW, Donation Reform. However, most politicians have no real understanding of (or any real disposition for) deliberative democracy, and so it's not surprising that Iain is struggling to make a breakthrough. Gladys Berejiklian's ICAC testimony may, nevertheless, trigger the new Premier into acting on the Donation Reform proposal.

Iain and Kyle have made a number of written representations to various Parliamentary enquiries, and so we continue to respond to these Committee processes, for what it's worth! On the publishing front, Kyle and I have had a reasonable response to our book, and were pleased to be interviewed in September on ABC Radio Sydney.

Internationally

Kyle is managing to bring to a reasonable conclusion the two remaining *UNDEF* projects in Malawi and North Macedonia, which were directly impacted by COVID, ie; delivering a fully on-line jury process. David Schecter continues to diligently marshal the R&D Network. In Venice, I met with Nicolas Berggruen and Dawn Nakagawa, with the view to develop a working relationship between Berggruen Institute, FIDE and/or newDemocracy. I was also

able to travel to Athens for the *Athens Democracy Forum*, to further explore some relationship there as well.

The standout news internationally has come from FIDE, as Yves Dejaeghere has not only secured a major new Dutch Foundation as a supporter (with the imminent prospect of another very soon) but he has also received a positive response from Paris, where the Mayor has confirmed the establishment of a permanent Citizens' Advisory Council (as per the Eupen model) with a budget of Euro 50k. At the time of writing, the details are being digested.

More Generally

As our part-time Research Director, Professor Lyn Carson continues to support our work both locally and internationally with many high quality contributions. For example, the Podcasts, are now close to 9000 downloads; valuable contributions are being made to various higher education establishments and NGO's, including UTS, Harvard and Bard College in the US, and the Westminster Fund for Democracy; scholarly articles are being written for deliberative democracy books; and the R&D network is flourishing at 102 members, thanks to efforts of both Carson and David Schechter. The Research Director's Report is appended below.

We were very honoured to have Robert Hill join our Research Committee in March, to replace Nick Greiner (who left after being appointed as Consul General in New York). I'm also pleased to record that Elizabeth Proust (who joined the RC in December 2019) has also agreed to become a member of the Change Politics Advisory Board. Given the lack of projects on the local front, there were few opportunities to have input from the Research Committee. Next year, in anticipation of Covid restrictions being lifted, we expect more in-person interaction with everyone, including the Board, the Executive, the RC and our prospective juries.

Virtual meetings on-line meetings (thanks to Zoom et al) have proven to be a viable alternative to in-person, but the standard video call doesn't adequately satisfy the dynamics of public deliberation. Therefore, we/Iain and I continue to investigate a number of digital offerings and, hopefully, the coming year will present with some viable opportunities.

I close by thanking my fellow Board members, Carson and Kathy Jones, and our very capable and hard-working executive, including Manuela Epstein and David Schechter. Special mention must go to Iain who, year after year, most ably leads the team.

Luca Belgiorno-Nettis
Nov. 14th. 2021

Report to Research Committee, The newDemocracy Foundation October 2021

Background

The part-time role of an in-house Research Director was discussed and approved at a meeting of the Research Committee in October 2016. A mid-year report and an annual report have been prepared for the Research Committee each year since that time. This report is a report of current activities with some documentation of the past.

The following criteria were deemed essential by the Research Committee:

- (1) Fulfil requirements of research organisation with charitable status.
- (2) Undertake or commission research that is relevant to the mission of nDF (i.e. democratic reform, alternatives that restore trust among relevant political decision makers and advisors, and produce better results from a public interest perspective).

R&D Notes

Many *R&D Notes* are currently on the newDemocracy website and others are in varying stages of completion. All *R&D Notes* are critical reflections on projects, or new ideas, and provide evidence of our commitment to theorise about our practice. Over the past 12 months there has been a total of 2793 views of the R&D Notes webpage, and 408 unique downloads of various R&D Notes. The titles and authors of the current list of R&D notes on the website—a total of 46—can be found in **Appendix 1**. R&D Notes are central to the research newsletters that are circulated and are promoted and discussed on social media.

All of these R&D Notes have proven to be an extremely useful resource for the Executive Director's advocacy activities—being viewed by people of influence. One example is a recent note—*Would the High Court allow a ban on political donations?*—which was shared immediately with the Attorney-General. These notes are also helpful for the many practitioners who are part of the growing international network. These R&D Notes are occasionally published elsewhere, including in translation. Over the past months they have proven to be an integral component of the courses on Deliberative Democracy being offered by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at UTS. Recently, David van Reybrouck alerted us to the usefulness for his students of these notes at the Hannah Arendt Center in the US.

Podcasts

Operating virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to offer challenges. As mentioned in the previous report this led to the development and broadcasting of a podcast series, *Facilitating Public Deliberations*. This podcast is designed to offer guidance to new facilitators in order to expand the pool of those available to facilitate mini-publics. 44 interviews were recorded and released with Carson as the interviewer and Nivek Thompson

as producer. The series was completed in February 2021, and is available from usual podcast outlets as well as via the newDemocracy website (under *Library*). The download figures have surprised us given their niche nature—so far there have been nearly 9,000 downloads. They have been heard in 30 countries (from the US to Brazil and Albania). We have had interest from Australia, Singapore, UK and Europe in using the series for training purposes. As mentioned, newDemocracy is partnering with ISF to design and deliver several Master Classes on Deliberative Democracy which commenced in 2021. Along with the R&D Notes, excerpts from these podcasts are an essential component of the online materials. The complete list can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Collaborations

The OECD continues to be an important collaborator because of its creation of an international network and release of influential reports that mirror nDF's principles and activities. This close link has meant that nDF's work was heavily featured in its 'Deliberative Wave' report and references to nDF were highly complimentary with regard to the quality and transparency of our work. newDemocracy has also worked closely on the soon-to-be released report on evaluation of public deliberations. This is exactly the type of organisation that nDF wants writing on the topic of deliberative democracy as we connect with the wider public sector.

The Research Director was the lead author for a recently released handbook commissioned by the Westminster Fund for Democracy: *An introduction to deliberative democracy for members of parliament*. The launch is imminent and the interactive handbook will be distributed to many developing countries.

Our links with Europe are substantial: the Research Director is on the board of Federation for Innovation in Democracy Europe (FIDE), an NGO which newDemocracy sponsors. The Research Director has also briefly been on the advisory group for the German Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste, as well as advising on deliberative design for the *European Association of Conservatoires*.

Collaborations with practitioners and scholars flourish. These collaborations were reinforced during attendance at annual gatherings of Democracy R&D. Unlike previous years in Madrid, Paris and Manchester, 2021 saw the first virtual annual conference in March. Close connections have been established, as mentioned, with the OECD and also with the European Commission. The UNDEF project continues with input from the Research Director.

Closer to home, the Research Director has been contacting deliberative practitioners in New Zealand and drawing them into Democracy R&D, as well as being available as a presenter, online, for webinars—in particular for a NZ NGO, Trust Democracy.

The Research Director has recently collaborated with Mosaic Lab to document a history of deliberative democracy in Australia and has also provided the preface for Mosaic Lab's forthcoming *Facilitating Deliberation—A Practical Guide*.

Another task that is performed by the Research Director is review of scholars' journal articles and book proposals and manuscripts, as well as offering advice to students doing higher degrees. Rachel Krust, based at Harvard University, is working closely with newDemocracy on a substantial research project. Currently a chapter is being finalised by the Research Director for a forthcoming edited book on citizens' assemblies.

At home, the Research Director provides oversight of deliberative designs for newDemocracy's various project initiatives. The combination of Research Director and the Project Manager and Executive Director has led to very coherent deliberative designs—robust, workable and transferable.

The Research Director has been involved in curriculum development and all webinars that are foundational for the UTS courses which have been offered twice to date. Also, time has been spent with those advocating for a referendum based on the Uluru Statement: First National Voice.

The international network *Democracy R&D*, established by newDemocracy, now covers 32 countries, on six continents with 102 members (with approx. 200 fully engaged—some organisations have multiple members). For more information, see the network's website <https://democracyrd.org/about/>. This has been a real success for newDemocracy's research efforts—to initiate a global network and to watch it grow so successfully. This international presence serves us well, to enhance domestic authority and effectiveness. The close connection continues between the two organisations. The Research Director speaks with the Coordinator each week and assumes the role of a critical ally. David Schecter, likewise, participates in newDemocracy's team meetings, providing a monthly report on the network's efforts.

The research activity, despite its part-time nature continues to be rewarding, stimulating and productive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hyubanson', written in a cursive style.

Research Director

APPENDIX 1

Research and Development (R+D) Notes

<https://www.newdemocracy.com.au/research-and-development-notes/>

| <i>What is it? Basic concepts</i> [9] | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| Title | Date | Author/s |
| Should politicians deliberate alongside citizens? | 2021 | Lyn Carson |
| Why do politicians love or hate the idea of citizens' juries? | 2019 | Lyn Carson & David Schechter |
| Comparing participatory and deliberative democracy | 2019 | Lyn Carson & Stephen Elstub |
| More or less: The challenge of scale | 2019 | Lyn Carson |
| Concerns about citizens' abilities | 2018 | Lyn Carson |
| Citizens juries are not public meetings | 2018 | Lyn Carson |
| Deliberation | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| Benefits of the jury model | 2017 | David Schechter |
| Group diversity trumps individual ability | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| Forms of mini-publics | 2017 | Oliver Escobar & Stephen Elstub |
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| <i>How to do it. The stages of mini-public deliberation</i> [12] | | |
| Title | Date | Author/s |
| How much time do people need for a public deliberation? | 2020 | Kyle Redman & Lyn Carson |
| Principles of Community Participation | 2019 | Deloitte & newDemocracy |
| Framing the remit | 2018 | Lyn Carson et al |
| Constructively incorporating stakeholders in public decision-making | 2018 | Lyn Carson & Tyrone Reitman |
| Sample size for mini-publics | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| Enhancing jurors' critical thinking capacity | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| Importance of facilitation | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| Choosing expert speakers | 2017 | Lyn Carson & David Schechter |
| Hearing from experts | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| How should citizens' jury decisions be made? The role of voting | 2019 | Lyn Carson & David Schechter |
| How to write a report as a group | 2020 | Kyle Redman & Lyn Carson |
| Financial Compensation for Citizens in Mini-Publics | 2020 | Lyn Carson & Hans Liudger-Dienel |
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| <i>Where has this been done before? Democratic innovations in practice</i> [13] | | |
| Title | Date | Author/s |
| Brussels Deliberative Committee Model | 2020 | Jonathan Moskovic, Fiona Saintraint, Kyle Redman |

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| Learnings from Madrid: Institutionalising deliberative democracy through its Observatory of the City | 2020 | Lyn Carson & Arantxa Mendiharat |
| Learnings from the Byron Shire Community Solutions Panel | 2018 | Lyn Carson & Iain Walker |
| Key learnings from Geelong's citizens' jury | 2018 | Lyn Carson |
| Comparing a citizens' jury with a youth jury | 2018 | Lyn Carson et al |
| Learnings from the ACT's Housing Choices Collaboration Hub | 2018 | Kyle Redman |
| The Swiss model [updated 2020] | 2018 | Lyn Carson & Jurg Steiner |
| Embedding deliberative democracy in Poland | 2018 | Lyn Carson & Marcin Gerwin |
| Integrating citizen deliberation into national decisions: Ireland's Prime Minister's Office | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| French presidential election & sortition | 2017 | Gil Delannoi & Lyn Carson |
| Learnings from South Australia's nuclear fuel cycle jury | 2017 | Lyn Carson |
| Random seating in parliaments | 2019 | Alessandro Saia & Lyn Carson |
| Citizens' Councils: What are they & why are they so popular in Austria | 2020 | Rosa Zubizarreta, Andy Paice, Martha Cuffy |
| | | |
| <i>What's next? Challenges and new ideas</i> [12] | | |
| Title | Date | Author/s |
| Would the High Court allow a ban on political donations? | 2021 | Wendy Hu |
| Mini-public deliberation in philanthropy: A new way to engage the public | 2020 | Patsy Kraeger & David Schechter |
| Towards Global Cooperation: The Case for a Deliberative Global Citizens' Assembly | 2020 | Michael Vlerick |
| Appointments to boards | 2019 | Lyn Carson & Ron Lubensky |
| Informed referendums | 2019 | Ron Levy |
| Beyond mini-publics alone | 2018 | David Schechter & Brian Sullivan |
| Citizen-led constitutional change | 2018 | Terrill Bourcius & David Schechter |
| 7 reasons schools should shift from election to lotteries | 2018 | Adam Cronkright & Simon Pek |
| Budgeting by jury | 2017 | David Schechter |
| Designing an online public deliberation | 2020 | Kyle Redman & The Democratic Society |
| Report on barriers to adoption of best practice policy making | 2020 | Matt Crocker |
| Why random selection is a better method for choosing independent High Court judges | 2020 | Pierre-Etienne Vandamme & Donald Bello Hutt |
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APPENDIX 2

Facilitating Public Deliberations - podcast episodes

<https://www.newdemocracy.com.au/category/library/podcast/>

| Episode no. | Title | Interviewees |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 44 | Global public deliberations | Claudia Chwalisz |
| 43 | Reflections from a participant | Bobbi Allan |
| 42 | Deliberation and disability | Rhiann McLeod & Max Hardy |
| 41 | Online deliberation through Common Ground for Action | Kara Dillard |
| 40 | Reflecting on deliberation and valuable techniques | Kath Fisher |
| 39 | Tools and techniques | Abbie Jeffs |
| 38 | Tools and techniques | Lucy Cole-Edelstein |
| 37 | Feedback Frames in deliberative processes | Jason Diceman |
| 36 | Deliberation tools and techniques | Mosaic Lab team |
| 35 | The emotional work of deliberation | Rosa Zubizarreta |
| 34 | Wisdom Councils and Dynamic Facilitation | Jim Rough |
| 33 | Deliberation across countries and languages | Dominik Hierlemann |
| 32 | Citizens' Initiative Reviews | Linn Davis |
| 31 | Deliberation learning and empathy | Laurie Drake |
| 30 | A scientific perspective on deliberation | Chris Forman |
| 29 | Deliberation and planning | Anna Kelderman |
| 28 | Perspectives on facilitation | Scott Newton |
| 27 | New to deliberative democracy: the Madrid Observatorio | Arantxe Mendiharat |
| 26 | Learning from an experienced facilitator | Max Hardy |
| 25 | Skills of an experienced facilitator | Marcia Dwonczyk |
| 24 | Facilitation & open government | Don Lenihan |
| 23 | Long-form deliberation with new & experienced facilitators | Kaela Scott & Dominic Ward |
| 22 | Techniques for deliberation | Wendy Faulkner |
| 21 | Analysing deliberation | André Bächtiger |
| 20 | The thrill of facilitation | Kathy Jones |
| 19 | Dialogue & deliberation at system level | Simon Burall |
| 18 | Tools & techniques--ORID | Vivien Twyford |
| 17 | Online deliberation—evaluation | Dannica Fleuss |
| 16 | Online deliberation—building group cohesion (part 2) | Viv McWaters |
| 16 | Online deliberation—group cohesion (part 1) | Chad Foukes & Viv McWaters |
| 15 | Online deliberation—design questions | Susanna Haas Lyons |
| 14 | Adult learning and online deliberations | Leanne Piggott |

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| 13 | Online deliberation—a case study | Emily Jenke |
| 12 | Online deliberation: opportunities and challenges | Graham Smith |
| 11 | Training facilitators | Oliver Escobar |
| 10 | Deliberative processes and democracy | Matthew Taylor |
| 9 | When to use deliberative mini-publics | Iain Walker & Nicole Hunter |
| 8 | MASS LBP's approach | Peter MacLeod |
| 7 | From large to small scale public deliberations | Janette Hartz-Karp |
| 6 | Democratic theory & British Columbia's Citizens' Assembly | Mark Warren |
| 5 | The intersection of theory & practice | John Gastil |
| 4 | Consensus Conferences | Lars Kluver |
| 3 | The history of deliberative mini-publics | John Gastil |
| 2 | Planning Cells | Hans Liudger-Dienel |
| 1 | Citizens' Juries | Ned Crosby & Pat Benn |