

# Global Buzz

SEPTEMBER 2022



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INTERNATIONAL



## Community Independents Convention

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend the Community Independents Convention (online), hosted by the Community Independents Project. This is the second convention of a new social collaboration/movement in Australia giving “voice” to communities in the political process, focused on enabling communities and community based independent candidates to build participatory democracy and to conduct successful election campaigns. The Community Independents Project has amassed a rich trove of resources, materials, tactics and such that is widely shared with communities interested in having their voice featured front and centre in the political process.

This movement began in 2013 when Cathy McGowan, an early member of the facilitation movement in Australia, was elected as a Community Independent to the Australian Parliament. Her successful election was attributed to a grassroots, community-based campaign where facilitative approaches were central to engaging communities in the electorate. Kitchen table conversations, street corner tents, coloured tops, and singing were just some of the elements that made the campaign a different experience for electors. Cathy’s six-years as a parliamentarian was that of a true independent representing the concerns and aspirations of the communities in her electorate and staked out a difference with the dominant two-party politics strongly entrenched in Australia’s political system. Cathy wasn’t the first independent candidate elected. The main story of her election was the campaign and the nationwide movement it sparked.

Six years (two-terms) later, at the 2019 national election Cathy handed the baton to another community member and began to spend her time supporting communities and candidates across the country. At this election several more community-based campaigns successfully resulted in more community independents being elected. The more famous example of the success of the movement at this election cycle was the unseating of a former Australian prime minister based on a campaign that placed climate change front and centre. The movement of community independents, also called the “Voices of/for (electorate)” was becoming more visible across the nation. The media were starting to cover the individuals and the emerging movement (<https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/fifty-shades-of-teal>). The two mainstream parties were starting to take the independents seriously (by attacking them as being ‘so-called independents’ representing the other main party). A few philanthropic individuals started a fundraising vehicle to support campaign costs with no expectations to influence the policies or platforms of the community independents.

Fast forward to the recent 2022 election when a wave of community independents, all women, swept into the Australian Parliament. They were the main speakers at the sessions that made up the 2nd Community Independents Convention I referenced at the start. The power of local people mobilising is alive and well and now making its mark in the political process. What’s next? The economic system?

**Kevin Balm, ICA Australasia, [balmkevin@gmail.com](mailto:balmkevin@gmail.com)**





## Participation in the National VOICE Campaign

***A VOICE to the Indigenous peoples is a VOICE to the LAND and its WATERS.***

- First Nations Panel The Raising Peace festival begins on 17th September at 3-5pm with First Nations Panel leading a dialogue on the Uluru Statement – VOICE to parliament.
- Indigenous and non-Indigenous colleagues, with whom we work closely, will again, be participating in the 2022 Raising Peace Festival, on Saturday 17th September, REACHING OUT to AUSTRALIA panel dialogue 3- 5 pm, on Saturday.

Register [here](#). Recordings will also be available.

A similar event in 4 sessions was held last year reaching over 650 participants!

The Voice from the Heart Alliance – an ever growing national Alliance of networks supporting the First Nations VOICE to Parliament. [www.fromtheheart.com.au/](http://www.fromtheheart.com.au/) ICA members join with colleagues across the nation to amplify the message to all Australians, as part of the national Uluru campaign. Networking and conversations are key to deepening our understanding.

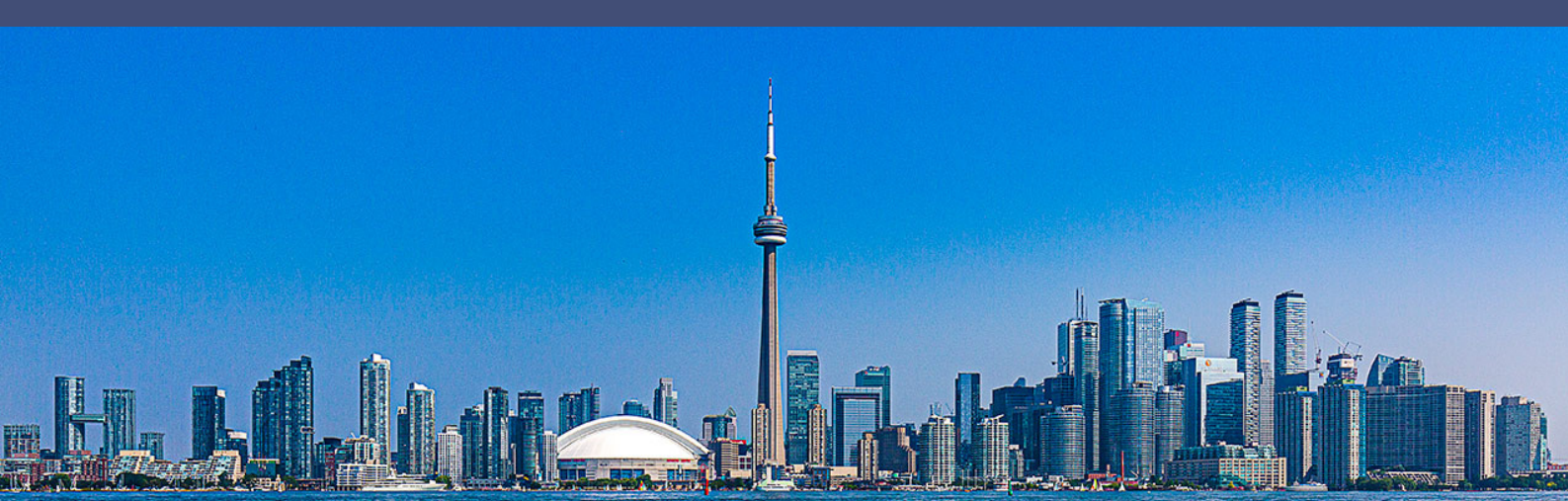
### Challenges

Reaching out across the nation to those who are unaware of the importance of this vote and referendum, to the future of the Australian nation and the globe.

### Next steps

Our continuing and increasing involvement in the campaign 'Walking together'.

**Robyn Hutchinson, ICA Australasia: [rjhutchinson48@gmail.com](mailto:rjhutchinson48@gmail.com)**



Summer months, normally reserved for holidays in Canada, were quite busy for ICA Associates Inc. We held two six-day Art and Science of Participation intensives, one online and one in our training centre in downtown Toronto. Our usual July Group Facilitation Methods course was so oversubscribed, that we split this in-person course in two and taught both courses in different parts of the building at the same time. We finally completed creating the Self-Directed versions of the ToP Facilitation Essentials Program courses which includes Group Facilitation Methods, Meetings That Work, Facilitating Client Collaboration and Transformational Strategy. This can be found at <https://training.ica-associates.ca/products/top-facilitation-essentials-program>.

We are now in the midst of rebranding our company, which has used the same brand since 2004. Yedyinka.com of Ukraine is developing our visual branding manual and also a new website, to be complete in late September. We will unveil our new ICA logo then, but in the meantime our new training slogan will be "Leadership for a complex world" and our consulting slogan will be "The future of meaningful engagement."

Over the summer we have brought two new Associates on board for a total of seven staff and 20 training and consulting Associates. We have over 13 people from China in our Advanced Facilitator Program which will run throughout 2022-2023. Everyone had some holidays, however, so were are all fresh and already into our new program year after launching with three days of planning.

Bill Staples, ICA Associates Inc.: [bstaples@ica-associates.ca](mailto:bstaples@ica-associates.ca)



## Africa ICAs October Conference

The month of August saw Kenya elect a new president, which was disputed, then taken to the supreme court, which then upheld the election. In the meantime, ICA Kenya, as the host for the **Africa ICAs Conference**, has continued fundraising and preparing for the **23rd to 29th October 2022 Conference**. The African team has discussed as the two options: (1) pursue funding to host the conference as planned, or (2) in the event of insufficient conference funding, have a small representative African gathering during the scheduled dates. **The focus will be on the development of the climate change manual, on the ToP Courses and fundraising strategies for each nation and the region.** Meanwhile, Shalom House is the venue identified for the conference. Letters of invitation will soon be sent to the expected participants.

During the month of August ICA Kenya has developed materials for marketing ToP Courses that target local NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

We are also negotiating with ACK Church who has requested that we use their facilities as a multipurpose center. We are working on options to see what is required of us to realize this opportunity.

Henry Mpapale, ICA Kenya: [mpapalehenry@gmail.com](mailto:mpapalehenry@gmail.com)



## Career Development Program: Appreciative Inquiry and Social Movement for Youth

A career development program was held for the students of Kalpa Academy, a renowned college in Nepal, on August 19, 2022. In order for the workshop to be successful, ICA Nepal supported it along with other organizations. Career affects what we can become and contribute, and who we impact in the pursuit of our work.

Also it matters because it is such a core component of our lives: it helps us become the person we are meant to become, continually changing and evolving as we mature and learn. So, realizing the importance of it, the program was conducted with Mr. Sahadev Mahat facilitating the program. Activities included a search to discover the core, the heart, of imagining the best in all its forms, listening, attitude and domain of life. Students were given tasks to serve as the basis for the of next program.

## Orientation for Organizational Fundraising

One of the ICAI Teams created at the ICA General Assembly on July 17, 2021, is the Global Fundraising Taskforce. In-country fundraising is one of the three key fundraising segments or streams that have been identified. On behalf of the In-country Fundraising Stream, ICA Global Fundraising Taskforce, ICA Nepal conducted the orientation program on Enabling Organizational Fundraising. Participants were from Kenya, Togo, Uganda, Ghana, Bangladesh, and other countries and organizations from all over the world. The main goal of this program was to increase the ability of ICAs and organizations to raise money both internally and outside. ICA Nepal shared awareness on how this works as Nepal has done successfully in the program "Fundraising for NGOs in Nepal".



## Promoting STEAM Education Through Youth

ICA Nepal has been promoting an integrated approach to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in order to improve hands-on learning with real-world applications for developing skill sets, including creativity and 21st-century skills. This has been coordinated with different Rotary Clubs members and other organizations. Last July, a seminar was conducted where each participant represented one or more academic institution. Materials distribution and budgets were made to carry out the STEAM Education project. Many have already started their work on it.

## Celebration of Teej Festival

ICA Nepal celebrated the Teej Festival (or Haritalika Teej), one of the main festivals for all Hindu women, usually falls on the full moon day in September, welcoming the monsoon season. Girls and women celebrate with songs, dancing and prayer rituals. Nepali women have long used it as a forum to express their suppressed emotions, raise their voices for identity subversion, as well as to indulge in and recreate themselves. Teej customs has much more to tell about awareness, advocacy and empowerment related to women.

**Karuna Mahat, ICA Nepal**



**"We are the first generation to feel the sting of climate change, and we are the last generation that can do something about it."**

Jay Inslee, Governor, State of Washington



*ICA GreenRise has 483 solar panels, providing 25% of the building's electricity; some panels pictured here.*

## Carbon Free Uptown

ICA USA is focusing on the Uptown community for its "Carbon Free Uptown" program. After discovering that 70% of carbon emissions in Chicago come from buildings, the Carbon Free Building Demonstrations (CFBD) program ICA launched in 2021 seems more important than ever. The CFBD includes ICA GreenRise, Lakeside Square Apartments (23-stories with many ethnic groups), Sarah's Circle two buildings (serving women who are housing-insecure), and Uplift Community High School.

### **In August we began expanding the "Carbon Free Uptown" Program.**

- We hosted a table advertising "Carbon Free Uptown" at the first annual Uptown Rhythm Festival and issued our first invitations for people to become Carbon Free Cheerleaders.
- At the closing Argyle Night festivities, people spun a wheel and answered questions about the climate and talked about becoming Carbon Free Cheerleaders.
- At the Uptown Chamber of Commerce luncheon, we were encouraged to have a table about the "Carbon Free Uptown" program at their September Buena Park Blockclub Party
- Our attendance at the first Green Forum in August of Ward 46 resulted in an invitation to present the program at the second Green Forum.
- GreenRise tenants attending the GreenRise luncheon also added signatures to become "Cheerleaders".



**#CARBONFREE2035**

*Lesley Showers, ICA USA Executive Director (left) chatting with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (right) and Angela Tovar, Chief Sustainability Officer (center) on the GreenRise 8th floor roof*

As a result of these conversations, twenty-five people have indicated interest in exploring what it would mean to become Carbon Free Cheerleaders. October 6th we plan to host the first Carbon Free Cheerleaders meeting. One image of the Cheerleaders task is to occasion Uptown vision conversations, collect the results, and launch "Carbon Free Uptown" action teams in 2023.

Beyond Uptown we are collaborating with leaders in Ithaca, NY and Menlo Park, CA who are also moving towards becoming carbon free.

**Lesley Showers, ICA USA: [lshowers@ica-usa.org](mailto:lshowers@ica-usa.org)**





## Global Schedule of Events

To see four types of events: studies, significant conversations, training and impactful global events visit the Global Schedule at:  
<https://icaglobalarchives.org/social-research-center-events/>

**Remember, YOU are invited to:**

- 1- Offer a presentation you are interested in giving;
- 2- Recommend other people to present;
- 3- Participate in any of the events and encourage your friends to attend; and
- 4- Give feedback by emailing: [icaglobalschedule@gmail.com](mailto:icaglobalschedule@gmail.com)

The vision for the Global Schedule of Events is to make this easily accessible and globally friendly to all no matter where and what!

Alan, Karen, Robyn, Sunny, and Virginia

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