This article investigates the degree to which South Korea’s candlelight rallies, which were held between late October 2016 and early March 2017 to demand the resignation of then-president Park Geunhye, resonated with overseas Koreans. It uses first-hand interviews with Koreans in Australia, and articles published in the Korean-language media in Australia, to analyse the perspectives of the Korean diaspora in Melbourne. Informed by Charles Tilly’s “contentious politics” framework, we analyse the degree to which the rallies mobilised support, the goals that the organisers pursued through the rallies, and the ways in which the rallies were conducted. Despite a strong consensus among Koreans in both the homeland and the diaspora that Park’s impeachment was justified, we find that the rallies exposed numerous divisions in the Korean community in Melbourne, along ideological, generational and other axes. We conclude that it is difficult to sustain social movements in a transnational context.