

Old
Parliament
House

You can't lockdown democracy!

This week is the United Nations International Day of Democracy, our second during a global pandemic, and our first with the majority of the country locked down at home. As the only country in the world that has a Museum of Democracy, it's an opportunity for us to reflect on our democracy, what we want from it, and how best to practise it.

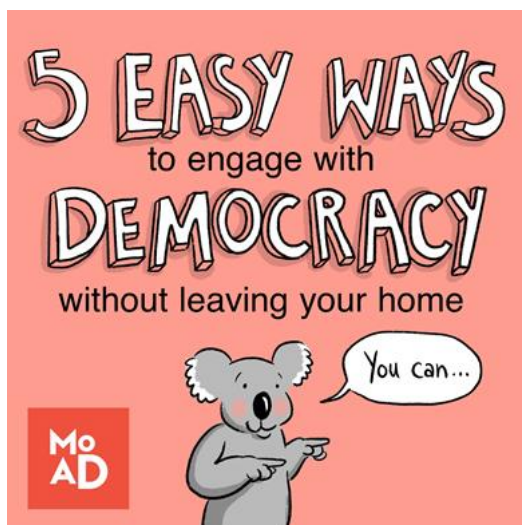
When it's safe, we look forward to being able to welcome you back into Old Parliament House. Until then please enjoy these stories from MoAD and stay involved. One thing the pandemic has reminded us is, you can't lockdown democracy.

READ: Pandemics, people and democracy



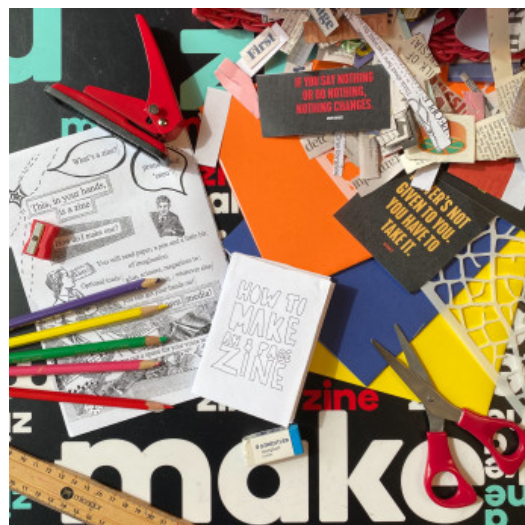
A letter from Daryl Karp, the Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy to mark the International Day of Democracy 2021. Her key message this year is that our democracy is not innate, nor simply inherited, nor is it fixed in time. [Read more.](#)

SHARE: Stay involved while staying home



Did you know you can create your own e-petition through the House of Representatives online system? We teamed up with illustrator Jess Harwood to compile a list of ways you can engage in democracy. [See our tips.](#)

LEARN: Democracy at the kitchen bench



Learn how to make a zine, listen to a podcast, or help make a difference in your community. Check out our high-quality resources and ready-to-go activities to support young minds at home. [See our lockdown resources.](#)

50 YEARS ON: Celebrating Neville Bonner, the first Indigenous federal parliamentarian



To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Neville Bonner's swearing-in, we had planned a pop-up exhibition in King's Hall last month. Due to Canberra's lockdown, we're temporarily closed, so instead, we're sharing stories about Bonner, one of Australia's most admired political leaders. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Senator Neville Bonner at his desk, (Old) Parliament House, 1979. Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia.

OBJECT: Out of the shadows - a Star of David



Near the entrance of our exhibition *Democracy: Are You In?* is a small yellow cloth patch. Now some eighty years old, it is displayed in semi-darkness, to help protect its delicate fibres. We block light to this object to shed light on a terrible chapter in human history. [Find out more about this important object from the MoAD collection.](#)

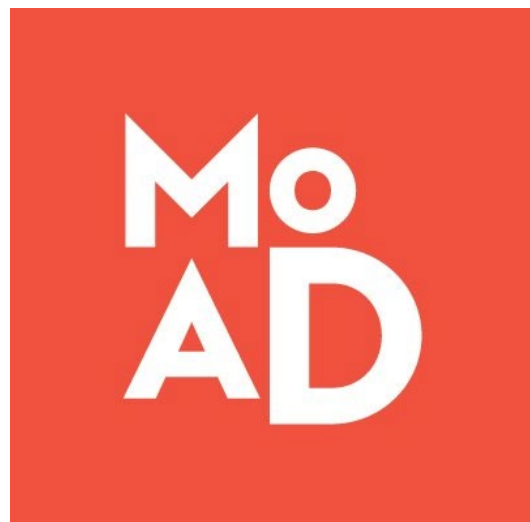
GET ACTIVE: The rise of bee activism



Spring is here, and with it - bees! In recent years, concern for the health of honeybees has sparked a rise in bee activism, which is seeing everyone from Instagram and TikTok influencers to Angelina Jolie shine a spotlight on the challenges facing the world's bee population. [Read more.](#)

Photo: It turns out bees are also democratic. We explore how they make collective decisions in our HiveMind:Honeybees, Democracy & Me exhibition.

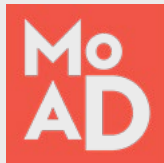
SHOP: Democracy, delivered. **WORK:** Want to work at
MoAD?



Did you know our shop is online?! You can get gorgeous seasonal postcards by Simon Blazey (pictured above), the Election! Card Game, or the pocket edition of the Australian Constitution. [Browse now](#).

We have some great jobs going at the moment! We pride ourselves on promoting diversity and inclusion, and as such encourage applications from the diverse Australian community. [View our current vacancies](#).

Stay safe, everyone!



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