OUTDOOR ED LESSON 2

The use of green spaces has [increased dramatically](https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/News/2020/Sydneysiders-take-to-green-space-during-the-COVID-19-pandemic) since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, where huge numbers of people are using outdoor spaces for exercise and their mental health. In some parts of Australia, this increase has led to an almost doubling of park visits. Centennial Park, in Sydney, estimated visits to be up by 20 per cent and the Botanical Gardens registered their highest visitation on record this year.

However increased pressures on our parks during COVID-19 has highlighted key concerns with green space accessibility. The NSW Planning Minister, Rob Stokes stating that the pandemic has exposed limitations of historic urban design and subsequently released a $15 million dollar [shared backyard](https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/nsw-government-releases-shared-backyard-vision-for-greener-city-20200624-p555m3.html) vision to help create greener cities.

*“*Mounting global research is clear – accessible green space offers immense health, social and economic benefits.”

Internationally, the [Centre for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/Pcd/issues/2020/20_0204.htm) continues to be a strong advocate for maintaining access to green space for wellbeing, foreseeing green spaces as being quintessential for future pandemics.

**Write a paragraph or so on each of these questions.**

**Hand them up in your collection folder for assessment.**

1. List the Green or Outdoor spaces you have visited over the holidays and when Home Learning
2. Imagine you could be in control of the grounds at Heritage. What 3 changes would you make to make our green spaces better for personal and social opportunities to interact with and enjoy nature?
3. Across the road from the school there is a new housing estate. What do you think should be included so people can enjoy being outdoors more? Try to think of the needs of old, young, young families and teenagers.

*When you come back to school, we will look at our Nature playground at school and compare it with the Mukanthi Nature Play Space at Morialta National park*.