

For six months now, we have been working on Home, a community writing project about Redfern/Waterloo. This story was written during a Home workshop last term with students from Alexandria Park Community School. It was inspired by snippets we have uncovered from the past, including an old photo of Central Station and some reminiscences by locals about arriving in Redfern for the first time. Shanna used those to imagine a story about how Redfern has changed over the years.

Untitled

By Shanna, year 7

“Next stop, Redfern.”

The train rocked and the passengers bounced up and down, and moved from side to side. Kath straightened her uniform as the train slowed and she waited for the doors to open. As she stepped out she smelled the usual train station smell. She sighed and made her way to work at the police station.

As she walked in, she saw her boss, Riley, in a cheerful mood. He was whistling and humming to himself while holding a cup of coffee.

“Good morning, Kath,” he said to her as soon as he noticed her.

“Good morning, sir,” Kath replied.

“I’ve been thinking,” Riley said putting the cup of coffee on a nearby desk. “You can have a day off today. Explore Redfern a bit you know? You’re a great policewoman so you deserve this. We have plenty of workers.”

Kath was shocked, but relieved. “Thank you sir” she replied.

As she walked out she heard the sound of cars and the smell of petrol. “Where to go next?” she thought to herself. Her tummy grumbled. She set off to find a restaurant.

As Kath walked along, she kind of got lost because lots of things in Redfern had changed. Even though she works in Redfern, she had never gotten to explore the place much because it is very stressful as a policewoman. When Kath was a child, she used to see grey brick-like paths while walking through the parks. She realised that the paths are now white smooth paths. She kept on walking and looking for a good restaurant. “Grrrrrrrrr...” she hears her tummy grumble.

As she’s walking she just barely recognises some buildings from her childhood. She smiled as she wondered how much things have changed...