

# Train travel mates

*“She told me about her father threatened by local gangs”*

Living in Heathmont, most people react with a “What! Where?” followed by a confused, judgemental look.


It’s probably easiest to say “the bush”, but when I told this to my Mauritian friend at work he laughed and asked if I had made up that suburb.

Listing various surrounding suburbs seems only to confuse inner-city dwellers. Some believe nothing much exists past Camberwell and Hawthorn.

Going to university from a place a fair way out of town, I was initially anxious about whether I’d make friends. But I immediately bonded with a girl doing my course when she nodded and said “I live near there”.

And a friendship blossomed. On that first day we caught the train home together, talking about that over-confident, macho second-year who had befriended all of the new first-year girls. He had made sure to invite us all to “Beach day”. We laughed about joining the Arts Club, and what this might entail. If only we had saved that fifteen dollars. I still have the card, but I have never used it, let alone attended a meeting.

She told me about her father, a police prosecutor, who had shifted his family from their home in Sunshine to Kilsyth, after being threatened by local gangs.

And every day after, we travelled home together. 

**Danielle Galvin**



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