

RORY HARRIS

ON THE DAY

when we go to the polls
it's almost always back to school
or kindergarten
to vote

back into the landscapes
of childhood
terrain worth fighting over
like football, or war
& here on the day
we are mentioned in dispatches

here trading tables & politics
have never been separate
we, on the day
stroll through aisles of lamingtons & jubilee cakes
& smile at the ladies auxiliary
women who could be our mothers
who've spent decades in kitchens
as listeners

& here on the day
change is slow
some vote out of ritual
like my mother always using suet for shortning
because her mother
did it that way