

Dantes Glen

Location: Start this walk at North Lawson Park, at the end of St Bernards Drive in Lawson

Duration: 1 hour

Grade: Easy-Moderate

Features: Waterfalls, creek

Trip Notes:

The echos of a waterfall drew us onto this track as we walked past purple flowers and flickering tadpoles in clear puddles on the path. The mountain devils were bursting with colour and a currawong turned its cunning eyes our way as we approached the old rock steps. We decided to go straight down to Dante's Glen and save the track on the right for our return trip. It was only a 10 minute descent via fairly steep but lovingly carved steps, and a wooden bridge provided a walkway onto the sandy beach at the base of the falls of Dantes Glen – a magical place full of ferns, lush vegetation, the beautiful waterfall cascading over rocks and forming a large pool under a cavernous overhang. Examining the mossy rocks we found old graffiti and writing carved on some – we managed to make out the year "1883" and another pointing out "Lawson $\frac{3}{4}$ M".

From the bridge, the track follows the creek to a crossing where some old signs are painted on the rock face opposite. A short detour here to St Michaels Falls is certainly worth the trip - we came to this spectacular stream of water pouring down the embankment past thick bright green moss into the pool below - a great spot to have a break and relax at the old picnic table (complete with fireplace) with butterflies and dragonflies dancing about. Returning back to the main track after this interlude we continued on towards Empire Pass however today we were not going to do the pass (a much longer walk). Instead about 10 minutes along this track there is a path on the right leading up some rock steps. Although unmarked, it's not hard to find and taking this track back up the escarpment past changing vegetation from flowering grevilleas, bottle brush and gnarled banksias to wind eroded rock shelves splashed with wattle, gave us our return route. Emerging up the top a large area of flat rock provides a nice lookout and a place to rest. A number of old signs are painted on the rock and the one to follow is not the one that points to Lawson but the one pointing straight ahead to the car park. This sandy path bends round beautiful large red-brown rock faces, turning soggy at a hanging swamp and opens up to an amazing view across to Fairy Falls. From here we could see the three to four levels of these falls and the water falling in sheets between them. A short boardwalk took us right up to the falls where we rested in the shade watching the red stalactites and listening to the roar of the water. The cunning currawong turned its eyes on us again and we headed back to the car to complete the round trip.