

## **Water Nymphs Dell**

**Location:** Start at Dell Rd (off Railway Parade) in Wentworth Falls. Ends at Glenview Rd

**Duration:** The walk takes about 1.5 hours, however to link up the start and finish a 20 minute road walk needs to be done.

**Grade:** Moderate

**Features:** waterfalls, beach, creek, overhangs

### **Trip Notes:**

This amazing walk certainly lives up to its name – the lush vegetation and spectacular waterfalls down in the huge cavernous valley, incites the observer to imagine water nymphs dancing in this dell.

To get to the spectacle, we start at Dell Road and pass some houses before the track narrows and heads down the escarpment via some formed steps. Beautiful gnarled banksias carpeted with knobs of velvety moss emerge along the path amidst the rich bush vegetation. Soon there is a view ahead through the trees of the valley below and as we watch the mist twirls and gently lifts. The damp track leads through the first of many small hanging swamps along this trail – the vegetation is dense and colourful with golden bottle brush rising out of the distinctive green ferns of the hanging swamp. The track soon opens out and we can hear the waterfall below. Here there are many more tall eucalyptus trees around us, with the occasional trunks of angophoras painted in various hues of orange.

The track continues to descend and gets more wet and slippery. Footing needs to be watched as parts of the track are eroded away in places. After walking down a small set of wooden steps and through another hanging swamp, there is a distinctive change in the vegetation as it becomes more like a rainforest.

Here behind a little waterfall, we enter a long overhang. Its walls are sparkling and damp, and ferns are sprouting from the crevices. This overhang is extremely long and it brings us out to a huge cavern – the Water Nymphs Dell. As we look on, a beautiful waterfall is falling from high above the escarpment and forming a pool below. Ferns and lush vegetation line the canyon, and the path continues behind the waterfall around the other side of the cavern, past huge ferns and coachwood trees to a picnic table. At the table, we are now opposite the waterfall and this is a great vantage point. A rough track leads down to the sandy beach which looks like it would be a refreshing spot for a dip on a hot summer's day.

The dell is enormous and spectacular. A long time could be spent observing the surrounds, listening to the waterfall, picnicking and exploring this beautiful place. To continue out of the dell, we keep following the path past the picnic table down a pretty set of rock steps and on to cross a small watercourse. A very long set of stone steps goes up the escarpment, and ascending, we come to a small tiered waterfall after clambering under a fallen tree. The watercourse is followed up and crossed a number of times and eventually we zigzag up to a fire trail. Crossing the fire trail and following the marker, the path takes us up to Glenview Street. To get back to the start turn left and follow Glenview Street to Railway Parade