



**BELMORE FALLS**  
MORTON NATIONAL PARK

# The Belmore Falls Scenic Walk Morton National Park

The Belmore Falls area, 8 kms south of Robertson offers outstanding vistas of Kangaroo Valley and two waterfalls which drop a total of one hundred metres into the Barrengarry Creek Valley; the main fall drops a spectacular 78 metres. A short walking trail leads through relatively undisturbed eucalypt forest to several lookouts from which the falls and the magnificent rainforest in the valley below can be seen. The lookouts are located on the eastern side of the valley. Drive from the causeway above the Falls towards Robertson for 0.5km and turn right onto the "one way" road. This road passes through open forest where Black or Silver Top Ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*), Conesticks (*Petrophile sp.*), Drumsticks (*Isopogon*), Tea Trees (*Leptospermum sp.*), Old Man Banksia (*Banksia serrata*), Finger Hakea (*Hakea dactyloides*) and Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) are common. Halfway along this road the vegetation begins to change due to increasingly moist conditions.

## The Belmore Falls Scenic Walk

Commencing from the first parking area this walk covers a distance of 900 metres. Along the track are a fascinating array of plants including She-oak (*Allocasuarina distyla*), Swamp Banksia (*Banksia Paludosa*), Heath Banksia (*B. ericifolia*), Tea Tree, (*Leptospermum sp.*) and Geebung (*Persoonia*). Look also for Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus minor*) and Pea Flowers (*Bossiaea heterophylla*).

## Lookouts

**Hindmarsh Lookout** (100m) is named after W.R. Hindmarsh, one of the earliest European settlers and a trustee of the former Barrengarry State Park. This lookout gives spectacular views of Kangaroo Valley, which supported a cedar industry during the 19th century.

Featured here are many ferns, including both tall varieties—the Rough Tree Fern (*Cyathea australis*) and the King Fern (*Todea barbara*) as well as dwarf species such as Umbrella fern (*Sticherus sp.*).

**The second lookout** (50m further) provides another view of the valley with its patchwork of farms surrounded by magnificent stands of rainforest. In earlier times, children would walk from these farms up the escarpment to school. Listen carefully! It is often possible to hear lyrebirds calling in this valley. Following the trail through dense vegetation along the escarpment's edge, watch and listen for King Parrots, Lewin Honeyeaters, Grey Shrike Thrush, Superb Fairy Wren and Rufous Fantails.

**At the third lookout**, near the second carpark (250m further), walkers get their first view of Belmore Falls through a break in the trees. The top fall can be seen plunging 78m into the green pool below.

## Belmore Falls Lookout

The walk follows the one-way road for a further 200m then down a short track (30m) to Belmore Falls lookout for the best view of both the upper and lower falls.

West of the falls, sheltered south-facing slopes support a warm temperate to subtropical rainforest. In summer, a pinkish hue represents the floral parts of Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) while further down the valley in winter the leafless branches of the

mighty Red Cedar (*Toona australis*) can be seen. The trail then returns along the one-way road where picnic, barbecue and pit toilet facilities are provided (330m).

## History

Belmore Falls, Fitzroy Falls, Bundanoon and Kangaroo Valley have been popular tourist destinations for many years. In the 1860s walking tracks were built to the lookouts along the escarpment.

The 1890s saw a rapid rise in tourism, the faithful horse was overtaken by the penny farthing and later the modern or safety bicycle. This new interest in seeing the countryside led to the formation of bicycle clubs with their own uniforms, special food and lightweight gear.

Visitors usually came from the cities to the bush by train and then cycled or walked to the local attractions, most only being able to visit during holiday periods. To compete with the Blue Mountains towns for tourists, the area had to build extra guest houses and tracks to the lookouts. The first guide book to promote the area was published in 1904.

### National Parks and Wildlife Code

The preservation and protection of our natural areas depends on the co-operation of all who visit and enjoy our National Parks and Nature Reserves. Here are a few simple rules that everyone is asked to observe.

- Wildfire can destroy lives and property so be careful, especially during bushfire danger periods. Use only safe fireplaces and do not light fires during total fire bans.
- Keep the area you use tidy – place rubbish in bins where provided or take it home with you.
- Leave your pets at home – they can disturb and kill native wildlife and are often a nuisance to other visitors.
- Leave firearms at home.
- Do not disturb plants, animals or rocks. Rocks are important shelter for some animals and plants.
- Drive carefully and keep to roads and carparks provided.
- Please observe all signs. They are provided for your guidance and to assist you to enjoy your visit.