



Brookvale Industrial zone, bushwalking paradise

Secret Spaces Hidden Places

Finding nature in the heart of Brookvale's industrial complex

The commercial part of Brookvale isn't the first place you'd think to take a walk on the Northern Beaches. But down an unmarked path to the left of the Whitworths Marine and Leisure head office is the entranceway to Allenby Park.

As we passed walls covered in graffiti and a dried up river at the entrance, we were dubious. Not to mention it was a particularly steaming summer day filled with the deafening sound of cicadas.

But our attitude changed as we ventured further inland and discovered what a juxtaposition this tucked away pocket of scrubland is to the industrial area it's surrounded by.

Only a few metres into the park, you'll find the start of the 'Allenby Falls Park Track' which is a short, but picturesque 2-kilometre out-and-back

trail that showcases some of the best features of the park including Allenby Falls.

As we headed into the dense scrubland - a key feature of the walk - we were no longer in the midst of an industrial complex, but instead, walking amongst towering trees on needle-covered trails.

Further up some stone steps, you get your first glimpse of the star attraction: 'Allenby Falls.' On the day we went to explore the park, the waterfall was more trickle than thunderous roar, but the sun sparkled against the reflection of the water. Since it was dry, we manoeuvred our way off the main path to stand on the rock ledge between the upper and lower falls for a better view of the gully.

Higher into the park, we started to walk along Brookvale

Creek which feeds the waterfall down below. Little red and blue dragonflies danced along the water's edge, landing on the fallen leaves and sticks.

Soon after, the track splits at a fork leading you further into the park or you can continue to take left turns back to the start for a smaller loop.

Near the end of the loop, the path opened up to a sandy dirt track. We were starkly confronted with the warehouse views again, reminding us that we're sharing our backyard with nature - even in the most industrial spaces.

Did you know...

What makes this secret place even more surprising? It's home to the Powerful Owl, Australia's largest owl species but also a threatened species. These majestic birds need large trees to nest in, and so this forested pocket is the perfect hiding space amidst the urban landscape.

How to get there

Head to 15 Clearview Place, which is located behind Warringah Mall. If you've driven, there is 8P street parking or nearby buses are only a short walk away. Look for the 'Whitworths Marine & Leisure' sign and to the left of this, there is an unmarked sidewalk that leads you into the park. There are other entrances that lead to Allenby Park, but we think this secret entrance is worth seeking out.

Have a great spot you think should be featured?
Email us at mail@thetawnyfrogmouth.com.au

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