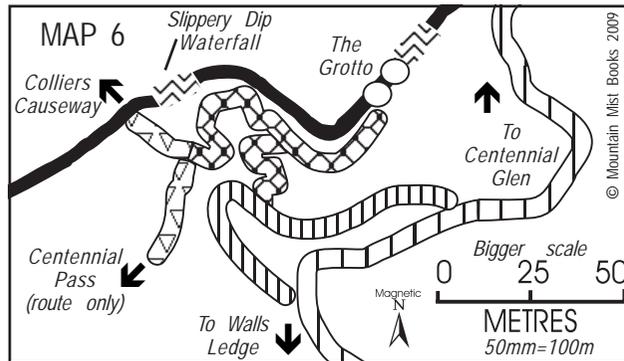


The Grotto, Slippery Dip Waterfall



Access: From Centennial Glen. Or from Walls Ledge and/or Centennial Glen Road track. Or from Porters Pass and Colliers Causeway.

Features: Steps carved into rock; The Grotto: canyon, waterfall and pools; Slippery Dip Waterfall.

Length, Time & Rating: Eastern access from main Centennial Glen path to junction with western access track 100m, 48 steps, 5min, *easy*. Western access track 85m, 40 steps, 5min, *easy*. From loop track junction to creek crossing and Colliers Causeway 120m, 176 steps, 5min, *medium down, hard up*. (Creek crossing involves climbing over boulders and may be impassable after heavy rain.) The Grotto track 50m, scramble along ledge under overhang, 5min, *medium*.

The Grotto, Slippery Dip Waterfall

Two access tracks from the Centennial Glen track form a loop. From the loop junction the path descends steps carved into a slot in the rock with some interesting handrails. 35 metres brings you to another junction on a flat path. Left goes to Slippery Dip Waterfall; right is the path to The Grotto.

Grace Bayley, in her book *“Take it Slowly” A Blue Mountains Diary*, recalls visiting The Grotto with her father and sister about 1932:

We preferred to go first to the wonderful amphitheatre at the head of Centennial Glen, then come back under the overhanging cliffs and go down the steep steps to the waterfall. Down in this crack in the mountain a big triangular rock had fallen. To the right of it there was a veil of trees and ferns across the very narrow canyon from whence the little creek issued. Dad could never resist a mystery, so he wriggled through and under the narrow opening. He came back very excited, and Flo and I followed him into “Harper’s Cave”. That is what we called it. ... The creek had cut a canal through the canyon walls, and someone who knew the place well had built a tiny dam at the end. The opening where the wall was built was only a metre wide.¹

¹ Bayley, Grace, *“Take it Slowly” A Blue Mountains Diary*, self published, 1993. (Harper was their family name.)