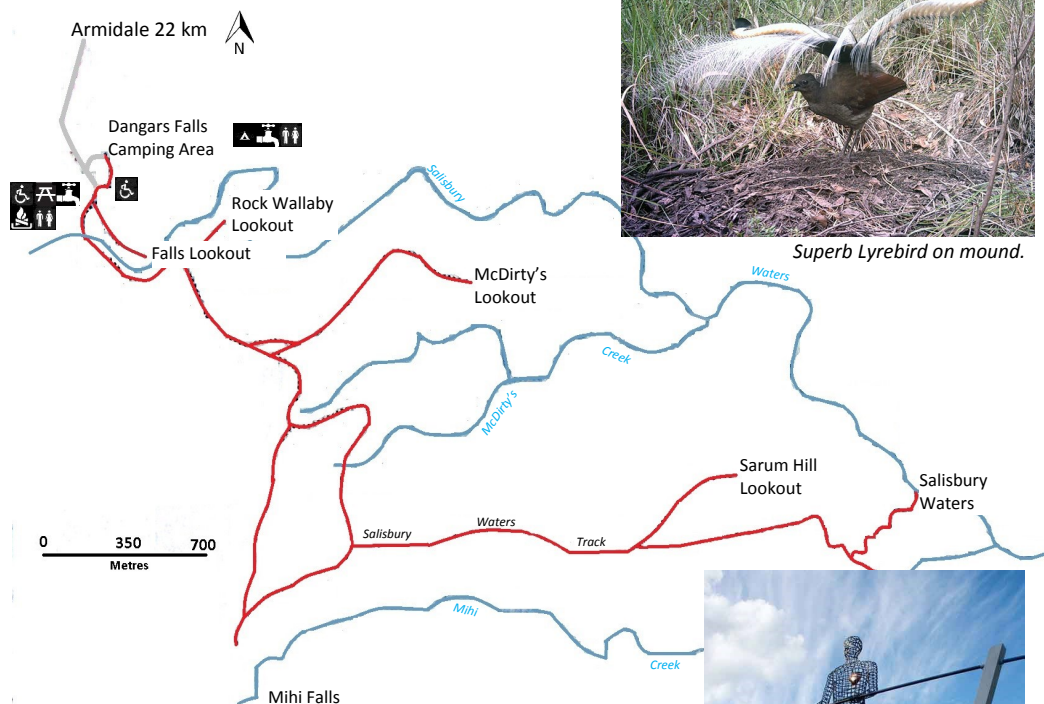


Allow at least one full day to explore tracks to the Sarum Lookout (10 km). A further steep descent, taking the total drop to 800 m, reaches the Salisbury Waters near the junction with Mihi Creek. This demanding walk is 14 km return and should be undertaken only by those with a high level of fitness. The Salisbury Waters become the Macleay River further downstream.



Biodiversity

Dangars Gorge and surrounds provide habitat for many rare and threatened plants and animals. Of these the best known is the endangered Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby. Echidnas are relatively common as are mobs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Nocturnally, several species of possums and gliders can be found.

Birds of note include, of course, the ubiquitous currawongs and magpies. Often heard is the deep bass call of the Forest Raven and Wedge-tailed Eagles commonly soar in the gorge thermals. The trap-rock sides of the gorge encourage Peregrine Falcons to build their nests.

Of particular interest are the male Lyrebird mounds beside the track to McDirty's Lookout. The birds court females with their stunning repertoire of song and mimicry.

This area is the sole habitat of the Gorge Wattle (*A. ingramii*) which is responsible for the brilliant yellow display throughout the gorge in September.



Superb Lyrebird on mound.

Trees of note are Stringybark, Yellow Box and some stands of Black Cypress. The creamy-flowered River Bottle Brush may be found upstream of the Falls. Downstream, the gorge is home to many rare plants whose very inaccessibility is the key to their survival.

Tightrope Walker

An oft-told tale is that of a Signor (Professor) Vertelli who, in 1866, stretched a 185 m steel rope across the gorge at a height of 180 m. He then traversed the gorge several times before an appreciative audience who donated the princely sum of 11 pounds to the intrepid acrobat. Much less well known is that Vertelli



Statue of Signor Vertelli in Curtis Park

was born John Morcom into a mining family in Cornwall, UK in 1840. He achieved fame not only in Australia, but also Tokyo and San Francisco as a stage magician.

In an irony of life he was stricken with foot paralysis in his later years and turned his attention to astrology and card reading. Regardless, a true showman!

Dangars Gorge

OXLEY WILD RIVERS
NATIONAL PARK



ARMIDALE

new
england
high
country

Dangars Gorge, home to the beautiful 120 m Dangars Falls, and the starting point for several great walks, is located just 21 km south-east of Armidale off the Dangarsleigh Road. This relatively small gorge is spectacular. The cliffs drop away steeply on all sides to allow breathtaking views which include the Pinnacles (rock formations) on a ridge to the left of the falls. Dangars Gorge is an ideal place for short or longer walks and for picnicking and camping.

Bookings are required for all camping and accommodation in NSW National Parks - phone 1300 072 757 or visit nswparks.info.

How to Get There

From the Armidale Visitor Information Centre travel south along Marsh Street to the T-intersection with Kentucky Street. Turn left and take the second turn on the right into Kennedy Street which becomes Dangarsleigh Road (Tourist Drive 19). Continue for approximately 11 km. Turn left at Dangarsleigh War Memorial and follow this road to Dangars Gorge carpark. The road becomes gravel and passes through several properties, so beware of livestock.

Dangarsleigh War Memorial

This memorial was erected by A.H. Perrott of “Chevy Chase” as a WWI war memorial to 16 local lads, one of these being his eldest son, Alfred, who died on Passchendale Ridge in 1917. It was dedicated on 24 May 1921 (Empire Day).

The gateway and turnstile, with its Army and Navy symbols, is named “Nirvana”, the Place of Peace. Note the two rosemary bushes on either side. The large circle surrounding the monument represents the world, the inlaid stones suggesting the rough path of life. Each of the elements of the monument has symbolic significance. The overall height is 15.85 m (52 ft).

Gorge Facilities

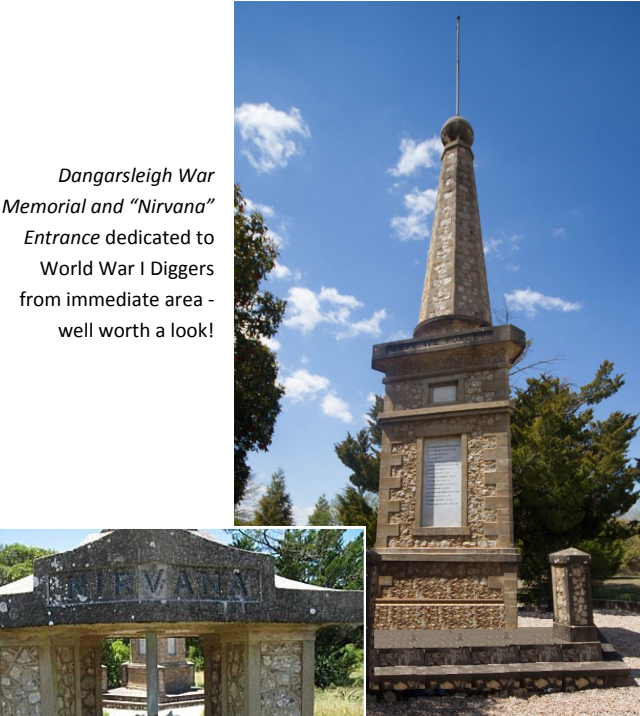
Close to the car park there is a shelter shed with gas burners and BBQ plates and a separate picnic area with several picnic tables and gas BBQs.

There are two pit toilets in the vicinity.

A camping area, suitable for caravans, is located to the north of the carpark with a pit toilet, fireplaces and firewood.

Water is on tap, but should be boiled before drinking.

Two displays provide valuable information.



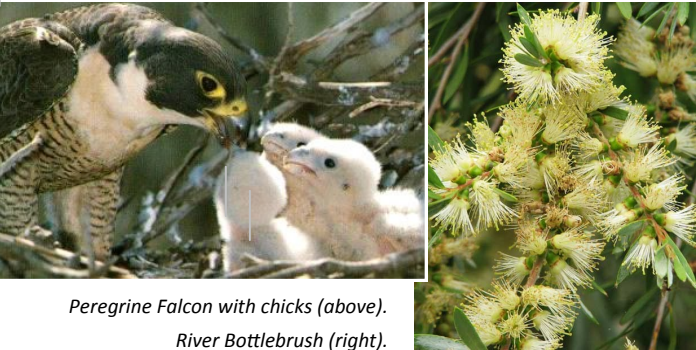
Dangarsleigh War Memorial and “Nirvana” Entrance dedicated to World War I Diggers from immediate area - well worth a look!



Activities

There are three short, easy walks, which begin from the carpark. All three are recommended and can be achieved in approximately one hour.

The path to the north (left of the carpark) to the Gorge Lookout and picnic shelter shed is only 100 m long and has wheelchair access, though part is uphill.



*Peregrine Falcon with chicks (above).
River Bottlebrush (right).*

The Gorge Rim Walk is approximately 500 m in length, takes you to the very edge of the falls and provides various viewing access points along the way. This is also wheelchair friendly for the first half at least.

The third short walk is across the river to Dangars Falls Lookout and a little further on to Rock Wallaby Lookout. This walk begins to the right of the carpark and is approximately 2 km or 40 minutes return. This walk provides a magnificent view down the gorge and to the river, 300 metres below.



Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby.

For those with more energy and time, there are several longer walks beyond the Dangars Falls Lookout. Highly recommended for its spectacular views is the two-hour return walk to McDirty’s Lookout along the southern rim of the gorge.



*Black Cypress (left).
Forest Raven (above).*