

Let's Take a Walk: Ritchard & Pauling Avenues Gully

This relatively short but physically demanding walk mostly follows rarely visited public pathways that meander through this beautiful suburban gully linking parts of Randwick and Coogee. Take a hat, good walking shoes, sunscreen and a bottle of water. There are no public toilets on the walk. The pathways are well made, with attractive low sandstone side walls and pretty plantings.

The walk is on one of the gullies which run down from the ridges at Randwick towards Coogee. To the west is the famous Fred Hollows Reserve (or the Glebe Gully), a remarkable survival of the rainforests that used to fill the gullies. The Ritchard and Pauling Avenues gully, on the other hand, has been fully developed for suburban housing, though there is still substantial enough greenery to give you an idea of what a tropical paradise the gully must have been.

Start

The walk begins on the eastern side of Carrington Road, Randwick between numbers 111 and 109 (opposite the junction with Glebe Street). There are 104 steps and some level areas on the descent down. There is a street light at the top and after a short dog-leg half way down, another street light, but would likely be quite dark at night. When you reach the bottom and exit the walkway, you will be at the junction of Ritchard and Pauling Avenues.

Lowest Point of the Gully

You are now near the lowest point of the gully surrounded by large suburban homes and huge trees. The locals here will tell you that, though other streets may claim the same, Ritchard and Pauling Avenues are the area's premier streets! Pauling Avenue was partly known Court Street until August 1929 when it was renamed after Thomas G. Pauling, an East Ward Randwick Alderman from 1924 to 1927 who died suddenly in 1927. One of the things that makes this area so attractive is in the canopy cover from the large, mature street and garden trees.



Tree Canopy Makes Ritchard and Pauling Avenues Attractive

- Turn right, and walk south for 85 metres.
- Then turn left onto the pathway between numbers 24 and 26 Pauling Avenue.

Steep Uphill Climb Begins!

The pathway continues uphill. This next section is only 88 metres long but the steep ascent and many steps makes it seem much longer. After a short level walk, there are 112 steps up to rejoin Ritchard Avenue.

Third Section - Another Steep Ascent

When you rejoin Ritchard Avenue cross the street and follow the pathway between numbers 48 & 50 up the flights of stairs. As well as some level pathways along this section, there are also another 65 steps to the top at Moira Crescent.



Walkway between Pauling Avenue & Ritchard Avenue

The route of the walk takes us left along Moira Crescent and then left into Marcel Avenue. After 300 metres you will rejoin Carrington Road (160 metres north of your starting point). The Moira Crescent and Marcel Avenue area has a wonderful eclectic mix of architectural styles ranging from Federation, Arts & Crafts, Art Deco, Art Nouveau and post-war Ocean Liner styles. If you like, you can spend some extra time to explore the area, note the architecture and some of the interesting building names. It would also be a very pleasant place to live.



No 4 Moira Crescent - Kalua

All up, you will have walked 710 metres and gone up and down 350 steps. Your thirsty work can be rewarded by visiting the cafes clustered around the junction of Clovelly Road and Mount Street.

Paul Convy
