

## Outdoor Activities and Recreation in Sunbury: Enjoying the Great Outdoors

At Appleton, Sunbury's wealth of natural landscapes and local attractions are at your doorstep. From picturesque walking trails to fantastic sports and leisure facilities, you're certain to find a great fit for your lifestyle. Here are some of our favourite recreational spots in and around Sunbury, with fun-filled activities for the whole family to enjoy.

### *Hanging Rock*

Hanging Rock has a storied history, from sacred Indigenous significance, to the fictional mystery of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. Just 30 minutes' drive from Appleton, this infamous natural landmark is the perfect place to stretch your legs and take in the stunning bushland scenery. Summit the Rock's pinnacle in a leisurely 50-minute loop (return) or choose from the many other nature walks through Hanging Rock Reserve. Refresh yourself with a coffee or delicious meal from Hanging Rock café, which offers charming balcony views of the reserve.

### *Eric Boardman Memorial Reserve*

Less than 15 minutes' drive from Appleton, this recently upgraded outdoor sporting complex is perfect for all kinds of recreational fun. Stay active with the reserve's football ovals, cricket pitches, athletics track and netball court, plus a great playground for the kids. Home of the Sunbury Kangaroos, follow the fixture to catch a great game of local footy on the weekend. Don't forget to bring your pup for a run around the 24-hour off-leash dog park!

### *Animal Land Children's Farm*

Operating for over 30 years, Animal Land Children's Farm is a treasured local family favourite. Offering an authentic, hands-on experience, Animal Land gives you the unique opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of farm animals. Enjoy a hand-led pony ride, handle adorable baby animals in the nursery, collect eggs from the chooks, and even milk a cow! Take the day at your own pace, with self-guided farm tours available.

### *Goonawarra Golf Club*

Designed by renowned golf course architect Tony Cashmore, Goonawarra Golf Club is the go-to spot for Sunbury's golfing connoisseurs. Conveniently located just 5 minutes' drive from Appleton, these premium facilities overlook lush native scenery, local wineries and the Sunbury township. Tee off for some fun on the immaculately maintained fairways and greens, with 9-hole and 18-hole courses available.

### *Sunbury Aquatic Centre*

Sunbury Aquatic Centre is a bustling community hub, with a great selection of indoor and outdoor fitness facilities at your leisure. Enjoy a dip in one of the heated indoor swimming pools all year round, or for swimmers who are a little more advanced, take to the Olympic size outdoor pool. The centre's fully equipped gym and varied classes cater to all ages and fitness levels, providing options to suit every lifestyle.

### *Dingo Discovery Sanctuary and Research Centre*

Set on a sprawling 40 acres in the Macedon Ranges, the Dingo Discovery Sanctuary and Research Centre opens its doors to the public for intimate dingo encounters. Enjoy upwards of an hour interacting with Dingo Discovery Sanctuary's beautiful creatures, while learning about the centre's mission for conservation and education. Round out an unforgettable family outing with a picnic on the spacious sanctuary grounds, amongst picturesque bushland.

### *Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve*

A favourite of local birdwatchers, Holden Flora and Fauna Reserve is nestled within the vast Organ Pipes National Park. Take in the sprawling grassy woodlands at the scenic lookout, or make the 12.6km trek along the Jacksons Creek Explorer trail. This is a great way to explore Sunbury's abundant natural landscape— keep an eye out for kangaroos, echidnas and an array of native birds.

Sunbury promises a perfect balance of community charm and outdoor recreation, with an abundance of family-friendly facilities and stunning natural landscapes at your disposal. Framed by tranquil green spaces, yet vitally connected to the Sunbury community, Appleton makes leisurely living a reality.