

TOP PICNIC SPOTS

DANDENONG RANGES



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Take the time to be in the outdoors and feel the difference. Picnics can be the ultimate in a family day out or an intimate day for two to reconnect and wash the worries of the week away. Fresh air, stunning views, amazing wildlife and spectacular gardens all make for an entirely wonderful adventure.

Birdsland Reserve

Birdsland is a 75ha bushland reserve located in Belgrave South. The reserve is home to many native animals and birds, including platypus. Birdsland is a great spot for a picnic or bush walk, with its walking tracks, BBQ's and 28ha retarding basin.

RJ Hamer Arboretum

Arboretum is a Latin word meaning a place for trees. Here you will find over 150 species of native and exotic trees. The plantings create a stunning patchwork effect over the hills. Each season brings with it a unique visual story as leaves change hue and the architecture of the branches play differing roles. Take a quiet, peaceful stroll along the many walking tracks or sit and take in the tranquil beauty and breathtaking views. *BBQ Facilities Available.*

Olinda Fall Reserve

Located in the cool climate of the Dandenong Ranges, Olinda Falls is a perfect place to have a quiet picnic, short walk and spend time with the family. There are picnic tables, running water, toilets and plenty of shade to sit in. *BBQ Facilities Available.*

Sherbrooke & O'Donohue Picnic Ground

Situated in the Sherbrooke Forest you won't find Robin Hood and his merry men anywhere here. Just towering Mountain Ash and the lush rainforest that thrives on the east side of Mt Dandenong. O'Donohue Picnic Area and Sherbrooke Picnic Grounds are intimate areas used as a starting point to the Sherbrooke Falls walk. The walk is a great family experience. *BBQ Facilities Available.*

One Tree Hill Picnic Ground

Above the 1,000 Steps walk in Ferntree Gully is the One Tree Hill Picnic Ground. The name "One Tree Hill" is a bit misleading. The forest was cleared in the 1860's, leaving one solitary tree as a survey marker. Today there are, in fact, thousands of trees. This large picnic area is well-equipped with several picnic tables, two sturdy picnic shelters, free electric barbecues, plenty of car parking, toilets and grassy areas for setting up a picnic blanket. *BBQ Facilities Available.*

Emerald Lake Park

Emerald Lake Park is in the heart of Emerald in the Dandenong Ranges. As one of the destination points for the iconic Puffing Billy, the park offers a range of activities including picnics, walking trails, paddleboats and fishing – something for everyone and all can be enjoyed in the splendour of ornamental and native gardens.

BBQ Facilities Available.

Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve

This is a real local secret. Ferny Creek Recreation Reserve is situated in a lovely bush land setting adjacent to Sherbrooke Forest. It features a large hall, log cabin, children's playground, cricket pitch and tennis courts. The Ferny Creek Horticultural Society maintains the 10 acre Ferny Creek Ornamental Garden Reserve that features the 'old' garden with its impressive Mountain Ash and Mountain Grey Gums plus extensive collections of Rhododendrons, Magnolias and Azalea. *BBQ Facilities Available.*

Silvan Reservoir Park

Set in the rear foothills of the Dandenong Ranges Silvan Reservoir features landscaped picnic areas and open lawns surrounded by an impressive eucalypt forest. This park is perfect for a picnic or barbecue. There is a playground for the kids plus plenty of room for a kick of the football or a game of cricket. Regular birds to the park include waterbirds such as herons and spoonbills, along with forest birds such as treecreepers, robins, cockatoos and rosellas. *BBQ Facilities Available.*

Grants Picnic Ground

Grants Picnic Ground sits within the Sherbrooke Forest, the largest section of Dandenong Ranges National Park. A number of walking tracks, starting from the picnic grounds, enable you to discover some of the plants and animals of Sherbrooke. Visitors can purchase a token from 'Grants on Sherbrooke' to access the bird feeding area within the picnic ground area. *Margaret Lester Walk* is just off Grants Picnic Ground. This is a hard surfaced walk designed for visitors with limited mobility. *BBQ Facilities Available.*

Kays Picnic Ground

Kays Picnic ground is in close proximity to the nearby Olympic, Kensleys and Beagleys Picnic Grounds, which are all easily accessible within a short walk along the Sassafras Creek using the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track. The forest surrounding the grounds is dominated by the towering Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gun and Messmate (eucalypt) trees. While the mid-canopy contains soft and rough tree ferns that provide protection for the delicate fern species on the ground floor: