

10

things to do for young families

1. **Natural Wonders, Waterfalls and Gorges.** Explore the Oxley Wild Rivers, Cathedral Rock and New England National Parks with an abundance of wildlife and breathtaking scenery. A wide range of walks are available to suit all ages and abilities.
2. **New England Regional Art Museum.** NERAM (open 10.00am-4.00pm Tuesday-Sunday) welcomes families with young children with its new colourful “Art Play” boxes that are designed for pre-school children to explore the art museum. “Ourspace” is a dedicated area for under 8-year olds.
3. **Fossicking** Pan for gold at Wooldridge Recreation and Fossicking Reserve (6km from Uralla). Pans available for hire at the Uralla Visitor Information Centre.
4. **Dutton Trout Hatchery.** The trout hatchery has aquarium displays, guided tours, fish feeding, educational tours and an audio visual show. Located near New England National Park.
5. **All Things Thunderbolt.** McCrossins Mill in Uralla has a wonderful selection of Thunderbolt memorabilia including his gun, as well as many other items of interest related to gold mining and cricket history. Visit Thunderbolt’s Grave, Thunderbolt’s Statue, Thunderbolt’s Rock and Thunderbolt’s Cave.
6. **Museums.** The Armidale Folk Museum, Natural History Museum, Museum of Antiquities and the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers History Room will delight people of all ages with their extensive collections.
7. **Cycling/Mountain Biking.** Explore the city of Armidale or experience some of the best mountain biking tracks in the region. Bicycles can be hired from the Armidale Bicycle Centre (2/244 Beardy Street - phone 02 6772 3718) or Bicycle Central (114 Beardy Street - phone 02 6711 1584/0490 073 650).
8. **Trout Fishing.** The fishing season runs from the October long weekend until the June long weekend. Try your luck at Dumaresq Dam, Oakey and Serpentine Rivers and the many trout streams around the area. Canoes are available for hire from Armidale Outdoors (phone 02 6772 7744) or World of Hire (phone 02 6772 2222).
9. **Aboriginal Experiences.** The Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Keeping Place provides an in-depth insight into Aboriginal culture with artefacts, history, art and a bush-tucker walk. Mount Yarrowyck is a nature reserve and rock art site of the main Aboriginal tribe of the New England.
10. **Fit and Healthy.** Armidale Sport and Recreation Centre has Kidzworld, 10-pin bowling, roller skating and lasertag. Swim at the Monkton Aquatic Centre or SportUNE. There are plenty of walking trails around Armidale and there is the Armidale Skatepark.