

## LOCKINGTON KOTTA RAIL TRAIL - One train whistle closer.

After many years of negotiation we are thrilled that VicTrack has agreed to lease the railway line between Lockington and Kotta, directly to the Lockington and District Business Centre Inc. A Committee has been established, with the endorsement of Rail Trails Australia, to develop a rail trail covering a distance of 7.6km, following the old railway line. The track will link the 'Traveller's Rest' in Lockington to a soon to be developed picnic area at Kotta.



The committee are delighted that the original Kotta railway station building, that has been



located at the port area in Echuca for several years, is soon to be relocated back to the Kotta siding. It is hoped that in the future a train will be found that can reside alongside the platform. Pictured is one of the last trains to run on the line before it closed in the mid 1970's.

Also located on the Kotta siding is a memorial to Australian Heroes from the Great War and a tree plantation that provides a seed bank for many of the native trees in the area.



Currently the track is only accessible on certain sections of the 7.6 kms and is a combination of gravel and natural dirt surfaces. Native trees line most of the track, providing shade to rail trail enthusiasts and a home to many bird species. The trail runs through farming country, giving walkers and riders the opportunity to experience firsthand the wonders of farm life. Animals grazing, farmers working the ground, crops growing to mention a few of the sights to be seen.

Visitors can meander through the 'walking track loop' located to the north of the Primary school before crossing the road to access the first kilometer of the gravelled section of the rail trail. The project aims to add yet another great attraction to this area whilst focusing on local engagement by promoting healthy active lifestyles at all physical levels.

Wendy Sims  
Rail Trail Committee