

Come and ride the rails in old-time style on the **Mary Valley Rattler**

9.15am, Sunday 21 March 2010

The trip

The 80km return trip commences at historic Gympie Station at 10.00am, and arrives back there at 4.00pm. You will travel in beautifully restored railway carriages pulled by an equally beautifully restored steam engine. After travelling through Gympie and across the Mary River the first stop on the scenic route is at Kandanga Station where a selection of local produce is available (I can recommend the lamingtons – Al). The train then stops for lunch at Imbil which is the Mary Valley's largest town, and there are three options for a feed (see below). On the return journey there is a halt at Dagon Station to savour local wine and cheeses, guaranteed to make the rest of your day a merry one.

Lunch

There are three lunch options at Imbil:

1. The Mary Valley Rattler's very own Fettler's Lunch* (a mix of cold meats, garden salad, homemade potato & pasta salad, bread roll, butter, and condiments) which goes up with the train in cold packs - \$10pp - must be pre-booked and prepaid;
2. The 'Country Roast' smorgasbord on the verandah at The Railway Hotel for \$12.50pp; and
3. Peppers and The Rattler Café (not affiliated with the railway) which offers dine-in or takeaway.

RSVP and payment

Please let Al Kelly know you're coming as soon as you've made your mind up. Reply to bigal@powerup.com.au
Payment should be made to Don Gordon, our illustrious Treasurer. The cost is: Adult \$34.00; Child \$21.00; Family (2Adults + up to 4children) - \$107.50

*A fettler is the person employed to maintain the railway tracks. The origin of the word is unclear, with one source suggesting it is a corruption of *settler*, while another, and more likely explanation is that it comes from the word *fettle*, meaning condition or trim (eg, in fine fettle). The fettlers would often live in remote huts along the railway tracks and spend the day working up and down the line ensuring that all was in good shape. I'll bet they didn't get potato salad and pasta for lunch though.

How to get to the old Gympie Station

