## History of the Rail Trail

Melrose, at the base of Mount Remarkable, lays claim to being the oldest town in the Flinders Ranges, tracing its origins back to 1853.

The line was built after South Australia was rapidly establishing itself as Australia's pre-eminent colony in terms of wheat production. Farmers in the country were struggling to transport their goods, recorded as far back as 1860.

The railway line started in Gladstone, opened 2nd June 1884, and continued through rural towns including Laura, Stone Hut, Wirrabara, Yandiah, Booleroo Centre, Perroomba, Melrose, Terka and Wilmington.

From Melrose, the line turned slightly from west towards north, crossed the Main North Road then the Willochra Creek heading towards Wilmington.

Wilmington was originally called Beautiful Valley but the name was changed in 1876.

Wilmington's line was completed and officially opened on 20th July 1915.

The last train recorded in Wilmington was 28th July 1988 carrying the season's grain from the Wilmington Silo.

Source : Evans, John. Proceed to Wilmington (2010)

# Melrose - Wilmington Cycle & Walking Track 22km

## Degree of Difficulty:
- Intermediate
(IMBA green circle 🟢)
- Not recommended for Road Bikes

- Leave no trace
- Ride within your limits
- Respect others and wildlife
- Give way to pedestrians
- Plan ahead:
  - Wear appropriate clothing and helmet
  - Take water
  - No riding on total fire ban days
  - Ride only on the designated trail and obey signs
  - Carry a communication device and ensure you have signal
  - Ensure someone knows your intended travel and estimated time of return

# Melrose to Wilmington
# Cycle & Walking Track

# Melrose to Wilmington Cycle and Walking Track



**Melrose**

Trail entrance

Melrose Showgrounds

Turn onto Creepers Road opposite the Ororoo turn off.

**Wilmington**

Trail entrance

Peppermint Box Road