



A brief history of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail

1. Early days

The railway line which is now the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail was completed in sections between 1875 and 1890. The line was progressively closed between 1952 and 1987. Note that the Myrtleford to Bright line was in place for just over 100 years!

October 28, 1873	Final section of line from Melbourne to Wangaratta opened
July 7, 1875	Beechworth Junction, later Bowser, to Everton line opened
September 30, 1876	Everton to Beechworth line opened
December 17, 1883	Everton to Myrtleford line opened
October 17, 1890	Myrtleford to Bright line opened
June 11, 1952	Wangaratta to Bright passenger service ends
April 10, 1953	Everton to Beechworth passenger (mixed) service ends
December 30, 1976	Everton to Beechworth line closed
November 30, 1983	Myrtleford to Bright line closed
April 13, 1987	Bowser to Myrtleford line closed

Acknowledgement:

Above information extracted from a history of the Victorian Railways - <http://www.victorianrailways.net/vr%20history/history.html>

2. Today

In 1997, the shires of Alpine and Indigo, and the Rural City of Wangaratta co-operatively developed a proposal to once again enable these railways to play a major role in the economic and community development of the region. The development of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail could not have been possible without a \$1.9 million grant from the Victorians Governments 'Community Support Fund.' After several years of planning and construction the completed trail was opened in September 2003.

The three Local Government Councils continue to work cooperatively to maintain and further develop the trail as it grows in popularity with users every day.