

Survey of Rail Trail Users

A 1999 survey of users of the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail in NE Victoria (by Professor Sue Beeton of La Trobe University) revealed that:

- ✚ Of the 128 respondents, only 22 identified themselves as living close to the Rail Trail but were all travelling with visitors. Travel companions were evenly spread between travelling with a partner, family or friends, while only a small number of respondents (5%) travelled alone.*
- ✚ The respondents were predominantly employed in professional and administrative positions (47% and 25% respectively) with 14% retired; however no respondents identified themselves as unemployed.*
- ✚ Ages were varied, ranging from one year old to 79, with a slight majority of men (53%). The largest group was aged between 41 and 60 years old, however the high representation of riders in the 0-10 age groups illustrates the significance of mixed family groups and the suitability of the Rail Trail for all ages.*
- ✚ Half of the respondents had past experience in using rail trails and identified the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail as one they had visited previously. Over half (53%) considered themselves to be frequent riders, cycling more than once a week, but not daily. The next largest group (23%) were regular weekly riders, suggesting that while the trail is being used by people who cycle often, they are primarily recreational cyclists with a quarter who do not cycle regularly.*