

# Mortdale Matters

April 2008



**Australian Model Railway Association  
New South Wales Branch Inc. News**

# Around the Clubrooms



*Ben Gilmore directs mainline traffic at Read on the Stoney Creek layout using the newly commissioned CTC Panel. This first panel controls entry and exit from Read yard to the mainlines . April 2, 2008. Photo: Glenn Percival*



*Rod Fussell has just completed cleaning the 'new' soft drink can vending machine acquired for a song (well, 20c) from Interlink Roads.*

*We thank Interlink Roads for their continued support of the Branch.*

*The drink machine is currently set up in the Exhibition Room with the most popular selections.*

*Note that it accepts only 10c, 20c and \$1 coins and may be damaged if other coins are used.*

*Photo: Glenn Percival*

*On the Cover:  
Canadian Pacific 4-6-4 No. 2816 sets out from Vancouver on an excursion train through the spectacular scenery of British Columbia, Canada in 2005. Photo: Bob McLaughlin*

# Welcome to the April Mortdale Matters

Its hard to believe but its already April. April is of course the month when we have our annual Open Weekend. This is our opportunity to show the community what our hobby and our club is all about. As always this weekend doesn't happen without a great deal of support from our members and the Open Weekend of April 5 & 6 was no exception. On behalf of our Open day coordinator, Robert Merrick, and the committee, I'd like to thank everyone who helped out over the weekend, particularly those who gave up some time running trains to help out in the kitchen and man the entrance booth.

The weekend went very smoothly, with 1147 visitors through the door over the two days. The vast majority of our visitors were very impressed with our club and our facilities. The Open Weekend is about attracting new members to our club and I think we'll have quite a few as a result of this years event. If just over 1% of our visitors over the weekend join we'll sneak in front of W.A. (350 members vs W.A.'s 363).

Another great aspect of the Open Weekend is that it provides a great incentive to finish projects, or at the very least reach a new milestone in an ongoing one. This happened for both the O scale and HO layouts. The O scalers were able to operate multiple trains on their new "Universal" circuit using DCS, while on the HO the first parts of the CTC panel were brought online, allowing remote control of track at Read from a room with no windows!

The N scalers were busy too, with their usual steady progress rather than a leap forward. More on that next month though.

See you at the Clubrooms,  
*Chris Winston*  
Mortdale Matters Editor



## Subscribing to Mortdale Matters

You can subscribe to *Mortdale Matters* by contacting our publicity officer, Philip Lee. Philip can be contacted either in person or by seeing a Duty Officer at the clubrooms, by email: [publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au](mailto:publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au) or by via our website: [www.amransw.asn.au](http://www.amransw.asn.au). Subscription is free.

The preferred method of distribution for *Mortdale Matters* is via email. The file size for *Mortdale Matters* is usually around 2 to 3Mb. *Mortdale Matters* is also available via snail mail or care of the clubrooms for those without a suitable internet connection. There is also a limited number of copies at the clubrooms for those not on our mailing list. *Mortdale Matters* is also available to download on our website: [www.amransw.asn.au](http://www.amransw.asn.au)

## Submitting to Mortdale Matters

With so much continually happening at our Mortdale Clubrooms, its easy for something to slip through the cracks. If you've got any news that you'd like to submit to *Mortdale Matters* please email me at [subeditor@amransw.asn.au](mailto:subeditor@amransw.asn.au) or leave a copy of your submission in the Journal pigeonhole in the office.

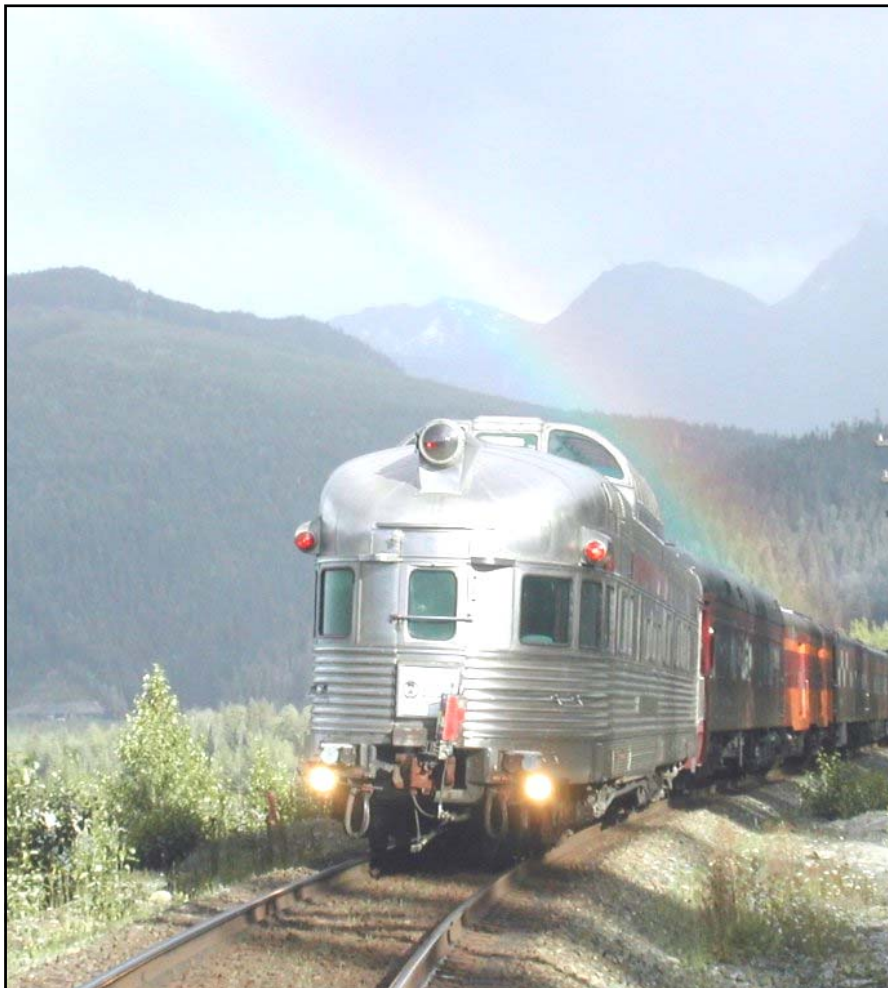
*Mortdale Matters* especially needs photos. Prototype photos will also be included with each issue but the focus will always be on Branch activities and events. Any prototype will be considered. Photos can be emailed to me at the above address or you can leave a disk or CD in the Journal pigeonhole in the office. Image size does not need to be larger than 1024 x 768.

I must emphasise that ALL submissions must be original material, i.e. photos that you've taken yourself or articles that you've written yourself. Material is published in *Mortdale Matters* at the committee's discretion.

The deadline for submitting material for the May 2008 *Mortdale Matters* is April 24th.

# More Photos from the USA

Over the past few months our US based member, Bob McLaughlin, has been contributing some fantastic photos to *Mortdale Matters*. This month's contribution was truly exceptional, with Bob photo's appearing on both the front and back covers, even so I thought I would squeeze in another couple of photos nonetheless. Thanks again Bob.



*A very popular subject for photographs in Mortdale Matters is the going away shot and they don't get much more dramatic than this. An observation dome car is at the end of the rainbow as it brings up the rear of Canadian Pacific's 2816's excursion train as it runs through the mountains of British Columbia.*  
Photo: Bob McLaughlin

*A CPH in the USA! Bob has 2 HO scale CPH railmotors that get a regular workout on Bob's club layout in Boston, Massachusetts. This one, built from a Casula Hobbies kit is painted a freelance livery very similar to the NSWGR's tuscan and russet livery.*

*An interesting point to note is the American railmotor next to the CPH is running on dual gauge track whilst narrow gauge track is to the left.*

*Photo: Bob McLaughlin*



# WANTED

## Raffle Layout Coordinator

Each year at around this time construction begins on the Raffle Layout for the Exhibition. After several years of building layouts our previous coordinator, David Bennett would like to devote his time elsewhere. If you have an interest in coordinating the construction effort this year please contact any Committee member to discuss your interest.

## Technology Briefings Available

The astute observer will long ago have realised that we like mixing our technology with our railways. With a number of such projects reaching useful milestones or already mature, it is worthwhile sending this reminder that I offer briefings/tutorials to members, personally or in groups of up to 4 at a time, on aspects of the club's workings including:

- PABX phone system
- Audio/visual system

and in conjunction with my layout committee colleagues:

- *Stoney Creek* layout control system overview
- *Stoney Creek* layout PLC workings

As I cannot be at the clubrooms every meeting due to shiftwork, I suggest pre-arranging a session either in person or by contacting me via [exhibitionmgr@amransw.asn.au](mailto:exhibitionmgr@amransw.asn.au) or 0425-241-395. Wednesday or Saturday afternoons are preferred.

*Glenn Percival*

IT Coordinator

## Mortdale Building Report

A 106cm Plasma Television has been donated and will be installed in the main meeting room on the office wall, this will reduce the amount of use that the projector will receive which should make its globe last longer.

We will be installing an exhaust fan hood in the kitchen above the upright stove, we will get the kitchen cupboard makers back to make up a couple of cover panels to make it match the rest of the kitchen, the exhaust hood above the cook top is now powered up but requires us to duct the vent to the outside of the building.

Fire Hose location is being investigated.

*David Bennett*

Mortdale Building Supervisor

# Layout Reports

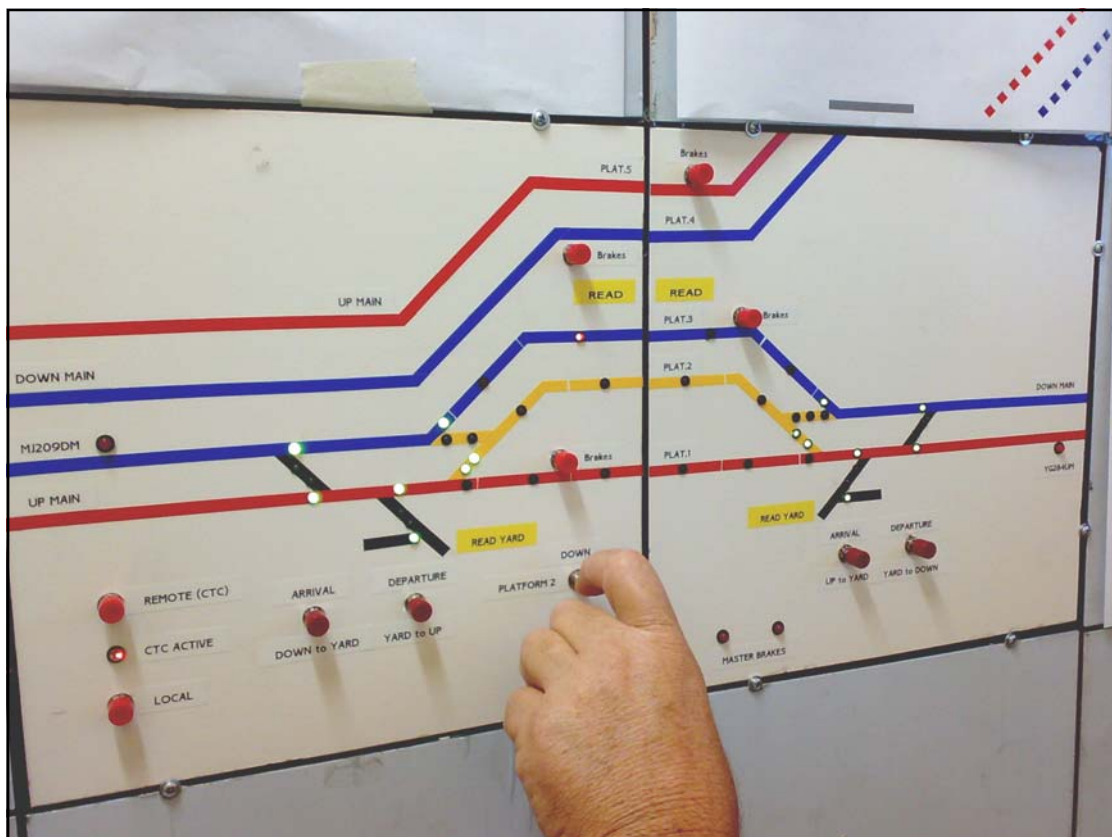
## H0 Scale Layout - Pizza Discussions

### March 20, 2008 - 1088 hours

Stoney Creek has been given the go ahead by the Committee of Management to redevelop the Deawy and Fayenton areas, as well as the main line.

Part of the redevelopment is the three reverse loops at the north end of Deawy. To date while planning is on going for the remainder of Deawy area the points have been put in, and track laying has been done to (temporarily) connect the loops to the existing track work so the loops can be used as the running line and provide storage for two other trains. Before open day these loops will be power operated from the (temporary) Deawy panel.

The control center (CTC) has started to take shape. The first two tiles have been installed and by the time this goes to press they will be fully operational. Read is the first place that can be controlled from the control center. A cut in/out feature has been installed so that the default is for "LOCAL" operation, as the system is now. When the Control Center is cut in (remote) all movements in and out of Read will have to be coordinated with the Control Center by phone. To aid in train control two CCTV's and a phone has been installed at READ



*A closeup of the CTC Read area. The "Brakes" buttons in the platforms work in parallel with their counterparts on the Read temporary local panel, whilst the lower controls take over from the Read permanent local panel when the "Remote (CTC)" button is pushed - after suitable coordination via the phone intercom of course! In this view, a down train is proceeding through platform 3 (third from bottom) and Denis Gilmore has just switched the bidirectional platform 2 over to the Up Main.*

*Photo: Glenn Percival*

Bringing the first little bit of the Control Center on line has been a team effort. Many people have worked on this part of Stoney Creek, right from the very early days of the layout construction. Without the bench work, track laying, running of cables, terminating of so many cables (the amount boggles the mind), construction of the CTC panel, the final connection of yet more wires, testing and commissioning. I won't even try to put any names to these jobs as almost every person in the N.S.W. branch has put in a big effort to help.

Work days have seen the usual group of willing workers come along, put in a hard days work and I hope go home with a warm feeling that they have advance Stoney Creek just a little more. Some times I hear people say that they don't feel as they have done anything useful on a workday but every one who comes along contributes in some way. I believe the quote of a resent workday is "I didn't realize how much it speeds up the work just being the go-for"

The next Open Weekend is on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of April. Some see these days as an inconvenience to there running on Stoney Creek. I see them as the deadline to get things done, so that we can put on a better show than last time for the public. Many of the public takes note of what happens from (there) visit to the next. Deadlines make things happen!!!

I would like to thank the operators of Stoney Creek for their Patience and unselfishness when testing and commissioning is taking place. The use of their trains is appreciated.

*Denis Gilmore*

Stoney Creek Layout Supervisor

## **Stop Press!**

***The Control Room for the HO "Stoney Creek" layout goes live!***

With the Open Weekend providing a suitable deadline to work to, the CTC panel is now able to be switched in when desired to take over all mainline activity at Read. The two tiles currently in use are temporary and are based on new artwork, hence the discrepancy with the adjacent tiles. The first two of around a dozen cameras have been installed, overlooking Read East and West approaches. A total of five monitors will be installed across the top of the control panel, one for each major area of the layout, with video switches to select the desired camera.

*Glenn Percival*

## **N Scale Layout**

Hopefully next Monday night will see all the rail joints jumpered at Walamundra. This will allow Ash Garrard to ballast right around the front area. Recently Chris Goring continued ballasting the tracks around the Quarry and this area is now almost complete, soon we can start making trees to populate all areas of the layout. Routine maintenance continues with an adjustment to the track alignment near the computer monitor being carried out by Adrian Batey. Some work was done to adjust a switch under a point motor in Lanham as it was not being driven far enough by the point motor.

*David Bennett*

N Scale Layout Supervisor

# Layout Reports

## O Scale Layout - "Universal" Track Extension

Progress at the end of March, covering work completed in February and March:

A 14th (and probably the final) set of points has been constructed by Maurie Haynes and installed near the sidings at the eastern end of the layout. These points lead to a short siding for use as a locomotive storage / servicing facility.

Timber panels for mounting of terminal blocks and the relay hardware required for switching of track power for the points have been installed, plus the large (HM3196) terminal blocks and DIN rail on which the cradle relay bases are attached. Permanent wiring for traction power connections between point rails and HM3196 terminal blocks, and between the terminal blocks and the cradle relay bases has been completed.

Tortoise slow motion switch machines, with a pair of short pig-tail leads using 4 wire telephone cable previously soldered to each Tortoise motor contact strip are installed for all 14 points. These pig-tail leads are connected to the small (HM3194) termination strips via screw terminals, thus reducing the "under-baseboard" work involved in fitting Tortoise point motors. Connection of cables for the motor operating and auxiliary changeover switch circuitry to the HM3194 termination strips, plus testing of the operation of the Tortoise motors and auxiliary switches is completed.

Design of the control panels is finished and the timber framework for mounting the aluminium face panels is installed. The two control panels will have a similar appearance to those on "Stoney Creek", using a similar method for switching points with LED indication of point setting. However, all points will be individually switched. There will be no route selection. Cable running is in progress for power cables between South Box (Master) and North (Subsidiary) Box Control Panels, and for the operating cables from the control panels to the point motor and slave relay termination strips. Work on the face panels (drilling holes for switches, LED/bezels, power controllers, ammeters and circuit breakers) will commence after the Open Weekend.

Because the points are not yet operational and track relay wiring has not begun, wiring patches have been connected at the point terminal blocks and across section breaks so that temporary electrical pathways are established to enable the universal track to be used during the Open Weekend. Testing of this setup has been performed successfully, with several trains being run simultaneously on the main line under Digital Command Control.

An information paper has been prepared on the universal track layout and operating principles. This is being used as a planning and design specification for detailed electrical design. For anyone interested in the electrical circuitry, the folder is kept in the 'O' scale work area and is available for viewing.

*John Coffey*

Electrical Designer

O Scale "Universal" Track Extension



# Structured Running Nights

With the Stoney Creek layout having reached a stage where most of the facets of its operation can now be demonstrated, your Management Committee (MC) has taken the opportunity to expand the ad-hoc Saturday night structured running into designated Friday nights.

"Structured running - what??" you may ask. The layout was unashamedly conceived as an "operator's layout" with the view to elevate the standard of club running, eventually allowing for various Special Interest Groups to run organised sequences or timetables. So far, generic sequence cards have been produced for different train types, which gives a random nature to things with no two sessions turning out the same.

With work completed on the exhibition layout modules as per the recent members' meeting, MC has taken the opportunity to reorganise Friday meetings and introduce structured running as follows:

1st Friday - Structured Running

2nd Friday - Feature Night

3rd Friday - Theme Structured Running (e.g. Steam/Diesel, AUS/USA, etc.)

4th Friday - Maintenance Night

5th Friday - Structured Running

Note that the O Gauge layout had sequence cards produced over a decade ago and is therefore also available for structured running.

As always, please check the published programme for full details and remember - structured running.

*Glenn Percival*

*On behalf of*

*publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au*



*The family of the late Norm Read has kindly loaned another locomotive to the NSW Branch, NSWGR 3806. Norm's nephew and grand-nephew, John & Richard Read, attended the club on the Saturday to present the loco, which even after not turning a wheel in four years still runs well. John is seen here with the engine. Photo: Glenn Percival*

# AMRA NSW Programme

# Apr '08 - Jun '08

## APRIL

Wed	2nd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	4th	Pre-Open Day – Working Bee	7pm until 10pm No Facility Fee
Sat	5th	<b>** OPEN WEEKEND **</b>	10am until 4pm, visitor entry by gold coin donation
Sun	6th	<b>** OPEN WEEKEND **</b>	10am until 4pm, visitor entry by gold coin donation
<u>Wed</u>	9th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	11th	Feature Night – <i>TBA</i>	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	12th	General Activities & <b>Monthly Forum</b> (see Notes)	10am until late
		<b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>	- 2pm
Wed	16th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	18th	<i>Exhibition Layout Construction</i> Work Night	7:30pm until 10pm No Facility Fee
Sat	19th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	20th	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	23rd	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	25th	<u>Public Holiday</u> <b>ANZAC DAY</b>	<b>12 noon until late</b>
		Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	
Sat	26th	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late
Wed	30th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm

## MAY

Fri	2nd	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	3rd	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Sun	4th	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	7th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	9th	Feature Night – <b>Play Back</b> (Audio / Video / DVD).	7:30pm
Sat	10th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
		<b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>	- 2pm
<u>Wed</u>	14th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	16th	Layout Operation – <b>Aust Diesel</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	17th	General Activities & <b>Monthly Forum</b> (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	21st	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	23rd	Maintenance / Testing Night (Not General Running)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	24th	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late
Wed	28th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	30th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	31st	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late

## JUNE

Sun	1st	<i>Stoney Creek</i> Work Day	10am until finished No Facility Fee
Wed	4th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	6th	Layout Operation / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	7th	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Mon	9th	<u>Public Holiday</u> – Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
<u>Wed</u>	11th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	13th	Feature Night – <b>H.O. Signal Workshop</b>	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	14th	General Activities & <b>Monthly Forum</b> (see Notes)	10am until late
		<b>Ladies Needles &amp; Natter</b>	- 2pm
Wed	18th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	20th	Layout Operation – <b>European</b> / <i>Structured Running</i> (see Notes)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	21st	Layout Operation (see Notes)	10am until late
Wed	25th	"Daylighters" - General Activities (see Notes)	10am until 5pm
Fri	27th	Maintenance / Testing Night (Not General Running)	7:30pm until 10pm
Sat	28th	General Activities (see Notes) & <i>Layout Construction</i>	10am until late

## NOTES

- WORK NIGHTS: every Monday night, please check with the appropriate layout supervisor, 7:30pm until 10pm. No Facility Fee.
- LAYOUT OPERATION: O and N Gauges operational, HO (fixed) as permitted during construction.
- GENERAL ACTIVITIES: the facilities may be used as permitted e.g. layout construction, some running, modelling, library, etc.
- Members Facility Fee unless otherwise indicated: Adults \$5, Juniors/Seniors (70+) \$3.
- Guests are welcome unless otherwise indicated.
- This program may be subject to change without notice where necessary. Updated programmes available from the Clubrooms, or by e-mail to [publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au](mailto:publicityofficer@amransw.asn.au) or from [www.amransw.asn.au](http://www.amransw.asn.au).
- Address: 48 Barry Avenue (PO Box 277), Mortdale NSW 2223. Phone (02)9153-5901, Fax (02)9153-5905.

# 12 Inch to the Foot Scale



*An S set forming a Bondi Junction service accelerates down the hill towards the Como bridge after coming off the Cronulla line at Sutherland. January 19, 2008. Photo: Chris Winston*



*Heading in the opposite direction a few minutes later, a Waterfall bound Tangara powers up the grade on a very wet January 19, 2008. Photo: Chris Winston*

*On the back cover:  
Canadian Pacific 2816 is serviced beneath some truly awesome scenery in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains in British Columbia during an excursion run in 2005. Photo: Bob McLaughlin*

