



INDIA'S DISAPPEARING RAILWAYS

A Photographic Journey

by Angus McDonald

Foreword by Sir Mark Tully

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***'Wonderfully vibrant... a real pleasure'* Michael Palin**

India's narrow-gauge railways pass through some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. Over snow-peaked mountains and rolling green hills, via steamy tea gardens, and unspoilt forests, they snake their way across the landscape in all their colour, character and chaos. Yet, as the nation modernises, these railways are vanishing fast. In **INDIA'S DISAPPEARING RAILWAYS** photojournalist and travel writer, Angus McDonald, captures, for the first time in print, the subcontinent's unique little railways which are so much a part of Indian life.

From the world famous **Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway**, the oldest mountain railway in the world, to the **Gwalior Light Railway**, constructed to aid famine relief in the 1890s, from the rack-and-pinion **Nilgiri Mountain Railway** to the historic **Kalka-Shimla** line, McDonald provides an intimate and humorous portrait of life on the trains. With more than 250 stunning images he records the people who ride the lines, who work on them, and who live alongside them, as well as the animals that are everywhere – on the tracks, at the stations, and even sometimes on board.

Published posthumously, and edited by his partner, Catherine Anderson * – Angus died suddenly whilst travelling in Burma in 2013 – **INDIA'S DISAPPEARING RAILWAYS** celebrates all that makes India great: its tolerance, its diversity, its beauty, and its ability to endure, providing a vibrant record of a vanishing way of life.

There will be an exhibition of photographs from the book at the Royal Geographical Society in December. All proceeds from his work will go to The Angus McDonald Trust, the charity established in his memory to fund healthcare projects in remote corners of Asia.

For further information please contact:
Jane Beaton at Kew Publicity on 07802 433471 or jane@kewpublicity.co.uk
www.carltonbooks.co.uk
[@carltonbooks](https://twitter.com/carltonbooks)

About the author: Angus McDonald was born in Paris and grew up in India. From his base in the Indian Himalayas his assignments took him across Asia, and his photographs and articles appeared in many publications around the world. He is the author of **The Five Foot Road: In Search of a Vanished China**, which documented his journey from China to Burma. McDonald spent five years compiling India's Disappearing Railways as a tribute to the country he loved.

About Catherine Anderson FRGS: Educated in Italy, Austria and England, in 2005, Catherine established a Fairtrade organisation in the Tibetan exile community in the Indian Himalayas, where she lived for five years. In 2012, she was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to research the funding of grassroots community-led projects in rural India, but was forced to defer her placement when her fiancé, Angus McDonald, became ill with terminal cancer. He died one year later when they were travelling in Myanmar (Burma) during a brief remission. Currently chief-of-staff to author and MP, Rory Stewart, she is writing her memoir which will be published next year.

Notes to Editors:

The full list of railways featured in **INDIA'S DISAPPEARING RAILWAYS** are:

- Aravali Railway
- Barak Valley Express
- Dabhoi Railways
- Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway
- Gwalior Light Railway
- Kalka-Shimla Railway
- Kangra Valley Railway
- Matheran Light Railway
- Nilgiri Mountain Railway
- Shakuntala Express

