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# One Good Run: The Legend Of Burt Munro



## Synopsis

One Good Run is the amazing story of Kiwi motorcycling legend, backyard engineering genius, and land speed record holder Burt Munro. He broke several international speed records with a motorbike he modified in his Christchurch shed and still holds several records in the US. Now a motion picture called *The World's Fastest Indian* and with Sir Anthony Hopkins playing Burt, this true-life, little guy beats the odds story is bound to renew interest in one of the legends of land speed racing.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tim Hanna is the author of the best-selling (unauthorized and subsequently controversial) biography of NZ motorcycle designer John Britten. A former advertising copy writer, he has also written for television and is a motorcycle enthusiast in his own right.

If you've seen, and loved, *The World's Fastest Indian*, you might want to think twice about reading this book. Despite a good deal of romantization on the part of author Tim Hanna, the Burt Munroe depicted here is not exactly the kindly old coot seen in the movie. The real Munroe was a single-minded, often difficult, man who, in truth, abandoned his family, and ignored a good many social graces in order to pursue his one interest single mindedly. But then, history is rarely made by gentle, accomodating people, and in this regard, the real Burt Munroe does not disappoint. While the movie is charming in its depiction of the kindly innocent abroad, the real story is much more complex, and in the end, much more interesting. Munroe was anything but the naiive innocent abroad on his first (of many) trips to America. He'd lived in Australia, travelled to England and much

of the continent, and was quite the sophisticated traveller when he arrived at Bonneville. His knowledge of engineering was indeed largely self taught, but he also took advantage of the wisdom and experience (and good graces) of many others who advised him along his way. Hanna does a very good job of telling Munroe's story- although he is perhaps a bit too eager to recreate conversations and internal monologues for my tastes. Still, it does help to move the narration along. And he does treat Munroe's relationship with his family rather perfunctorily, although I suppose it could be argued that it's not really the aspect of his life that people are most interested in. Fans of motor racing and motorcycles will find much to enjoy here, particularly as George Begg's biography of Munroe (which Hanna acknowledges was a major source) is no longer in print.

A great history of the real "Burt" [started as 'Bert' - the Kiwi/british isles way - but Americanized in concert with his fond attachment to the U.S.] This book gives a broader picture of not only who he was, but where he, and his ancestors, [and much of New Zealand's white population], came from. As a part of that fuller picture, it also gives a brief, but well-done and touching summation of the tragic & utterly amoral "highland clearances" that drove his ancestors & their fellow clansmen from their ancestral land in Scotland. [aside: the "Lairds" got their legitimacy - such as it was - and authority in part by commitment to preserve the welfare of the clansmen - so throwing them out should have instantly 'dethroned' those filthy thieves & have been null & void - but only if they were legitimate - which 'legitimacy' IMHO, was a murderously un-funny joke.] It chronicles most of the elements in the movie in their actual sequence & context, which happened over multiple trips to, and around, the U.S. He even went into Mexico 'til he talked his way out of a brush with the Mexican police - something he was smart enough to realize he probably couldn't do a second time - so he never went back. This book is really a biography of Burt & therefore covers his deep involvement with motorcycling & the TWO bikes that were his main life-long projects [and, of course the other love.. besides willing women - apparently always pursued in a gentlemanly fashion, but pursued as ardently as any fast times on a motorcycle]. A great book about an authentic & justly legendary character. BUY IT!BK. ps you also learn he had a sister who was a respected & successful author..

If you saw the movie " The World's Fastest Indian," or have any knowledge of Burt Munro's history, this is a good read. Very entertaining and informative. You might have a different view of Burt Munro at the end, he was a character for sure, but, there is no denying his accomplishments, his single minded dedication and his just plain old bull headiness to get a job done. He succeeded or failed on his own terms and for that, he deserves our respect.

I saw the movie first and absolutely loved it. Got the book from Europe after two failed attempts to order in the US. It is an inspiring story with a good mix of technical detail and personal info about Burt Munro. It's well written all in all, not high literature, but a good bio style. Captivating and easy to read. Has some nice photographs also. I loved the movie but thought that some scenes must have been exaggerated for dramatic purposes. Reading the book made me rethink: attaching a tree to the trailer to fix a lost wheel, old men need love too, mowing grass by burning it with gas,... It all appears in the book also, maybe slightly rearranged in the timeline though. Some things the man has done make you shake your head in disbelief. If you like bikes, liked the movie, and like to read, you more than likely will enjoy this book also.

not a historical account dont buy this book if you want facts

I really enjoyed reading about the life of Burt Munro. I felt that by reading this, I have a better understanding of who he was versus watching the movie (don't get me wrong, I loved the movie too). This book told of the sacrifices he made and his obsession with speed. It showed a little more of a selfish, stubborn womanizer than the movie did. The other great thing about this book, was the author was very detailed in describing how Burt built his various contraptions. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about Burt Munro and racing in general.

Good condition

Great book, the movie did not do this man justice!

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