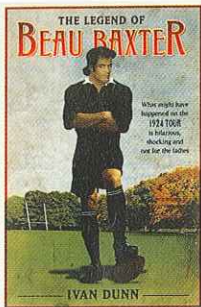


THE LEGEND OF BEAU BAXTER



By Ivan Dunn
Published by HarperCollins (NZ) Ltd
RRP \$36.99 paperback

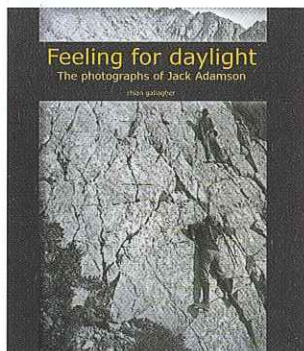
Mistaken for a Maori because of his dark good looks, Beau Baxter is selected for the Maori All Blacks and eventually – after some very questionable incidents – goes on to play for the 1924-25 Invincibles. This is the 1924 tour as it might have been, with more hanky panky and less etiquette than the rugby historians would have us believe.

Beau is blessed with a fine physique and good looks (so he says) inherited from his French mother and Cherokee Red Indian father, with speed and brilliance of lightening on the rugby field – attributes balanced by his vanity, pursuit of the pleasures of life and his dedication to self preservation and promotion.

This vanity is revealed in the first chapter: "My brilliant rugby career began the day I nicked Dickie Dale's boots..." Such brilliance and good looks inevitably attracts the ladies and we are not disappointed – among them are the pert young wife of the president of the NZRFU and Spank-me Sally.

This work of "faction, a mixture of fact and fiction" (author's note) is amusing and pokes much borax at conventional history and post-Edwardian sensibility. *The Legend of Beau Baxter* is filled with Kiwi humour, brilliant rugby games and shenanigans of the wildest imagination.

FEELING FOR DAYLIGHT



The Photography of Jack Adamson
By Rhian Gallagher
Published by and available from South
Canterbury Museum
P O Box 522, Timaru 7910
Ph 03 6877212, www.timaru.govt.nz/museum
RRP \$44.95 hardcover with dust jacket,
180pp
ISBN 978 0 473 16878 0

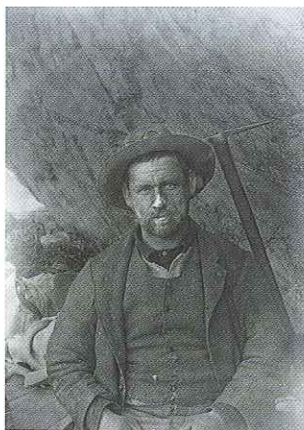
The Jack Adamson Collection is a rare and unique collection of glass plate photographs held at the South Canterbury Museum, Timaru. In July 2010, the museum opened an exhibition displaying the collection as a whole for the first time.

Pat Adamson, Jack Adamson's grandson, has been instrumental in ensuring the preservation of the delicate glass plates, which date from the late 19th century. The unique documentary record that his grandfather's photographs contain is, he believes, a legacy to the nation. The exhibition takes viewers on a stunning photographic journey around the Southern Alps and early settler communities.

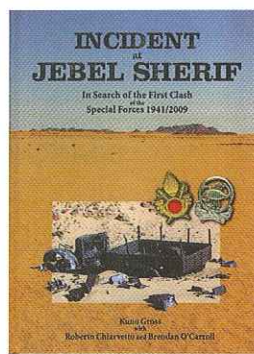
For those who can't see the exhibition in person, or wish to take home a souvenir of the exhibition, there is the fabulous book *Feeling for Daylight*. The author, Rhian Gallagher, sets Adamson's photography in context, unravelling some of the complicated twists and turns of his story that would in the end reduce Adamson to the point of bankruptcy.

Adamson started taking photographs when first employed at the Mt Cook Hermitage in 1889. Prejudicial attitudes about his working class background were a significant factor how he and his wife, Nora, were forced to leave the Hermitage.

Feeling for Daylight is a truly beautiful book to own and treasure, or present as a handsome gift for any occasion. The photographs are superb – they "tell" their own story. There is no favourite; I love them all.



INCIDENT AT JEBEL SHERIF



In search of the First Clash of the Special Forces 1941/2009
Kuno Gross with Roberto Chiarvetto &
Brendan O'Carroll
Produced in Europe by Kuno Gross
NZ\$69 plus \$5 pp, hardback, A4, 188 pages
Limited quantities available from Brendan
O'Carroll
1317 Dominion Rd, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041
Cheques or electronic transactions only
Account name: BP & MJ O'Carroll
Account No. 02 0176 0201738 097

This book tells the story in more detail behind the successful Pacific Screen TV documentary film *Lost in Libya*, which is now available on DVD (reviewed in Heritage Matters, Issue 20)

By late January 1941 the tide of the Desert War in North Africa turned against Italy, which had attacked British-occupied Egypt. The Italian northern front collapsed and their army retreated west towards Tripoli. Meanwhile in the far south among some isolated hills, two small mobile Special Forces units of the Compagnia Autosahariana di Cufra and T Patrol of the Long Range Desert Group clashed on 31 January 1941. It became known as the incident at Jebel Sherif.

In 2006, a small group including Kuno Gross, a Swiss who has lived in Libya for many years, ventured to Jebel Sherif where they found the wrecks of the T Patrol trucks. Due to the remoteness and the dry desert conditions the site was mostly undisturbed and the vehicles still intact.

Incident at Jebel Sherif gives a detailed account of the region during World War II, the battle between the two desert forces from both the Italian and New Zealand perspectives, and the 2006 expedition. It includes eyewitness reports, diary extracts and an interview with a NZ veteran. Richly illustrated with maps and charts, and more than 300 historic black and white and stunning colour photographs, this is a magnificent work that brings together a little known part of World War II history and modern day Libya and desert travel.

More info: www.jebelsherif.org

THE MAGIC OF STEAM

Pleasant Point Museum & Railway

DVD, by Bellbird Pictures, duration 38 minutes
\$25.00 from Pleasant Point Railways & Historical Society
Railway Station, Afghan St, Pleasant Point, South Canterbury
ba.mc.blanchard@extra.co.nz
www.pleasantpointrail.org.nz

This DVD tells the complete and remarkable story of the 40-year history of the Pleasant Point Railway and Museum Society. Members describe the early history of the Fairlie Branch, when steam locomotives provided a vital link between Timaru and the Mackenzie Country, and how they kept that history alive following the closure of the line.

It describes how initial plans for a static display in memory of a rail service developed to today's award-winning heritage railway with an international reputation. As the story unfolds, one gains enormous respect and admiration for the volunteers whose vision, determination, skills and plain hard work is reflected in beautifully restored locomotives, rolling stock, station and a memorabilia museum complete with a vintage movie theatre.

The Magic of Steam is a demonstration of how much was achieved by so few, and the birth of the wonderful heritage attraction at Pleasant Point did not come about by magic.

