



*This recent New Zealand publication comes highly recommended. Ruth Robson from Wanganui TCF wrote this review. Ruth has lost 2 loved sons and certainly understands the grief and bewilderment of a sorrowing Mum. This book also highlights research and information on sudden infant death. Ask at your local library for this title.*

### **After Alexander – the legacy of a son by Jan Pryor**

Published: Heddon, 2018

Suit ages: Adult

Linda Burgess, a book reviewer says “Everyone who has lost a child – and, more importantly, those who haven’t – should read this” and I would agree while remembering that not everyone will agree with me.

In 1981, New Zealander Jan Pryor, her husband and two young children were living in London for a year. Jan was pregnant when they left NZ for England. Alexander was born and the family are enjoying getting to know him when, at four months old, he is found unconscious in his cot and rushed to hospital. He doesn’t recover consciousness and after three days, they decide (after advice from medical staff) to take out the breathing tubes etc. Thirty three years later (with the help of diaries written during that time), Jan puts down on paper her memories of the death of her son along with thoughts about the issues that raises (especially in an overseas country and far away from family). She blends her personal experience with the professional understanding gained from her research in the area of children and families.

Quote from back of book “**After Alexander** is a story of triumph over loss and of optimism. It offers consolation and hope to parents who have lost a child, to those who fear losing a child and to anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one.”

Ruth Robson

Wanganui TCF.