

jacksstory.com.au

Jack's life was happy and fulfilled before that fateful day in July 2016 when he was told he had 12 months to live. The website was created to celebrate his life and reflect on the many dimensions of the baby that grew into a beautiful man and then stopped growing. It also seeks to raise awareness of the devastating impact this disease has not only on the victim, but on families and friends and the need to search and discover a cure to stop this madness from stealing our children.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ken was born in Sydney and came of age in the '60s with the Beatles, Searchers, Kinks and Easybeats. He was a late bloomer and went to University in the mid '70s, studying economics and finance. His first son, Stefan, was born in 1985 and Adrian followed in 1990. He remarried in 1996 to Dianne. Jack was born in November of that year followed by Matthew in 1998. Ken and Dianne moved with Jack and Matthew to Hobart in 2000, the same year their twins, Chris and Hugh, were born.

Ken is a director of several companies and an investor in several Tasmanian food, alcohol and telecommunications companies.

Jack's story

The life and death of Jack Fleming

This is the story of a very brave young man.

I was with him when he took his first breath and I was with him when he took his last. One was a moment of exquisite pleasure and the other was a moment of unimaginable pain.

He gave life, and particularly the last two years struggling with terminal brain cancer, his best shot. He never stopped smiling; never gave up; never said no more.

He was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) brain cancer on a cold, wet and wintry 8 July 2016.

He was given 12 months to live. We got 22 months.

In December 2017 we found out that none of the treatments were working and he was unlikely to live much longer.

On 28 March 2018, we were told it was all over.

He died at 1.45 pm on 15 April 2018.

I promised him I would write a book. I kept my promise.

—Ken Fleming

JACK EVAN FLEMING

25 November 1996 – 15 April 2018

RIP



FORTY SOUTH PUBLISHING
www.fortysouth.com.au



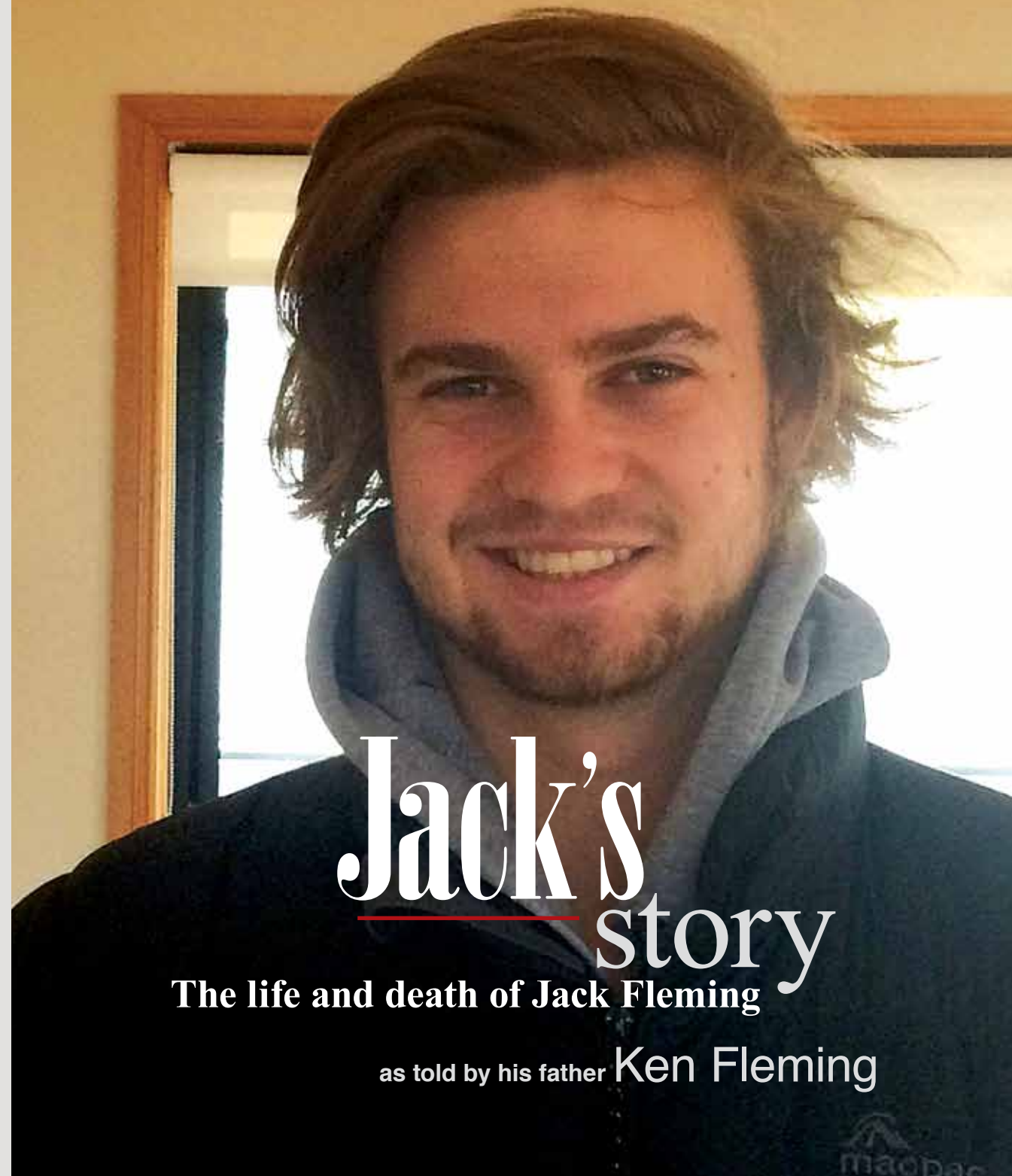
Jack's story

The life and death of Jack Fleming

Ken Fleming



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE NIGHTMARE OF A GLIOBLASTOMA MULTIFORME BRAIN TUMOUR



Jack's story

The life and death of Jack Fleming

as told by his father Ken Fleming

KEN FLEMING always thought that there would come a time when he would retire and write a book – one with a happy ending. *Jack's Story* doesn't have a happy ending, but Ken told Jack he would save his life and write a book and the book is the only promise that survived.

After he died, Ken sat in Jack's room with the door shut, a bottle of whisky and a box of tissues, and his fingers started to tap the keys – tap, tap, tap tappppppppppp!!! Over three days of very painful reminisces and emotional depths only parents that have lost children can understand, a draft manuscript evolved.

Ken's singular purpose and misplaced ideology was to create something that in some miraculous way could save a life and correct an imbalance in the universe created by Jack's death. He knew it was nutty as he is not driven by religious or spiritual ideologies, but a loss that is unrequited and that can only be made good if another death could be avoided. How that happens he had no idea but, after a box of tissues and a bottle of whisky, it seemed to make sense.

Ken's wife, Dianne, hasn't read the book and probably never will. She has said she lived through it and can't live through it again.