

**Breaking News: The Golden Age of Graham Perkin** (Ben Hills, Scribe, \$59.95 hb, ISBN 9781921640377, May)



This engrossing biography, which unfolds against the backdrop of the history of the *Age*, journalism and media ownership, pays tribute to Graham Perkin, an extraordinarily talented man widely regarded as Australia's greatest editor of the 20th century; a man whose life was tragically cut short at 45. For nine years, during one of Australia's most significant periods of social and political change, Perkin—a pioneer, particularly in the area of investigative journalism—edited and transformed the *Age*, elevating it to one of the world's top newspapers. It had come a long way from its Dickensian days of 'hot metal' technology, where green-bespectacled subs wielded great power and reporters had to pay for their own typewriters. Believing that a newspaper can effect

social change, Perkin fearlessly set about exposing corruption and dodgy government activities. Wooed by media moguls, while unpopular with some politicians, he provided a lifelong inspiration to many people, including his biographer, veteran investigative journalist and author Ben Hills (*Blue Murder*), with whom he worked for six years. Other notable 'Perkin's people' include Phillip Adams, Les Tanner and Michelle Grattan. This is a must-read for journos, journalism students and newspaper devotees, and a must-have for media studies/Australian history collections.

*Paula Grunseit is a freelance journalist, editor and reviewer*

