

Alan 'The Red Fox' Reid: Pressman Par Excellence

*Ross Fitzgerald , Stephen Holt , Laurie Oakes ,
9781742231327 New South June 2010*

Arguably Australia's most influential political journalist, Alan 'The Red Fox' Reid covered Australian politics from the 1930s to the 1980s. During his career he was both a chronicler of, and player in, Australian politics. Never content with merely reporting stories for newspapers and television, his close links with key politicians and media proprietors meant he was actively involved in shaping the events themselves.

At the start of his career Reid was intimate with Labor prime ministers John Curtin and Ben Chifley, but, after Labor's split in the 1950s, Reid, supported by media mogul Frank Packer, boosted the image of Liberal figures such as Robert Menzies and Billy McMahon. In 1963 it was Reid who broke the '36 Faceless Men' story and photograph, helping to keep the ALP out of power for another decade.

In *Alan 'The Red Fox' Reid* eminent historians Ross Fitzgerald and Stephen Holt take us into a Machiavellian behind-the-scenes world of recurrent plots, crises and leadership challenges. Thoroughly researched and lucidly written, this book shows how it was possible for a skilled journalist to help shape both public perceptions and actual outcomes of political power plays.

'As much as the political figures he wrote about and associated with, the Red Fox deserves to be remembered. With this biography, which captures the essence of Reid's life and career, Ross Fitzgerald and Stephen Holt ensure that that will happen.' – *Laurie Oakes*

