

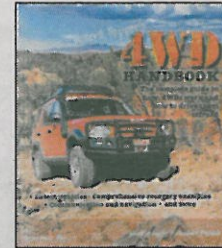
It's the 4WD bible

THIS is the book you have been wishing for, an Aussie produced bible about what we all long to do – go four-wheel-driving in the bush.

It begins with a basic discussion of the characteristics of a 4WD vehicle. It emphasises the important areas to consider when purchasing a new or used vehicle – engine size, suspension and tyres and more.

When you start to drive off into the bush this book tells you what to expect and how to deal with the problems you will encounter. There are detailed chapters on driving in different environments – mud, water, sand and over rocks. There are plenty of photos which show you what to look for and how to avoid trouble.

This is the best book out there if you are new to four-wheeling.



Rating: ★★★★★
Title: 4WD Handbook
Author: Robert Pepper
RRP: \$44.95
Reviewer: John Rusczyk

A look at dark side

THE world lost a unique soul when Kurt Vonnegut died in 2007. His humour, insight and humanity were flags flown high in works such as *Cat's Cradle*, *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Mother Night*. This collection of previously unpublished stories is an unexpected but satisfying addition to his canon.

Fubar is a story of the tedious banality of a life without hope or aspiration. But Vonnegut also saw the dark side of our existence. The story which lends itself to the book's title is as sinister a reading of human frailty and fear as you can get from Edgar Allan Poe. The opening story is pure *Twilight Zone*.

An undistinguished technician at a medical factory creates a device which echoes our most inner thoughts. The hope of fabulous wealth from this invention leads all to confront the ugly sides of human nature.



Rating: ★★★★
Title: Look at the Birdie
Author: Kurt Vonnegut
RRP: \$24.95
Reviewer: John Rusczyk

Bush tale may be better than most

EVERY politician and his pooch writes a memoir these days as they seek to enshrine their place in history once they've passed out of the political spotlight.

But when you've been the president of the most powerful nation on the planet for eight years, it's likely to be even harder to deal with the relevance deprivation disorder that afflicts almost every politician of every flavour.

George W. Bush is undoubtedly one of the most divisive leaders the US has ever had, leading his nation into two costly wars, at least one of which may never be won.

The fact he dragged Australia into both of them should make Bush's memoir of greater interest to local readers, although the book's index contains not a single reference to Australia and only three to John Howard.

Naturally, Bush paints himself in the best possible light, but he is also honest about some of his personal weaknesses, including his alcohol abuse.

Reviewers of Bush's memoir have been fairly kind to the former president's effort, with "lame" and "flat" being among the unkindest terms used to describe it.

Given the way Bush polarised opinion around the world, such soft criticisms of his memoir suggest it's a better read than most.



Rating: ★★★
Title: Decision Points
Author: George W. Bush
RRP: \$59.95
Reviewer: John Morcombe

■ This book is not subject to the 10 per cent discount offer

ed by **Dymocks Warringah Mall** staff. A 10 per cent discount off the to present this section when buying any of the four books reviewed day, **October 7. Ratings:** ★★★★★ Take the phone off the hook; ★★★★★ Better off with the cereal box