

The Most Important Book Review This Year

The 4WD Handbook – the complete guide to how 4WDs work and how to drive them off road

By Robert Pepper

Book Review by Prue Hasler

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(www.4wdhandbook.com)

522 Pages, Soft Cover

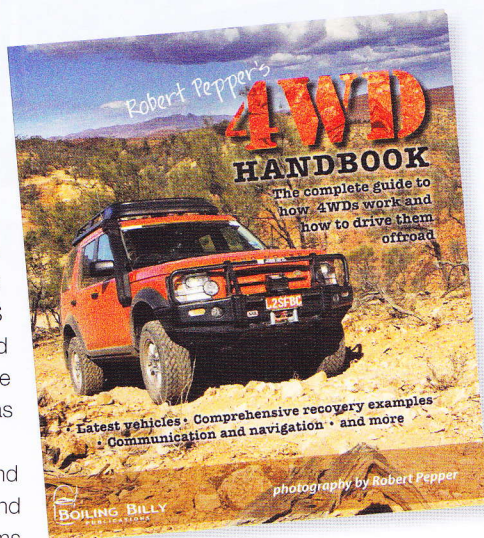
RRP \$44.95

Having known Robert Pepper for a number of years and seen him in action at Driver Training, Instructor Updates, leading a trip, being a member of the same clubs and hearing positive unsolicited feedback at a high level about his previous book, GPS Vehicle Navigation in Australia, I had developed an expectation that this would be a special book. Well, that expectation has been exceeded!

Yes it is a weighty tome, but using clear and easy to read language, well explained and detailed photographs and diagrams presented with a good layout, this is an easy to read and follow book. Robert uses examples from his real world experience and his extensive research to provide excellent explanations throughout.

As Robert says in his Introduction, "I can't think of another recreation that combines independent adventure and travel for the whole family at such a reasonable cost". Well, to indulge in this pastime safely and enjoyably there is a lot to learn and many events to be prepared for 'if' they happen. Robert's book covers everything from how a four wheel drive works, various driving and recovery techniques, safety, looking after the environment, electronic driving aids, what you need to know for touring including communications, modifications and navigation, even what to look for when buying a second hand vehicle.

This book is a must for everyone from someone who is thinking about buying their first four wheel drive to the experienced four wheel driving Instructor. From having a browse before going to Driver Training to keeping as a reference afterwards, there is plenty here to give you all the up-to-date background you need to the on ground



experience behind the wheel. Are you thinking of upgrading your four wheel drive, another reason to buy Robert's book and learn about all the new technology on the market.

You may be experienced in rock and mud driving but what do you do when you experience snow for the first time? Get Robert's book out before you get bogged! Learning how to set up a recovery and how to use that potentially dangerous but ubiquitous snatch strap or winch safely are important things to know, preferably before you are in an emergency situation on that 4 o'clock track when it is getting dark and the children are crying!

The commercial media through magazines, video and TV, while assisting in getting the word out about how to drive and recover a four wheel drive safely do sometimes get it wrong. Robert's enthusiasm, knowledge, expertise, research and four wheel driving experience together with his passion for getting it right has made sure that this is a reference book that provides four wheel drivers with all the correct answers, even the passengers. Read it at home and pack it with the First Aid Kit on every trip. **Tw**

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