Making a Wireless Access Point

Most of this talk expands on a web page I used for my desktop.
The web instructions are for systemd which Slackware doesn't use, so I'll highlight the differences.

Software revisions

I installed:

- Aircrack-ng-1.7
- iw-5.16iproute2-5.16.0
- hostapd-2.10
- nftables-1.1.5
- Dnsmasq-2.90
- iproute2-5.16.0

Configure

- Configure IP forwarding: **chmod a+x rc.ip_forward** and **./rc.ip_forward start** (no systemd)
- IP Set-up [Show tkdiff]
- nft – no change *except* if you have a DNS running then you need to add **`listen-on { 127.0.0.1; };`** to **named.conf** if you hadn't already. Otherwise named will listen on wlan0, preventing dnsmasq from doing so.
- dnsmasq – also uncomment **bind-interfaces** if running a DNS (same idea as named.conf change above).
- hostapd's config file is *big*.

hostapd

hostapd.conf is *big*. I changed 12 lines, some as per web page otherwise:

- driver: set to **nl80211**
- logger_syslog: set to 1 (I like to see what's happening but not too much – I patched the source for less messages)
- (ssid – pick a name)
- country_code=AU (default US). Kind-of legal scary stuff so do it.
  I turned on ieee80211d & ieee80211h as well because the doco in hostapd.conf recommended it.

Hostapd - continued

- Channel=4: pick one that isn't in use nearby (**wifi_radar** to check).
- (wpa_passphrase: choose your own, obviously)
- wmm_enabled was already 1.

After all that

You need to start both **hostapd** and **dnsmasq**. hostapd is just the gatekeeper – to verify a connecting device has the pass phrase.
dnsmasq assigns the IP address required by the connecting device.