



# Media Release

**Tuesday 25 October 2014**

## **2014 Australia's Best Cars winners announced**

RAC has announced the 15 best new cars on the Australian market, as determined by the prestigious 2014 Australia's Best Cars program.

The announcement was made in conjunction with the other motoring clubs from across Australia, and included a panel of judges from each state organisation.

RAC's Australia's Best Cars judge Alex Forrest said the winners come from 15 different vehicle categories, ranging from Micro cars through to mid-sized SUVs, sports cars, dual cab utes and large four wheel drives.

"Each winner is the best of the best in their respective category, and performed consistently high in all assessment areas," Mr Forrest said.

"This year we spent 12 months assessing 220 new cars and applied detailed scoring in the areas of Value for Money, Design and Function and On-The-Road."

"Australia's Best Cars seeks to influence the new car market by challenging manufacturers to continually lift their game in the areas of safety, fuel efficiency and affordability."

Taking the highly desirable Judges Choice award was the new Mercedes-Benz C200.

"The C200's safety score was one of the best in the field this year, its interior is beautifully designed and it's efficient yet performs very well.

"It's also very good value, even for a luxury vehicle. This car has shifted the benchmark by which other luxury cars will be judged."

The winner in the popular small car category was the Volkswagen Golf 90 TSI Comfortline, which just nosed ahead of the Hyundai i30 and Mazda3 thanks to its good list of standard features and strong on-road scores.

Top of the medium SUVs priced between \$45,000 and \$65,000 was the Hyundai Santa Fe Highlander, while the best large car was the Holden Commodore SV6 for the second year running.

There have been some changes to the categories this year, including the introduction of a category for city-orientated Micro cars, which was won this year by the Mitsubishi Mirage. There has also been a revamp of the Family Wagon and 4WD categories.

"These changes have been made to ensure the program reflects changing preferences in the new-car marketplace."

"The Australian car market is one of the world's most diverse, with 67 brands competing. Seeing new winners come through such as the Citroen C4 Picasso, Skoda Octavia and Nissan Qashqai shows how competitive and dynamic the local market is.

"A win in any of the Australia's Best Cars categories is a huge achievement."

To see how the winners scored, visit [rac.com.au/bestcars](http://rac.com.au/bestcars).

## 2014 Australia's Best Cars Winners

Category	Winner
Micro Car	<b>MITSUBISHI</b> Mirage ES
Light Car	<b>RENAULT</b> Clio Expression TCe 120
Small Car < \$35,000	<b>VOLKSWAGEN</b> Golf 90TSI Comfortline
Small Car > \$35,000	<b>AUDI</b> A3 Sportback 1.4 TFSI COD
Medium Car < \$50,000	<b>SKODA</b> Octavia Ambition Plus 103TSI
Medium Car > \$50,000	<b>MERCEDES-BENZ</b> C200
Large Car < \$70,000	<b>HOLDEN</b> Commodore SV6
Family Wagon	<b>CITROEN</b> Grand C4 Picasso
Sports Car < \$50,000	<b>VOLKSWAGEN</b> Golf GTI
Sports Car \$50,000 - \$100,000	<b>MERCEDES-BENZ</b> A 45 AMG
Small 2WD SUV < \$35,000	<b>NISSAN</b> Qashqai ST
AWD SUV < \$45,000	<b>SUBARU</b> Forester 2.5i
AWD SUV \$45,000 - \$65,000	<b>HYUNDAI</b> Santa Fe Highlander
AWD SUV \$65,000 - \$125,000	<b>VOLKSWAGEN</b> Touareg V6 TDI
4x4 Dual Cab Ute	<b>FORD</b> Ranger XL-T
Judges' Choice	<b>MERCEDES-BENZ</b> C200

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