

New cars: what the critics say

The Sunday Times

The Impreza WRX sedan is something you can happily put in your driveway without the neighbours sneering. Unlike the WRX hatch, the new sedan is “in proportion”, with sufficient styling to “draw attention”. The 2.5-litre, flat 4-cylinder engine is a success, and the seats are a compromise between sports and comfort – so “tired bodies can plop in and creak out” with ease.

The Daily Telegraph

Subaru have put the bite back into “Rex” with the arrival of the sedan. Upgrades include an extra 26kW of



Subaru Impreza WRX
From \$39,990

power, 23Nm of urge and a suspension package that brings back dynamic handling. They have also managed to trim combined fuel efficiency to 10.4L/100km.

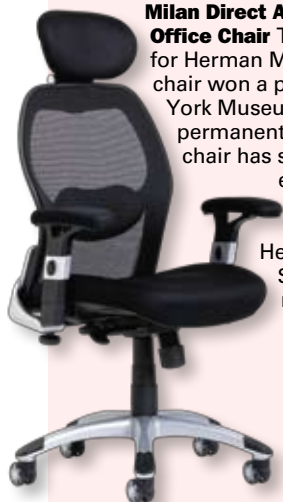
Overall – across tarmac and gravel – the WRX shows a superb blend of “go-hard poise” and daily drive compliance. “That’ll do Rex, that’ll do.”

Open Road

The latest and greatest Impreza WRX appeals as much to “yummy mummies and golfing grannies as it does to rally fans and gym junkies”. It wins points for performance, safety, refinement, responsive steering, ergonomics and value. On the downside, it has modest boot space, it’s a bit thirsty on the road and it does lack some “edginess and charisma”. Nevertheless, it’s an “undeniably effective tool”.

The best... office accessories

Streamline the study at home, or persuade your boss to invest in some of these tools, designed to make office life more bearable



Milan Direct Aeron-inspired

Office Chair The original design for Herman Miller’s Aeron mesh chair won a place in the New York Museum of Modern Art’s permanent collection. This chair has similar style and ergonomics, at a fraction of the cost, says the Herald Sun. Price: \$224. Contact: www.milandirect.com.au.



Swiss Business Tool From the makers of the Swiss Army knife comes the ultimate office tool. Keep it close and you’ll never have to search for a stapler, hole punch, staple remover or scissors, says the AFR. It also has a fold-out blade for chasing away stationery thieves. Price: \$225. Contact: (02) 9279 4806 for stockists.



Fellowes MicroShred 450Cs

This machine eats documents for breakfast, lunch and dinner, mincing sheets of A4 into 4,000 tiny, hard-to-decipher pieces, says T3. Price: \$499. Contact: www.ht.com.au.



Hermès Calfskin Paperweight

Nothing can make a desk stand out like an expensive and pointless paperweight. And nobody does them better than Hermès, says The Australian Financial Review. They source large pebbles from France and encase them in calfskin. Price: \$560. Contact: (02) 9287 3200 for store locations.

The Ecobutton

The makers claim it saves the average PC-user \$75 a year on electricity bills and will reduce their carbon footprint by 480kg of CO₂ a year, says the Herald Sun. It plugs into your computer, and sends it into deep sleep when not in use. Price: \$19.95. Contact: www.eco-button.com.



Tips of the week... staying secure online

- Don’t recycle passwords between sites. If a hacker steals your details from one site, then they might be able to access your savings accounts on another.
- If you receive a “phishing” email claiming to be from a bank and asking for login details, you should report it. Never open an attachment unless you trust its source.
- Opening dodgy URL links can be like releasing a “cyber-poison” into your PC. Links to corrupt websites are one of the main methods used by viruses, spyware and malware to infect your computer.
- Anti-virus software alone won’t cut it any more. You need something with internet security to protect from keystroke copying.
- Never put personal information online. By uploading things like your date of birth and address to social networking sites, for example, you’re giving hackers what they need to gain access to your online life.
- If you must do stupid things, don’t film them. If you must film them, don’t upload them for the world to see.

SOURCE: THE HERALD SUN

And for those who have everything...



With the BluAlert vibrating bracelet you never have to worry about forgetting your mobile phone. Using Bluetooth technology you simply pair the bracelet with your mobile phone and it will vibrate if you’re ever separated by more than five metres. It can also be set to vibrate when your phone rings so you never miss a call.

Price: \$61.00, plus postage
Contact: www.netpcdirect.co.uk

SOURCE: STUFF MAGAZINE

The internet... expanding the Twitter experience

www.twitpic.com This site allows you to tweet with pictures. Log on and upload your picture, add some words and your tweet goes out with a link to your image.

www.twisten.fm sifts through Twitter and lists tweets about songs. It’s linked to online music library Grooveshack allowing you to instantly listen to the songs recommended by your favourite twitters.

www.twitqa.com A question-and-answer forum for the twittersphere. Just log on, type in a question, press search, and the service will search Twitter for appropriate answers.

www.tweetworks.com With this site you can form or join “twitter groups” – Twitter users who organise around similar interests such as foodies, or 6WS for writing six-word stories.

www.nearbytweets.com Tell this site where you are and it will find twitters within a specified distance. Searching their tweets for keywords like “gridlocked”, “traffic” or “sale” can be useful.

SOURCE: SUNDAY LIFE

SOURCE: T3, HERALD SUN, AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW