

Baby Opel with the X factor

By  Henrie Geyser

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Opel is stepping up its onslaught on the local compact SUV market with the pre-Christmas unwrapping of the latest version of its popular Mokka that has undergone a nifty make-over which includes a new uppercase name of MOKKA X.



The jazzed up MOKKA X now brags with new daytime running LED headlight clusters, smart new upholstery and a high-end infotainment system with R4.0 IntelliLink and a driver display which is an optional extra on the Enjoy models.

Optional on the Cosmo is Navi 900 IntelliLink, which includes a full colour display. Opel says the seamless integration of the user's mobile device makes the MOKKA X the best-connected compact SUV in South Africa.

ECOTEC powered

The mechanicals and the four model line-up of Enjoy and Cosmo specification levels remain unchanged with the choice of manual or automatic transmissions. All four models are powered by Opel's well-established 1.4-litre four-cylinder turbocharged ECOTEC petrol engine that produces 103 kW between 4,900 and 6,000 rpm and 200 Nm between 1,850 and 4,900 rpm.

The six-speed manual versions sprint from zero to 100 km/h in 9.8 seconds and gallop to a top speed of 196 km/h. The six-

speed automatic models do the sprint in 10.7 seconds and will clock 191 km/h. Opel claims combined cycle fuel consumption for the four models varying from 5.9-litres per 100 km to 6.5-litres per 100 km.

Both specifications are well kitted out although the pricier Cosmo models have larger wheels, fully adjustable and heated front seats, rain sensor wipers, a reverse camera, front and rear parking assist and the choice of some optional extras.

Both models score top marks in the safety department with Electronic Stability Programme (ESP), ABS brakes, Hill Start Assist, seatbelt pre-tensioners, seatbelt warning and a pedal release system as standard on all models.



Cocky-cute character

The MOKKA X retains the cocky-cute looks and fun-to-drive character of its predecessor and it is difficult to choose between the two because both transmissions are a pleasure to use.

At the recent media launch I drove manual and automatic Enjoy and Cosmo variants and found very little to criticise. Ok, so the leg room at the back is not great and the boot space is not exactly generous but then this is a pikkie-mobile after all. Whatever it might lack it more than makes up for with its appealing looks, build quality and pleasant ride.

In spite of its high-riding stance the little SUV handles the twisties with confidence and it is quick to trot. The steering is nicely weighted and the auto and manual transmissions are smooth and quick. I was also particularly impressed by how well the little Opel dealt with the fairly strong winds we encountered along the West Coast and the power surge it produces during overtaking, even when already cruising at a fair rate of knots.

Thanks to its make-over the MOKKA X must rank as one of the best, if not the best, sub-compact SUV on the local market. The fact that it is German-engineered and has already notched up 2,672 sales in this country further strengthens the little Opel's appeal.



All new Opel MOKKA X derivatives are backed by Opel Complete Care with a comprehensive 5-year/120,000 km warranty and 5-year/90,000 km service plan.

The models and prices are:

MOKKA X 1.4T Enjoy 6MT R317,500

MOKKA X 1.4T Enjoy 6AT R328,400

MOKKA X 1.4T Cosmo 6MT R357,400

MOKKA X 1.4T Cosmo 6AT R368,100

ABOUT HENRIE GEYSER

Henrie Geyser joined the online publishing industry through iafrica.com where he worked for five years as news editor and editor. He now freelances for a variety of print and online publications, on the subjects of cars, food, and travel, among others; and is a member of the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists. henrieg@iafrica.com

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