

## The '100 Great Icons'

### Kombi

**THE ULTIMATE IN RETRO COOL ON THE OPEN ROAD, THE BEETLE'S BIG BROTHER WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF FRUSTRATED DELIVERY MEN.**



During a visit to the Volkswagen factory in Wolfsburg, Germany, in 1947, the company's Dutch distributor, Ben Pon, noticed an unusual vehicle on the factory floor. Named a plattenwagen, it was a flat-bed truck utilizing a Beetle chassis and running gear, which had been custom-built to transport machinery around the massive factory. Pon was struck with an idea. Since the end of World War II the businessman had been inundated with requests from tradespeople for a sturdy, versatile

and economical transporter for goods and people. He was confident he had just found the answer. Sitting down to lunch, the Dutchman drew a crude sketch on a napkin. The result was something Pon later described as a 'box on wheels'. Rudimentary as it was, he showed his design to the Volkswagen engineers, who believed they could build something to match the profile. Two years later, the result was the Type 2 (Volkswagen's Beetle being the Type 1) or Transporter. Based on the Beetle's diminutive frame, the initial prototype lacked the strength to endure the added weight of the larger body, and with its slab-shapped sides, ran the risk of topping in crosswinds. After wind-tunnel testing, a second prototype was built which was aerodynamically superior to the first, and the first production model left the Wolfsburg factory in 1950. Although perched on a longer wheelbase, the vehicle's platform, engine and drive train were virtually identical to those of the Beetle. The Type 2 featured an air-cooled, 25 horsepower engine mounted in the rear and a four-speed transmission, as well as the classic split windscreen. Christened the Kombinationskraftswagen ('combination vehicle'), the more informal moniker of 'Kombi' was soon adopted. Although it was no powerhouse, the van could accommodate up to eight adults, and the rear seats were easily removable to take on cargo or to make room for a mattress. By the 1960s the Kombi had become a symbol of freedom for hippies and surfers around the globe.

#### FAST FACTS:

- 1950-67:** The VW Kombis built in this era are known among enthusiasts as 'splitties' due to their split front windshields.
- 1972:** The Kombi's cab floor is redesigned with a crumple zone, but drivers are told it's still best to lift their legs in the event of a coalition.
- 1981:** Australian pop group Men At Work help popularise the term 'Kombi' in the song 'Down Under', with the line: 'Travelling in a fried-out Kombi'.
- 2000:** This year marks the fiftieth birthday of the Kombi. To date, 8.6 million have been built.
- 2001:** Joanne Lees and Peter Falconio make a fatal stop whilst driving along the Stuart Highway in a VW Kombi.
- 2003:** The Kiwi film Kombi Nation is released – its tag line reads: 'Four kiwis. One Kombi. All of Europe. The trip of a lifetime...'

From Chris Sheedy & Jenny Bond

## "The RULES of LIFE"

### What's in it for them?

We all want to win. At work and in most aspects of life, winning is good, and we don't like to lose. No one sets out to be a loser. But we do tend to think that if we are going to win then someone else, someone around us has to lose. But it doesn't have to be that way. In very situation, the smart Rules Player weighs up the circumstances and asks: 'What's in it for them?' If you know what's motivating the other person, you can help steer the situation (and your actions) so you get what you want, but they feel they've got something out of it too. The win-win' mentality might have come out of the workplace, but it applies to pretty much every situation and relationship.

To work out what others are likely to want and need, take a step back and remain a little detached, so you're looking at the situation as is from outside. Suddenly it stops being you and them, and you'll stop thinking that they need to give way in order for you to win.

Dealing with somebody who's got the hang of this Rule is a rewarding experience – people will look forward to working with you, because there's an air of co-operation and understanding. Once you've learned to always look for the other person's 'bottom line' you'll become very fluid in your negotiations and will gain a reputation for being adult and supportive – and that's another bit of winning for you as well.

And it's not just in workplace negotiations that this win-win reaps rewards. Try it at home too. If you're debating where to go on holiday, and you desperately want to go horse riding in France, think 'what's in it for them?' – what is it about that holiday that will make them happy? Highlight those aspects and they're more likely to agree. If you're struggling to think of anything that will appeal to them, you need to think more broadly – maybe you can find a place where you go horse riding while they go fishing or sailing. You see how it works. Just asking the question 'what's in it for them?' helps you think it through.

Being a parent is another area where this works. If you just lay down the law without considering what you your children want and need, they'll rebel, or at least be difficult to handle. But again ask 'What's in it for them?' and you'll see the situation from their perspective and handle it better. Winner.

From Richard Templar

## 'Snippets'

This is supposed to be quotes from English Top Gear Auto television program. We cannot guarantee that they are but they are amusing so take them as you will. Part 1 of 2. (Part 2 September)

**Bentley Continental GT's suspension adjustability.** It really is about as useful as having a snooze button on a smoke alarm. **BMW Z3** And if you are clinically insane, by which I mean you wake up in the morning and think you are an onion, here's your car. **Buick LeSabre** It was rubbish when it was new, it was built by idiots, and it's rubbish now. **Ferrari F430** Now we get quite a few complaints that we don't feature enough affordable cars on the show, so we're kicking off tonight with the cheapest Ferrari of them all. **Chevrolet Corvette ZO6** In many ways then this car is like herpes. Great fun catching it but not so much fun to live with every day. **Nissan Almera** Telling people at a dinner party you drive a Nissan Almera is like telling them you've got the Ebola virus and you're about to sneeze. **Renault Espace** This is the Renault Espace, probably the best of the people carriers. Not that that's much to shout about. That's like saying 'Ooh good I've got syphilis, the BEST of the sexually transmitted diseases.' **Porsche Cayenne** I've seen better looking gangrenous wounds than this **BMW X5 M** There's a gallon of fuel gone there, and another there...and yet another there. As a matter of fact, the only way this car could be less annoying to eco-mentalists is if its engine ran on sliced dolphin. **Renault Clio V6** handling bends In typical French fashion, it just gives up! A bit like the French did with the Germans. **Koenigsegg CCX** Koenigsegg are saying that the CCX is more comfortable. More comfortable than what...BEING STABBED?

## FROM THE EDITOR

July flew by so fast, I'm having trouble remembering it all. Eid al Fitr celebrating the end of Ramadan saw several functions around town and two are included herein. The current group of Japanese Volunteers of JOCV ended their two year visits.

This years pride march made the front page.

There was a birthday, visiting family and a farewell.

And of course we had the Parliamentary election. At the time this edition is being sent to the printer, we have not had a formal declaration. With most of the votes counted, there is of course a leader but apparently most of the remaining uncounted votes are in Dili and Dili as I have been lead to believe does not always follow the trend of the rest of the country. So time will tell. Again as I understand it, the vote was conducted peacefully.

USA did celebrate it's Independence anniversary, an English language college held it's graduation ceremony which was a delight to see so many young people brightening their future.

Any constructive criticism is always welcome. Send to admin@guideposttimor.com .

As per usual, if you are going somewhere, safe travelling.

Till next time. **Cheers ! Leith Carroll**

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### Pilgrim

From Wit's Dictionary

A traveller who goes abroad to pray in famous churches, as opposed to a tourists, who travels abroad to take photographs of them.

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