

Please forward this to anyone you think might be interested
... and, of course, if you'd prefer not to receive future newsletters from Kim, please just
"Reply" with "Unsubscribe please" as the subject. Thanks☺

Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

Email: kimworkshops@gmail.com
Web: kimwphotography.com
20 Greerton Road, Tauranga 3112
Phone 07-578-5138

Newsletter #21- April 2013

- 1. AUTUMN**
- 2. QUOTE OF THE MONTH**
- 3. CREATIVITY, COMMITMENT & DOLPHINS**
- 4. SOME LINKS**
- 5. "NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND"**
- 6. "WATERFALLS & FORESTS" WORKSHOP**
- 7. "LANDSCAPES & SEASCAPES" WORKSHOP**
- 8. UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**
- 9. PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS**
- 10. PRIVATE TUITION**

This newsletter goes out to many photographers in New Zealand and overseas - and to anybody who asks to go onto the mailing list. If you know anybody who would like to be on the mailing list, please get them to email me. It's free and they can unsubscribe at any time, of course.

1. AUTUMN

Welcome to autumn, my favourite season [though I enjoy the others too]. The heat of summer has passed, but there's still enough warmth to be in shorts, to be outside enjoying life. It's a great time of year for many things, including trips and photography. The weather is often settled, not too hot, not yet too wintery. I remember autumns in Dunedin: feeling a sense of adventure, of possibilities, just hanging quietly in the clear cool autumn evenings. Wherever you are in New Zealand, autumn is a great time for adventure, for possibilities. So ... get out there and enjoy it. I may see you there ☺

2. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Rules are foolish arbitrary mindless things that raise you quickly to a level of acceptable mediocrity, that prevent you from progressing further. Several of the most well-known rules – the rule of thirds, the rule avoiding a horizon in the centre of an image, the rule of having an

image read from left to right, the rule about not placing the centre of interest in the centre of the image, and so many others – are undesirable constraints with no validity.... ‘Good composition is the strongest way of seeing’. If your composition happens to adhere to rules, fine! If it happens to break rules, fine! Forget the rules, just make strong images” Bruce Barnbaum

3. CREATIVITY, COMMITMENT & DOLPHINS

I’m fascinated by the concept of creativity, what it is, how it works, how to tap into it, everything about it. “Where did those words come from” an interviewer asked Bob Dylan recently about his amazing earlier songs. “From that wellspring of creativity” replied Dylan after a pause, then reflecting that he couldn’t write words like those any more – “but I can do other things”. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WENXCJqpDk&NR=1>

Every artist, including most photographers, would love to be able to tap into this wellspring of creativity, whatever it is and wherever it is. I’ve been an artist for as long as I’ve been a photographer, so for me a photograph has always been more than just “a snap”. The best photos are not taken, they are created, sometimes at speed, for sure, but still created. And many are lovingly put together, layer upon layer – from conception to the camera bit to post-production.



I’ve been heading out to sea for all of my adult life, and dolphins have been a big part of that sea time. For many years I photographed dolphins “straight” – just the way they looked on film [or sensor] without any funny filters or tricks or post-processing in Photoshop. My career was built around straight photos, “real” photos of the real world as I travelled through it and enjoyed it.



I went to sea a lot, and so I photographed dolphins a lot, especially going out countless times with my good friend Graeme Butler who shares my enthusiasm for dolphins and has built a “swim with dolphins” business around that passion. “Where’s Kim?” “At the office”. “Which one – behind the house or out with Butler?”



Eventually I had more than enough straight dolphin photos [how many dolphin photos did I really need?]. Enough for a book on dolphins. So I wrote a book on dolphins. Then what? Somewhere about then a quiet voice inside me asked “what about me?” It was the artist, the creative side of me rather than the chronicler of “real” nature. I listened and pondered, then I acted.



How else could I capture some of the magic that is a dolphin? Or the liquid world it lives in? Let's experiment, I decided, let's try some new things: new filters, new techniques, new approaches. I started using slow shutter speeds to better show in the photos the graceful movement of dolphins [a technique I love and still use often], I experimented with infrared and other films, I tried many different filters [in film days], and many post-processing techniques, both for film and digital captures. I photographed dolphins interacting with people and just being themselves, leaping exuberantly above the ocean swells or gliding as smoothly as silk in the blueness. I went underwater and again tried to capture not just the “real” photos, but the magic feeling of being underwater.



It's been an exciting and rewarding journey so far, and long may it continue to be so.....



4. LINKS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

- <http://www.featureshoot.com/2011/11/graphic-and-breathtaking-snakes-photographed-by-mark-laita/>
- <http://www.thisiscolossal.com/2013/03/smithsonian-magazine-announces-10th-annual-photo-contest-finalists/>
- <http://www.mymodernmet.com/profiles/blogs/dramatic-lenticular-clouds>
- <http://inspirationfeed.com/photography/45-visionary-examples-of-creative-photography-11/>
- <http://www.picturecorrect.com/news/curious-octopus-steals-camera/>

5. NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND

There's still time to book for this just.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND

20-21 April

This is Numero Uno, **the biggest workshop I run**: a full weekend of workshops and field trips, followed by an assignment and an evaluation evening about 3 weeks later at a time that suits everyone.

- **Part 1**: Saturday and Sunday 20-21 April, 9.00 am - 5.00 pm. Both days will be based at Kim's studio but we'll also take some time to head out into the field [to a local park, wetland, or shoreline] in the afternoons. The main theme is **CREATING GREAT NATURE PHOTOGRAPHS**. A mix of modules with summary hand-outs, live demonstrations, screen-projected images, and questions answered.
- **Topics include** the equipment, techniques and approaches needed for getting great nature photos, landscapes and seascapes, wildlife photography [including birds], composition, telephoto vs. wide angle, dealing with scruffy foregrounds & problem skies, specialised techniques for night/dusk photography and aerial photography, "secrets of the pros" [yes, quite a few], "working a subject", digital workflow, introduction to Photoshop &



Lightroom, photo impressionism, “soul” in nature photos, silky waterfalls, long exposure photos, and more.

- **Part 2:** Photo assignment – in your own time over the following 2-3 weeks.
- **Part 3:** Evaluation and critiquing of your photos [this can be done by email if you’re from out of town]. We meet at Kim’s studio again for a few hours at a time that suits everybody, probably an evening.
- **Cost: \$475.** Price includes the workshop, follow-up, hand-outs, refreshments and yummy lunches [courtesy of Vivienne] on both days. Special rate for **fulltime students \$235.**

We put a lot of time and thought into preparing and running these workshops. Class numbers are small, allowing for considerable individual attention. For

anyone living outside the Tauranga area, there are three motels within 5 minutes’ walk of Kim’s studio. The workshops are held at Kim’s comfortable studio at 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga.



6. “WATERFALLS & FORESTS” WORKSHOP



Sunday 28 April. 9.00 – 5.00pm, plus assignment and follow-up [date to be announced]. Waterfalls and forests are very reliable photographic subjects – they are always there. They are also very popular subjects, though there seems to be considerable mystery about “how to get those wonderful silky waterfall photos”. I will teach you all the techniques you need to be taking great waterfall photos by the end of the day. You’ll be pleased to know that these techniques are mostly easy! I will teach you the techniques in the workshop and then you will put them into practise at a real waterfall in the afternoon. Forests are easy to get “snapshot” photos of [usually disappointing] but hard to get **good** photos of. I have spent 20 years working on techniques to deal with the various problems of photographing forests, and I’ll pass these on to you. This is a four-part workshop:



1. Saturday morning – learn the techniques in the comfort of Kim’s workshop studio
2. Saturday afternoon [after a nice lunch] – taking your own photographs inside a specially chosen real forest and also with a real waterfall.
3. Assignment. You will then have 2-3 weeks to put what you’ve learned into practise. Kim will give you a series of assignments that will help consolidate what you’ve learned.
4. We meet again [at a time that suits everybody, probably a weekday evening] to look at and evaluate your assignment photos. This evaluation can be done by email if you’re from out of town.

Cost: Full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, refreshments, lunch, and follow-up] **\$295** - or **\$245** for Early Birds [if you register before 20 April]. Fulltime students **\$150**



7. “LANDSCAPES & SEASCAPES” WORKSHOP

Saturday 4 May. Our first “Landscape Photography” workshop series was fully booked out, which was great. One person said afterwards: "You did a brilliant job dealing with a subject matter that has lots of issues and complexities and kept it simple yet detailed enough to be interesting throughout" 😊



This year we've added seascapes – it makes sense – we live near the sea and seascapes [coastal landscapes] are one of the most popular kinds of landscapes. It's a big topic and there's many ways of approaching it, so we cover a lot of ground. Topics covered include: elements of good landscape photos [composition, lines and layers, minimalism, colours, focal points], dusk and night landscapes, wide angle landscapes, telephoto landscapes, dealing with “scruffy foregrounds and blah skies”, post-production [Photoshop, Lightroom], pre-visualization and serendipity, good places to go, “soul” in landscapes, reflections, forests, geothermal areas, mountains, coastlines, rivers and waterfalls and much more. It's a huge – and very rewarding – subject. No wonder so many of us love landscapes!



- Part 1: Saturday 4 May 9.00am -5.00pm. Workshop at Kim's studio + field trip.
- Part 2: Landscape/Seascape assignment – in your own time over the following 2-3 weeks.
- Part 3: Evaluation and critiquing of your photos. We meet at Kim's studio again for a few hours at a time that suits everybody, probably an evening.

Cost: Full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, refreshments, yummy lunch, and follow-up] **\$295** - or **\$245** for Early Birds [if you register before 24 April]. Fulltime students **\$150**

8. UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

18 & 19 May [two separate workshops] **“Amazing Liquids”** – high speed close-up water drop photography with Paul Oellermann. Specialist equipment provided. Just bring your normal camera.

25 May **“Composition – Making Your Photos Sing”**

9 June “Sunsets & Sunrises”

15 June “Photo Impressionism” – creating art in your camera and in post-production. It’s easy – and fun.

22 June “Long Exposures” – creating magic photos of sea and sky using long exposures.

6 July “Stars & the night sky”

20 July “Lightroom Magic” – processing your photos in Lightroom.

Apart from the 20-21 April weekend, all workshops are one full day [9.00am to 5.00pm at Kim’s workshop studio in Greerton + field trip] plus assignment and a follow-up evening a few weeks later. Price includes workshop, follow-up, hand-outs, and Vivienne’s yummy catering. Cost: workshop + follow-up \$295 [or \$245 Early Bird – if booked 10 days or more in advance]. Fulltime students \$150.

9. KIM’S PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS

These friendly, relaxed get-togethers are for those of you who have been to any of my workshops or field trips over the last couple of years [since the University of Waikato workshops finished] or are thinking about maybe coming on one. There’s no obligation of any kind. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month [every month of the year except January], chat informally about photography, and view some of the recent photos we’ve taken. No charge [free]. Supper is served. Please email me if you’d like to come and please only book up to one month ahead.

The next two are:

Tuesday 7 May 2013 – starting 7.00pm

Tuesday 4 June 2013 – starting 7.00pm

10. PRIVATE TUITION

I had a great day not so long ago, all day teaching three photographers [in two separate sessions] how to get the best out of their camera, and covering specific techniques they were interested in. A bit later I was teaching two more photographers, concentrating on the best organisation for their photo libraries, their workflow through Lightroom/Photoshop, and photography in general.

Topics covered can be anything from photography in general to specific techniques, computer workflow, Lightroom, Photoshop... Each photographer determines their own agenda, and so each session is unique. All tuition so far has been one-on-one, but there’s no reason why [if you’d like to bring a friend with similar questions] it couldn’t be for two people at once [making it much less expensive for each person, of course]. Sessions are typically 2-3 hours. We cover a lot of ground every hour. My rates are designed to encourage repeat visits: First hour \$85, second hour \$80, third hour \$75, fourth hour \$70, fifth and subsequent hours \$65. So once you get to 5 hours [even if spread over several visits], from then on the rate is only \$65 per hour.

“What I learned in one evening with Kim would have taken me months to figure out by myself. Overall I found the session extremely worthwhile and consider it excellent value”.

Raewyn Adams

[Kim’s] “support and encouragement has enabled me to understand my camera and how it works, and a lesson in Photoshop was amazing.”

Lyn Yates

