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## Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

Email: [kimsworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:kimsworkshops@gmail.com)

Web: [www.kimwesterskov.com](http://www.kimwesterskov.com)

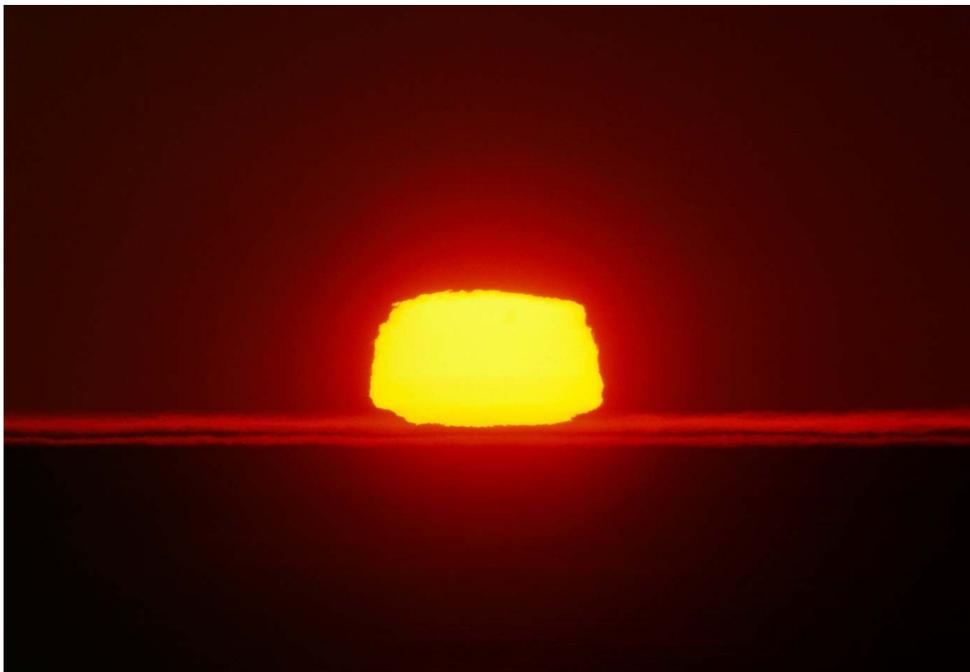
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/kim.westerskov](http://www.facebook.com/kim.westerskov)

20 Greerton Road, Tauranga 3112, New Zealand

Phone 07-578-5138

## Newsletter #29 – July-August 2014

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*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. EARLY THIS MORNING

Tauranga and surrounding countryside early this morning. I'd been up all night photographing stars in the clear night air, and then the eastern sky lightened. The stars of Orion and Matariki [the Pleiades] faded as another glorious day arrived ...





## 2. PHOTOS OF OUR WORKSHOPS

Ever wondered what Kim's photo workshops look like? Here's some photos taken by Gerard Pollock from the last workshop a few weeks ago [thanks Gerard], and also from the Nature Photography Weekend last year.



## 3. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“[The workshop] gave me inspiration to keep going with the realisation that great photography is within my reach after all and not an unobtainable dream!”

Hazel Ellis [thanks Hazel 😊]

## 4. KIM TIPS – PHOTO COMPETITIONS

Last week I drove to Auckland to join James Frankham, Arno Gasteiger and Andris Apse to judge the 2014 New Zealand Geographic Photographer of the Year competition. So it seems a good time to share some thoughts about entering photo competitions.

First of all – do you need to enter photo competitions? Of course not. Photo competitions are not for everyone, but they **can** be a useful way of sharpening your photo skills and in particular your editing skills – choosing your very best photos – often not as easy as it sounds. Photo competitions can even help launch careers in photography, and they did so for me.

- My first thought would be to enter only what I call “honourable” photo competitions, those which respect your copyright and which aren’t just crowdsourcing free photos they can use, often taking your copyright in the process. So read the Terms and Conditions to see what they say about copyright. If they say something like “Copyright remains with the photographer and we will only use your photos in relation to the competition” then that’s an honourable competition.
- Maybe watch the video “What Makes a Winning Shot?”  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoYNjttngp0>
- Read **the rules and follow them** - you’d be surprised how many people don’t. If the rules say [as they do in the case of the NZ Geographic competition] “Images of captive animals, restrained animals and animals being exploited for profit will not be considered”, then don’t enter photos of your pet dog or cat - or sheep, cows, horses, lions, tigers, meerkats, giraffes etc. For some reason, people keep entering such photos in the NZ Geographic competition.
- Photographers, even professionals, are often hopeless at knowing which are their best photos. They know which ones are closest to their own hearts [often the ones that were the hardest to get], but other people don’t see the backstory - they see just the photo. So – ask other photographers which photos are your best ones. Ask me if I’m around. Or show them at our Tuesday night “Photos & Coffee evenings”. Or at your local photo society.
- Keep in mind the standard rules of photography: unless it’s a deliberately blurred image, then the photo has to be sharp [or at least the focal point – often the eye or eyes – needs to be sharp], and also well composed, well exposed etc. Great light definitely helps. Great light on an ordinary subject will often lift it well above photos of great subjects in dull light.
- Unless it’s a competition that encourages strong Photoshop manipulations, then don’t overdo saturation, vignetting, HDR etc.
- There’s some good tips here: <http://www.nzgeographic.co.nz/pro-tips>

## 5. “GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND” September, October, or November 2014

It's not often that you get to choose when your next photo workshop will be run, but here's your chance. I know that some of you are keen on the idea of a full weekend workshop later this year, somewhere between September and November. Every full-weekend workshop I've run to date has been a “Nature Photography Weekend”, concentrating on nature photography: wildlife, landscapes, seascapes, forests, waterfalls, flowers etc. This year I'm planning to run a weekend with a much wider scope, including not only all the nature photography topics, but also people [portraits, weddings, candid], travel photography, photo basics, digital workflow, Photoshop/Lightroom, etc. Most of the photographers coming to my workshops come from the Bay of Plenty, but we also get people travelling from Whangarei, Kerikeri, Taranaki, Wellington, Hawkes Bay and other places around the North Island [bless them!]. There's three good motels within 6 minutes' walk of our workshop studio here and, well, Tauranga is not too bad a place to visit anyway. So if this idea appeals to you, let me know, and if the weekend of your choice is free for me – and you're the first in - we'll run it that weekend. Good idea?

## 6. PHOTOGRAPHY 101 – THE BASICS & BEYOND Half-day workshop Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 9.00am - 1.00pm or full day workshop on Sunday 10th August EarlyBird discount deadline extended

**Everything you need to get going – or all the stuff you should have learned but have got by without so far.** I find that many amateur photographers have a reasonable understanding of **some** of what they need to know – usually enough to get good photos occasionally – but that they also have big holes in their knowledge – stuff they really should know, but haven't learnt yet. The trouble is that every photographer has different holes – the things that are holding them back. These two workshops will fill those holes and get you up to speed, technically - and refresh those bits you already know.

You won't get any university credits for attending this, but you will come away with a much better understanding of your camera and photography in general. This could be your big step up! You'll walk out the door with useful tips, hand-outs, inspiration, and a much better understanding of **how to get better photos!**

I'd recommend these workshops for **beginning photographers** and **intermediate amateurs**.

An ideal way of really getting to grips with the technical stuff [and the other stuff you need to know] would be to come to the half day workshop on Saturday, and then come to the Sunday workshop as well. Coming on the Sunday would consolidate beautifully what you learned on the Saturday, and then add a lot more knowledge. To encourage you to take advantage of this, there's a very special price if you come to both – a price not much more than the cost of coming to the Sunday workshop alone. ☺

If the following words frighten you – or make your eyes and mind glaze over [don't worry – I know the feeling] – these workshops are for you:

- Depth of field & bokeh
- Exposure compensation
- Aperture or f-stop
- Shutter speed
- ISO
- Colour balance
- Matrix metering
- Digital workflow
- Backing up & archiving
- Shooting modes
- Aperture Priority
- Histograms etc. etc.



You don't need a university-level understanding of the above list to get better photos, but the more you can incorporate these concepts into your photography, the better your photos will be. Quite simple really.

We will cover the main things holding you back and how to deal with them: also when and how to use wide angle, normal and telephoto lenses - and much more. You will walk out the door with a printed hand-out summary and a two printed checklists: "Checklist for Critiquing your own Photos", and "Elements of Good Photos".

**Cost** [EarlyBird deadlines have been extended to 3<sup>rd</sup> August]

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August:** Full workshop fee **\$140** - or **\$120** for Early Birds [if you register before 3 August ]. Fulltime students **\$70**. The course fee includes tuition, hand-outs, and morning tea.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August:** Full course fee [which includes workshop, follow-up, hand-outs, and Vivienne's yummy catering] **\$295** [or **\$245** Early Bird – if booked by 3<sup>rd</sup> August]. Fulltime students **\$150**.

**Saturday and Sunday combined.** Full course fee [which includes workshop, follow-up, hand-outs, and Vivienne's yummy catering] **\$325** [or **\$275** Early Bird – if booked by 3<sup>rd</sup> August]. Fulltime students **\$165**.

## 7. IN-DEPTH PHOTO EVALUATION EVENINGS

Last year a photographer asked me if I would run "in-depth photo evaluation evenings" – somewhat like the Tuesday "Photos & Coffee" evenings that I run every month, but with real in-depth photo critiques. We run these every month now, and all are enjoyable and definitely in-depth. **In-depth Photo Evaluation Evenings** run on the **THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH** except December. As the person who suggested these evenings said, both the frequency of the meetings, and seeing what others are photographing, should be motivating.

**What to expect:** You bring along some photos, ideally 3-8, that you'd like constructively critiqued/evaluated, primarily by me, but also by the others attending. If you bring only 3-4 photos, each photo will be given more time than if you bring a larger number. A good number of the photos will be brought into Photoshop or Lightroom to show different cropping, tidying or processing possibilities - how they could be improved in post-production. So you don't just learn how to make photos you've already taken look their best – you'll also learn many new techniques and approaches for the next time you're out photographing.



**Cost. \$55** for the evening, which runs from 7.00pm to 10.00pm [you're welcome to leave earlier if you need to, in which case we'll look at your photos first]. The next IN-DEPTH evenings will be on **Thursday 21st August** and **Thursday 18th September**.

## 8. 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 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. They are **always fun and friendly**.

The next two are:

**Tuesday 5th August** – starting 7.00pm

**Tuesday 2nd September** – starting 7.00pm

## 9. 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. Most 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. **First 2 hours: \$80 per hour, after that \$70 per hour** [for those of you who qualified on the previous plan, don't worry, your bottom rates still apply – nothing has changed for you]

“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**