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## Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

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## Newsletter #30 - September 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.*

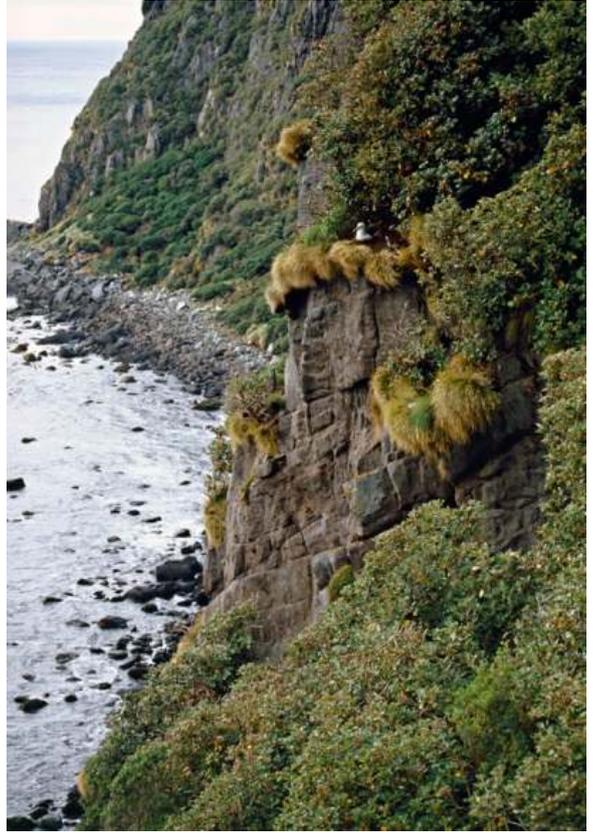
## 1. SOLANDER ISLAND

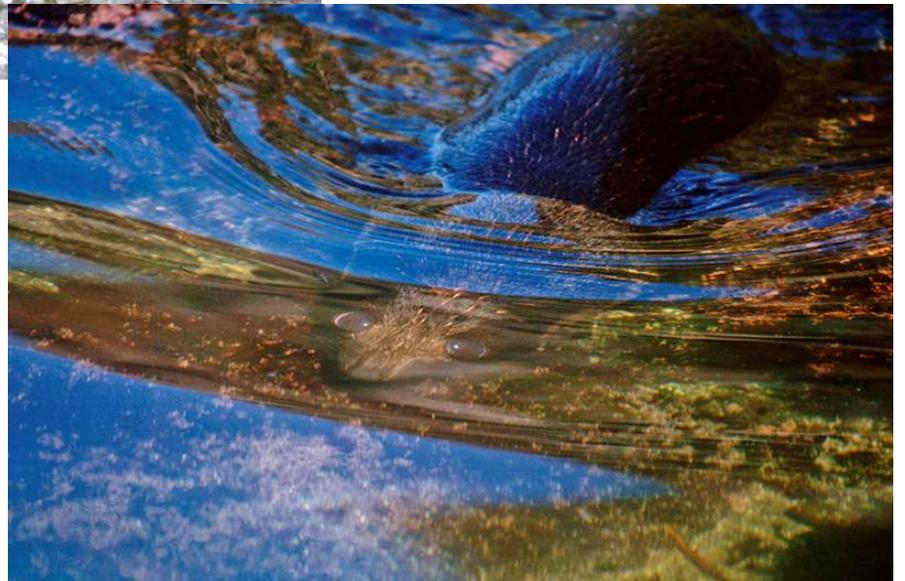


Maybe it's my Viking genes [100% Danish], maybe it's something else. But much of my adult life has been spent trying to get to cold, wet, lonely, rugged, inhospitable places, preferably islands and preferably without people – but often with abundant wildlife: Antarctica, the subantarctic islands, other islands and rocks dotted around New Zealand seas... One of my favourites has to be Solander Island, a rugged lump of rock south of Fiordland and west of Stewart Island. Most people don't even know it exists. But 5,000 fur seals know it exists, as do 5,000 pairs of Southern Buller's Albatrosses [Mollymawks]. I've visited Solander Island a number of times with Riverton film-maker Dave Asher, helping Dave and taking photos for the Riverton Heritage Centre ["Te Hikoi Southern Journey"]. If you're anywhere near Invercargill, I'd recommend a visit. Give yourself a few hours to make your way around the exhibits.

<http://www.tehikoi.co.nz/> Dave #1, along with Dave #2 - Dave McCarlie, make up South Coast Productions, a small, lively, independent film company putting out great DVDs/videos about the people and places of southern New Zealand. I've watched many of them and had the pleasure of being involved with a few of them. Dave & Dave have produced about 40 documentaries so far: [www.videosouth.com](http://www.videosouth.com)







## 2. “WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR” celebrates 50 years

The Olympic Games of nature photography is the “Wildlife Photographer of the Year” competition, run by the BBC and the Natural History Museum [London]. This prestigious competition is open to both professional and amateur photographers, and the 2013 competition attracted 43,000 images from 96 countries. Each year the winning photos tour the world and are also



showcased in annual books [current and back issues are available from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.bookdepository.com](http://www.bookdepository.com)]. A travelling exhibition of 100 images from the 2013 competition showed at the Auckland Museum from April to August this year, so you’ve missed it, sorry. Hopefully the 2014 winners will be exhibited there during 2015. Somewhat amazingly, this year the competition will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many years ago, five First Prizes in this competition helped kick start my career as a professional nature photographer. So a few months ago I was delighted to receive the following invitation:

“The Natural History Museum and BBC Worldwide request the pleasure of your company to celebrate 50 years of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year in the presence of Sir David Attenborough. Tuesday 21 October 2014 Natural History Museum London 19.00-01.00”

[I loved the “in the presence of ...” bit]. The evening will combine both the annual awards ceremony and a celebration of the 50 years milestone. Recently it was incorrectly reported that David Attenborough had died. It was his brother, actor and film-maker Sir Richard Attenborough, who had died. Rosamund Kidman-Cox informs me that David Attenborough is still very much alive and well at 87 or 88 [he has had knee replacements and a pacemaker but is now very much back in action] and making more wildlife series. Roz said that when David dies, half the country [UK] will be in mourning. And many more around the world, I would add. David Attenborough is a legend and a living treasure.

As I understand it, Rosamund has been a guiding light for the competition for much of its life, as well as being a judge since 1981. She was also editor of BBC Wildlife magazine for 23 years. These days she project-manages photo books for publishers such as BBC Books and The Natural History Museum. A book she edited in 2005, “Light on the Earth” is the finest collection of nature photographs I have ever seen. There’s a copy in my workshop studio on the book table - have a look if you come to a Tuesday “Photos & Coffee” evening or a workshop or other visit.

<http://www.fishpond.co.nz/Books/Light-on-Earth-BBC-Books-Created-by-David-Attenborough-Foreword-by/9780563522607>

<http://londoncalling.com/show/calling-out-for-the-wildlife-photographer-of-the-year-2013>

Roz is currently editing a photo book that will showcase a carefully-curated selection of the finest photographs from the 50 years of the competition. It will undoubtedly be great. Quite probably “The Very Best Nature Photography Book” to date.

### 3. THE GREAT PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND – 25-26 October

This weekend will be different to every other workshop I’ve run so far. Instead of covering just nature photography, we’ll spread our wings wider, touching most of the topics covered in my workshops & tuition over the last 8 years. “You mean a ‘Greatest Hits’ of all your workshops Kim?” “Well, sortof yes, I suppose”. There will be more details in the next newsletter, but this is just to say “**note this date on your calendar if it sounds interesting**”.

This will be the biggest workshop of the year, 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. Learning will be via many paths: a creative mix of modules with summary hand-outs, live demonstrations, screen-projected images, questions answered, and taking real photos in the field.

#### \*\* Topics include:

- Landscapes & seascapes
- Wildlife photography
- Photographing people
- Travel photography
- Composition, depth of field
- Which lens to use? Telephoto vs. normal vs. wide angle. Using each for best effect.
- Wedding photography
- Going professional or semi-professional - or not
- Photo competitions – should you enter? What do the judges look for?
- Copyright, legal stuff, model and property releases
- Specialised techniques for night/dusk photography and aerial photography,
- “Secrets of the pros” [yes, quite a few]
- Digital workflow, backing up, archiving
- That troublesome triangle of ISO/aperture/shutter speed [often not understood well]
- Photoshop & Lightroom
- What makes powerful photos powerful?
- Harnessing & developing your creativity
- Silky waterfalls, long exposure photos ... and more.



\*\* **Cost: \$475.** Great value, I believe. The Early Bird special is even better value - **\$425** if you book before 15<sup>th</sup> October. Price includes the workshop, follow-up, detailed hand-outs, and yummy catering [courtesy of Vivienne] on both days. You will feel well looked after. Special rate for **fulltime students** with ID **\$235**.

For anyone living outside the Tauranga area, there are three good motels within 7 minutes’ walk of Kim’s studio. The workshops are held at Kim’s comfortable studio at 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga.

#### 4. “GOOD PHOTOS, GREAT PHOTOS – ANYWHERE, ANYTIME” One day workshop – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Another new workshop, this one exploring the idea that you can find and take [or create] good photos wherever you are. Right where you are at the moment! Right here, right now will do just fine. We will dispel the idea that “I could get great photos if I went to Paris or Africa or Antarctica .... or anywhere interesting”. We explore the idea of “seeing photo possibilities”, seeing and getting good [and sometimes great] photos wherever you are. More details in next newsletter, but again, **note the date on your calendar** if it interests you.



Full course fee [which includes workshop, follow-up, hand-outs, and Vivienne’s yummy catering] only **\$295** [or **\$245** Early Bird – if booked by 29<sup>th</sup> October]. Fulltime students **\$150**.

#### 5. “THE POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHY” Presentation at Tauranga’s Baycourt – 9<sup>th</sup> October, 5.30pm

“Kiss my Arts” [careful how you say it ☺] is a series of “creative conversations” organised by Tauranga’s Baycourt and the lovely Nyree Sherlock from the University of Waikato. I’ll be giving the third and final presentation on 9<sup>th</sup> October at Baycourt. It’s called “The Light and the Darkness – The Power of Nature Photography”. It’s almost free [gold coin donation] but you need to book [see the link below]. I had trouble coming up with a good title, and even the one we eventually chose isn’t quite right – I’ll be covering much more than just nature photography, including **the place of photography in our world, its versatility, its power, and .... “Is Photography Art?”** I’d love to see you there.

[http://www.baycourt.co.nz/whats-on/event-detail/tabid/2479/eventid/252320/tctl/5389\\_/Default.aspx](http://www.baycourt.co.nz/whats-on/event-detail/tabid/2479/eventid/252320/tctl/5389_/Default.aspx)

“Kim begins by showing us the importance of great photography, how it helps us understand the world, our place in it, our responsibilities, and the possibilities for a better future. He then shares a selection of his finest work from a long and adventurous career as a nature photographer – from swimming with whales in the tropics to diving under the ice in Antarctica.”

#### 6. IN-DEPTH PHOTO EVALUATION EVENINGS

The next evening will be on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September**, starts 7.00pm. \$55. Book by email.

#### 7. KIM’S PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS

The next one is on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October** – starts 7.00pm. Free. Book by email.

#### 8. PRIVATE TUITION

Book by email or phone.