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Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

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Newsletter #43 - January 2016

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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. BECOMING A BETTER PHOTOGRAPHER IN 2016

It's reasonably simple:

1. Decide "I'm going to become a much better photographer in 2016". Say it out loud if that helps.
2. Take photos – lots, often
3. Learn new stuff
4. Go to new places with your camera
5. Revisit old places with your camera
6. Relax, smile, enjoy the moment, enjoy the photographic journey
7. Have your photos critiqued by people whose opinions you respect [and/or by yourself]. Ask "What worked? Why did it work? What didn't work? Why not? What can I learn from these photos?" Next time do better and try new ideas.
8. Photograph what especially excites you, that which you are passionate about: your roses or grandkids, waterfalls, the beach, letterboxes, wildlife
9. Give yourself a project. A Goldilocks one - not too easy, not too hard, something achievable and that you will feel good about. *See below.*



2. PROJECTS FOR 2016 - YOURS AND MINE

Your project for 2016 could be:

- "By the end of 2016 I will have a really good set of photos of my grandkids [or letterboxes or my local beach or park, or whatever is looking good in my garden, or ...], good enough to compile into a book, and publish 3 copies using Blurb, Lulu or Snapfish, for Christmas. One copy for me, one for the grandkids, one for their parents".
- *Or it could be* "I will take at least one good photo of something new each week. By the end of 2016 I will have a portfolio of at least 50 really good photos. Yes, maybe I'll self-publish them [using Blurb, Lulu or Snapfish]. Or maybe I'll show them at a Kim's "Photos & Coffee" evening."
- *Or it could be* "Every Saturday afternoon I'll photograph my garden [or at the local beach, or park], as wide a variety of photos as possible, and yes, maybe self-publish the results in December if I like them enough".



- *Or* absolutely any project you'd like to try.

My projects for 2016. I'm a professional photographer as well as a passionate amateur [in the sense of doing it simply because I love it] so I'm allowed to have several projects on the go at once [so are you, too, of course. I'm suggesting that maybe you start with just one as this will focus your attention on doing the one project well]. Here's my main projects for 2016:

- Continuing my night sky photography. 36 nights so far over the last year or two. Cold, clear, magic nights, mostly over the winter months with the Milky Way overhead.
- Auckland's rugged and highly photogenic west coast from Whatipu to Muriwai.
- Our native forests. Easy to enjoy, hard to photograph well – but after 20 years of trying, I'm finally getting some imagery I'm happy with.
- Slowly but steadily visiting or revisiting some of the many wonderful places here in the North Island, mostly within 3 hour's drive of my home here in Tauranga.



3. FATHER AND DAUGHTER – WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS

A somewhat unexpected result of starting to teach photography 9 years ago has been getting to know many great people. Some photographers I just see the once, or a few times. And some I see again and again. Some end up becoming good friends.

I've sponsored a workshop as one of the prizes in the NZ Geographic Young Photographer of the Year competition for 5 years now. The 2014 winner was Edin Whitehead, who came with her dad [a Kawerau GP who lives in Rotorua] to my "Great Photography Weekend" workshop last October. I very much enjoyed meeting them for several reasons: both are good wildlife photographers, both show the same burning passion that has fired me through much of my life, and – importantly – it's lovely to see a father and daughter sharing a passion together. My son Gareth accompanied me on



many earlier adventures [stumbling, not quite lost, in the darkness among car-sized boulders in the rugged Kaimai Ranges looking for a place to pitch our tent] and these will remain precious memories. Seeing Tony and Edin together reminded me of my times with Gareth, and I wish for them many more happy times adventuring and photographing.

Tony and Edin have more excellent photos than I can fit in this newsletter, so I'll show just a few in this newsletter, and then quite a few more in a future newsletter.

TONY WHITEHEAD: "Nature and photography bring me inexplicable pleasure - I just love images and images of nature, especially birds, are my favourite. I have given up trying to understand why and now simply enjoy the experience. I am fortunate to have a daughter who shares these pleasures. Time alone appreciating and photographing nature is precious to me but more precious is time shared in that pursuit. Sharing the planning, anticipation, experience and memory is so much more than travelling the path alone. I began photography as a young teenager with a father who was a keen photographer and have fond memories of shared time photographing and in the darkroom. It has been a joy for me to experience the other side of this relationship now as a father. To see Edin develop from a small child fascinated with nature and art to become a young adult who retains that childlike wonder in the world and achieves creative expression through photographing it creates a lovely symmetry and continuity in my journey through life. To have had her work recognised by others with a number of significant competition successes has been a bonus."

Tony Whitehead

www.wildlight.co.nz

www.tonywhitehead.com



EDIN WHITEHEAD: “Dad and I are fortunate to share many interests, the most prominent being our love [read: obsession] for photography. We find a lot of joy in images - both in making them and appreciating them afterwards.



Our focus leans towards the natural world - stemming from a love of biology, which is why you will see a lot of bird photos from us! We have just as much fun with street photography, stage shows, and occasional portraiture. It is the creative outlet in our otherwise quite scientific lives. And it's not just the taking of photos that we enjoy together - it's the whole process of developing, post-processing, and eventually hanging them on the walls. Over the years we have shared so many adventures together, and plan for many more.

We have stood atop mountains in the Drakensberg, with two species of endangered vulture wheeling overhead, traversed the notorious Drake Passage - capturing seabirds from the rolling deck - on the way to Antarctica and back, shared beers under the wide African night sky chasing star trails and light painting, and seen so many sunrises and sunsets together that I have lost count.

We've also been eaten by sand flies in salt marshes, sunken into the muddy margins on lakeshores, had to seriously defrost after being torn at by winds for hours, waited for eons in dark hides for anything to happen, and come home splattered in guano [but that last one doesn't happen as often as you might imagine!]. Most recently we have been battered by wind and waves [and hail, and snow] in the Southern Ocean, exploring the true wilderness of the Auckland and Campbell Island groups.



Through it all - in every moment - we share a relentless, fierce joy in simply being out there in the world.

Photography is a big part of our adventures, and integral to them, but more than anything we share a profound appreciation in the natural world. We don't just make photographs together, we make memories of our shared wonder for this amazing planet, in all its diversity and wildness.”

www.edinz.com

4. PROGRAM FOR 2016

JANUARY

- No program at all – you’re still in holiday mode and it’s probably too hot & humid anyway. Unless you want some private tuition or mentoring or critiquing or advice – in which case give me a yell [yes, I’ve already started private tuition – rust never sleeps – nor do passionate photographers].

FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 2nd February – the first “Photos & Coffee” meeting of the year. 7.00–10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- Thursday 18 February. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below
- **Saturday 27th February “Beach Magic” photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up. Details below. Two of you are already booked in – great!

MARCH

- Tuesday 1 March. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- Thursday 17 March. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below
- **Sunday 20 March. “Photo Essentials” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- **Wednesday 23 March. Illustrated presentation “The Power of Photography”.** 7.00pm, Snapshot Cameras, 391 Victoria Street, **Hamilton**.
Inquiries phone: 07 838 0031

APRIL

- Tuesday 5 April. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday-Sunday 16-17 April. “Great Photography Weekend”.** Weekend plus follow-up.
- Thursday 21 April. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below

MAY

- Tuesday 3 May. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- Thursday 19 May. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below
- **Saturday 21 May. “Wildlife Photography” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

JUNE

- Tuesday 7 June. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- Thursday 16 June 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below
- **Sunday 26 June. “Black & White Photography” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

JULY

- Tuesday 5 July. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 16 July. “Macro & Close Up – with or without a macro lens” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- Thursday 21 July 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below

AUGUST

- Tuesday 2 August. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 14 August. “Photo Impressionism” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- Thursday 18 August. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 6 September. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 10 September. “Landscape Photography” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- Thursday 15 September. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below

OCTOBER

- Tuesday 4 October. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday-Sunday 8-9 October. “Great Photography Weekend” workshop.** Weekend plus follow-up.
- Thursday 20 October. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below.

NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 1 November. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 6 November. “Good photos, great photos – Anytime, Anywhere” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- Thursday 17 November. 7.00pm. “In-depth Photo Critiques & Tuition”. Details below

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 6 December. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

5. “BEACH MAGIC” PHOTO WORKSHOP – Saturday 27 February



Saturday 27 February 9.00am – 5.00pm plus assignment and follow-up evening 2-3 weeks later for assignment evaluation [at a time that suits everyone]. The follow-up can be by email.

Aaaaaah, summer [and autumn] and the beach! I find beaches - sandy beaches, rocky beaches, harbours, any beaches - to be some of my greatest sources of photographic inspiration. And most of us live close to some wonderful beaches. Part of why the beach is such a favourite of mine - and of many other photographers - is how it's always changing. The possibilities are essentially endless. And as we all know, the beach is a great place to go anyway - with or without a camera. This workshop will show you the equipment, techniques and approaches for getting great beach and rocky shore photos, including long exposure "silky seas". Lots of tips and tricks. Will you have fun? I'm afraid so.

One of the reasons this workshop worked so well last year was that I tried a new idea - going to the beach at Mount Maunganui the day before the workshop at the same time that we would be coming 24 hours later, taking hundreds of photos and then showing these at the workshop. This let everybody see the possibilities that I had seen, to which they could then add their own vision. We'll do the same this time.

Cost: Full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, Vivienne's yummy catering, assignment and follow-up] **\$295** - or **\$245** for Early Birds [if you register before 17 February]. Fulltime students with ID **\$150**.



Some unsolicited comments about last year's "Beach Magic" photo workshop:

"Thanks Kim. The workshop was great. I especially liked the approach of looking at your photos from that spot, then going back to the same spot. Thanks very much"

Raewyn Adams

"Thanks Kim - the workshop was great, informative and fun" Hazel Ellis

"Thank you so much for a very enjoyable and informative day. I was sorry when it ended and we had to leave. I have just gone through my photos and am pleasantly surprised at the results! All thanks to your workshop". Sue Davies



6. WAIKATO – HERE WE COME!



“Afghan Girl” photo by Steve McCurry

During 2016 I'll be visiting Hamilton to run some presentations, workshops & tuition there, teaming up with Graham Boswell at Snapshot Cameras in Hamilton. We'll be starting off with what I feel is my best presentation, “The Light and the Darkness – the Power of Photography”. First we will look at some of the powerful photos that have changed the world [other people's, not mine] and then we'll look at some of the best from my career.



23 March at 7.00pm at Snapshot Cameras,
391 Victoria Street, Hamilton. Phone 07 838 0031.

To book, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/the-light-and-the-darkness-the-power-of-photography-an-inspiring-talk-by-kim-westerskov-tickets-20799706482>

7. ‘PHOTO ESSENTIALS’ WORKSHOP – Sunday 20 March

- Just starting out?
- Still on “Auto”?
- Just got a new camera?
- Not getting photos you're happy with?
- Been photographing for awhile, but still not “on top of it”?
- Not very confident with your current camera?

If you're answering “Yes” to any of these questions, then the “Photo Essentials” workshop could be for you. Aimed at beginner and intermediate photographers, you'll come away much more confident about your photography. For those of you who have been photographing for quite some time but never really felt you were “on top of it”, we'll cover all the basics that you maybe should have learned when starting out but didn't [or have since forgotten] and then move on to making you a much more competent and confident photographer. You'll finish the workshop a much better photographer.

Cost: Full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, Vivienne's yummy catering, assignment and follow-up] **\$295** - or **\$245** for Early Birds [if you register before 10 March]. Fulltime students with ID **\$150**

8. MENTORING

Over the years I've taught and mentored many photographers, from newbies to professionals. Most of the teaching has been through workshops, private tuition, and the regular Tuesday and Thursday meetings, but I also "mentor" a number of photographers.

"Mentoring" is a bit hard to define exactly, but it's **the ongoing process of inspiring, advising, guiding, teaching, critiquing** ... whatever is needed for the ongoing development of a photographer. It's one-on-one, so it's different for each person, as every photographer's needs are different. One month it may be about equipment or Photoshop, next month it may be "I just want my photos to have more 'Wow' in them", the following month it may be about exhibitions or "Should I go pro?"



Photo of Kim by Kaylee Freeman

Being mentored is possibly the fastest and most rewarding way of progressing rapidly. It's at your pace and at your level. And I try hard to be as supportive and positive as possible. I've designed it to be both affordable and flexible, so to begin with I'm offering "Mentoring by Kim" as a monthly subscription - you can try it and see if it's what you want. If it is, we continue, fine-tuning if needed. If not, then you pull out at the end of the first month. Every month you have a one-on-one meeting with me, discussing whatever you want. My 30+ years' experience as a professional photographer & writer is there, ready to help and [hopefully] inspire you. Your questions are answered, options are discussed, photography techniques or approaches are taught, your photos critiqued, new ideas suggested. This is either in person or by phone.

If you want, I'll give you "homework" – a photographic assignment to tackle over the next month. The following meeting you show me the results and we discuss them. With the workshops I run, I find that this "homework" is much appreciated by the photographers – it consolidates learning and spurs new growth.

I'm offering three levels of "Mentoring by Kim":

1. Everything listed above, with 90 minutes "one-on-one" every month. \$115/month.
2. Everything listed above, with 3 hours "one-on-one" every month. \$165/ month.
3. Everything listed above, with 4 hours "one-on-one" every month. \$200/ month.

Your mentor [me, Kim]:

- Over 30 years as a professional photographer
- Five First Prizes in the BBC “Wildlife Photographer of the Year” competition, the Olympics or Oscars of nature photography worldwide.
- 18 books published – written and photographed by me. 12 are currently “in print”.
- Passionate about photography and passionate about inspiring, guiding, and supporting photographers.

A photographer recently approached me asking for a more in-depth option than those I was offering. “Sure” was my reply, so we’ve tailored a programme to suit this photographer. So if you’re interested, yes, I’m happy to tailor a programme just for you.

9. IN-DEPTH PHOTO EVALUATION & TUITION EVENINGS

A good and cost-effective way of moving your photography ahead rapidly. Think of these evenings as a cross between private tuition and workshops, with lots of targeted feedback based entirely on **YOUR photos**. You bring along some photos you’d like evaluated and I critique them, both plusses and minuses, in considerable depth. Not just “how can we improve this photo in Photoshop or Lightroom?”, but what can you learn about photographing a similar subject next time: maybe changing the timing, lens selection, depth of field, aperture/ISO/shutter speed choice, composition, lighting etc. – anything and everything that helps **you on the road towards better and better photos**.

The next In-Depth Evening will be on **Thursday 18 February**, starting at 7.00pm. Book by email. Cost: \$55 for the evening.

10. KIM’S PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS

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. It’s **free [no charge], supper is served**, and there’s no obligation of any kind. **Please email me if you’d like to come** [it’s not a big room so I need to keep an eye on numbers]. These evenings are always fun and friendly - there’s usually many smiles and laughs. It’s a great way of meeting up with like-minded people, **being inspired by the creativity of our group of photographers, and coming away with news ideas and tips**. There’s a wide range of interests and abilities – so for those of you who have not been before, you’re very unlikely to feel out of your depth. There’s also a small “library” of photo magazines you are welcome to borrow from. Bring photos if you wish, but there’s no obligation to bring any. Some people do, some don’t.

The next one will be on **Tuesday 2nd February** starting 7.00pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga.

10. PRIVATE TUITION

Yes, like you I'm usually busy doing "other stuff" too, but I can nearly always fit private tuition in, and am very happy to do so [I enjoy teaching and mentoring 😊]. So – if you'd like some tuition, give me a yell. First 2 hours: \$80 per hour, after that \$70 per hour [forever!]

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