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Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

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Newsletter #95 – June 2021

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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.



Mount Maunganui 27th May 2021

1. PHOTOGRAPHY – THE PERFECT HOBBY?

So what is photography for you? An occasional hobby? An all-consuming passion? Something you only think of when you're heading off on that overseas trip? Something you'd maybe like to make money from someday? Something else?

For most readers, their photography is a hobby. Something they enjoy and would like to keep doing – and get better at. It's something I'd like to get better at too - and spend most days trying to do exactly that.

Most of us are amateurs. Some are professionals. I'm both an amateur [because I love it – it's been my main hobby most of my life] and professional [it's how I pay the bills and very occasionally buy a new lens].

One of the great things about photography is how flexible it is. Unlike mountain climbing or big wave surfing or professional sport or being a lawyer or accountant, or a long list of other specialties, you don't have to be at the top of your game to be a photographer. Photography welcomes pretty much anyone and everyone, whatever their skill level.

We're all so different that there's no single hobby that is perfect for everyone, but photography must come pretty close.

So what makes photography such a good hobby? Many things. First of all, it's remarkably versatile. It doesn't really care how fit or healthy you are, where you live, how much time you want to put into it, how much you want to travel, how much you understand your camera or the principles of photography. It still works - because modern cameras are so good. And there are thousands of specialty niches – anywhere from the roses in your garden to underwater photography of whales, or from your own back yard to the farthest places on this planet. Landscapes. People. Cities. Documentary. Wildlife. Underwater. Sports. Flowers... there's a long list of niches for you to choose from.

Are you fit & healthy? Great. Or not fit or healthy? Fine. Hardly matters. Canadian photographer Courtney Milne took wonderful photos from his wheelchair while completing "The Pool Project" [artistic visions of his outdoor swimming pool over the seasons and over many years] which became a splendid book of the same name.

Want to travel widely? Great? Don't travel? Fine. Doesn't matter. There are good photos to be had everywhere. Courtney Milne found 40,000 different ways to photograph his swimming pool. It's mostly a matter of "seeing" the possibilities [the subject of a later article, perhaps].

Back to photography's remarkable flexibility. You can go out with your camera for many hours every day of the year, or you can just pull out your camera from the back of the cupboard once every 2-3 years. Or



anywhere in between. If you are only an occasional photographer, you'll be a bit rusty when you get back to it again, but modern cameras are so good that you'll soon be back into the swing of it.

Photography is also highly accommodating to all skill levels. Photographers with high skill levels will, of course, get good results regularly. But then again complete beginners often get good results too. The reason: the cleverness of the engineers who have developed modern digital cameras.

Most cameras made in the last 10 or even 15 years are remarkable beasts. The image quality is great – unless you somehow manage to make a real mess of the settings, of course. *If you are just starting out and have no idea what all the buttons and dials are for, you just turn the camera on, set it on Auto, point it at something worth photographing, wait for the right moment, and press the shutter. It couldn't be much simpler than that!* You pick the subject and the moment and the camera sorts out the technical stuff. The result is usually acceptable and sometimes very good. If not, then it's often simply that you have not chosen the best subject or the best moment.

That's just for beginners, of course. Like most other hobbies or pursuits, photography is a journey. Where you want to go, and how fast you want to go, is entirely up to you. A camera set on "Auto" will give you an acceptable result most of the time, but not all the time. And "Wow! Great!!" is pretty rare though it does sometimes happen. It won't surprise you at all that the best photos nearly always come from the most dedicated photographers. Not necessarily from those with the most expensive equipment, but from those who put in the hard yards. Though "hard yards" doesn't sound quite right, as I find photography such a pleasure that on good days it's almost as natural as breathing.

What else makes photography such a good hobby? The diversity of approaches. You can photograph the "real world" or you can use your camera the way an artist might use their paints and paintbrushes, creating art however realistic or abstract you'd like it to be. Some talented photo artists use their photos as starting points for creative, complex, and often humorous artworks e.g. Wellington's Judi Lapsley Miller <https://www.artbyjlm.com/store/c6/flightsoffancyseries>



2. "CLOSE TO HOME" PHOTOGRAPHY – Part 3

Within a 30-minute drive from where we live

Inside

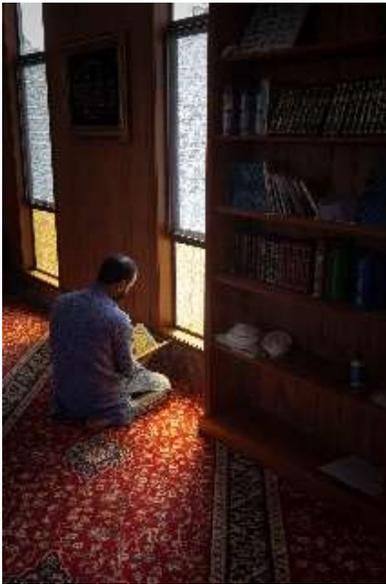
This is the third of my four "Close to Home" portfolios showing some of the photo possibilities I found without moving too far [and often hardly at all]:

1. Home – inside – Newsletter #93. Earlier newsletters are at www.kimwesterskov.com/newsletters-1
2. Home – outside [garden and the sky above] - Newsletter #94
3. **Nearby – within a 30-minute drive. This Newsletter #95**
4. A bit further afield – within a few hours' drive. Coming in Newsletter #96

All the photos on the next three pages were taken from around where I live, no more than a 30-minute drive away.

The main reason for showing you these is to help you feel better about not being on that overseas trip you were hoping to be on and at the same time helping you realize that there are enough photographic possibilities – good possibilities and sometimes great possibilities – all around us, wherever we are, to keep us happy for a long, long time. Sure, I very much enjoyed my earlier travels to Antarctica, the subantarctic islands, the tropics, and elsewhere, but now I'm equally enjoying finding more and more of the magic that is all around us all the time.

Magic is afoot. Your mission: to seek it out.







3. "PHOTO ESSENTIALS" Workshop – Saturday 12th June

- Just starting out?
- Still on "Auto"?
- Just got a new camera?
- Not getting photos you're happy with?
- Been photographing for a while, 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 is probably exactly what you need. 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 probably should have learned when starting 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. And a more relaxed, smiling one.



Topics we'll cover include:

1. The myths about photography
2. The 4 things that hold most photographers back
3. Digital workflow
4. Composition
5. The different kinds of light
6. KIM'S TRIANGLE: Head, Heart & Technical
7. EXPOSURE TRIANGLE: Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO
8. DEPTH OF FIELD TRIANGLE: Aperture, Distance, Focal Length
9. Lenses. Which is best for any particular subject/situation.
- 10 "Spot the shot"
11. Camera modes [Auto, Program, Manual, Aperture Priority, etc]
12. Introduction to travel, landscape and people photography

Cost: Full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, yummy catering, assignment, and follow-up] **\$245**. Full-time students with ID **\$145**.

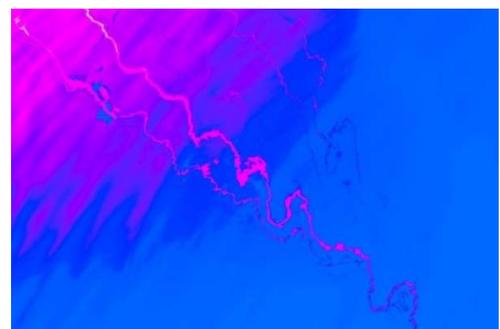


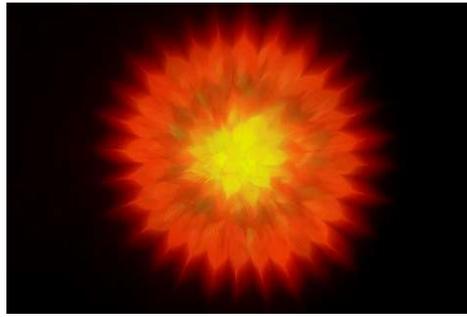
4. "PHOTO IMPRESSIONISM & PHOTO ART" Workshop – Sunday 11th July

Photo Impressionism is an exciting area of photography. It releases your inner artist. It creates images filled with colour and movement and texture and feeling and emotion. It allows you to get really good photos when other photographers are complaining that "there's nothing to photograph" or "the light is lousy". I've learned and developed many techniques, tips, and tricks over the years, and I'll pass these on to you. Many are remarkably easy, once you know what to do and "get your eye in". You will very likely impress yourself!

Saturday 5th September 9.00 am – 5.00 pm 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. **Cost:** The full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, yummy catering, assignment, and follow-up] is **\$295** or **\$245** Earlybird if you book before 1 July. Full-time students with ID **\$145**.

- "I was thrilled with my photos thank you. It opens a whole new world!! The photo-impressionism workshop was wonderful. We went to a bleak, midwinter park and created beautiful, colourful photos. Photos full of fun, imagination, and mystery." **Vicki Ostler**
- "Hi Kim, I LOVED the Impressionist Photo workshop and would recommend it to anyone wanting to have some fun and get creative with their camera. My family and friends were very impressed with my impressionist photos taken at Yatton Park and one friend even offered to buy one to put on a canvas to hang in her home!!" **Jan Gill**
- "I found the photo impressionism workshop very exciting as it allows me to pursue my more artist/creative side, the techniques we learned have opened up a whole new world for me." **Lynda Farnworth**





Previously I have run “Photo Impressionism” and “Turning your Photos into Art” as separate workshops, but they really belong together. So in this workshop, I’ll cover both. Two for the price of one 😊 My approach to Photo Impressionism is to use various in-camera techniques to create what is hopefully a unique vision of the world and then to make that capture look as good as possible in Photoshop/Lightroom using just normal sliders such as Exposure, Contrast, Vibrance, Clarity, Texture and so on.

“Turning your photos into art” goes further, turning your photos into something that looks more like a painting than a photo. The results are often amazing but the good news is that many of these results are EASY to obtain. Some of the techniques use Photoshop/Lightroom and others use either free programs or need-to-purchase programs. You will surprise yourself. Look at the accompanying images I’ve created with the techniques & programs I’ll show you in this workshop. After a few hours, YOU will have the knowledge and techniques to get photos just like them. Or better! **The four rose images below are all photo art variations of a photo taken by Melissa Hayes.**



5. Kim's 2021 PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 2nd February – the first “Photos & Coffee” meeting of the year. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- Saturday 13th February “Photo Walk” at McLaren Falls Park 9.00 am to 12.00 midday. Free.
- **Saturday 27th February. “Beach Magic Photography” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

MARCH

- Tuesday 2nd March. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 28st March. “Close Up Magic” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

APRIL

- Tuesday 6th April. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 17th April. “Slow, Smooth & Wonderful – Long Exposures” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

MAY

- Tuesday 4th May. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 23rd May. “Good photos, Great Photos – Anytime, Anywhere” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

JUNE

- Tuesday 1st June. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 12th June. “Photo Essentials” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

JULY

- Tuesday 6th July. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 11th July. “Photo Impressionism & Photo Art” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

AUGUST

- Tuesday 3rd August. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 7^h August. “Soul in your photos” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 7th September. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 12th September. “Exciting New Techniques” photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

OCTOBER

- **Saturday 2nd October. “Great people photos” workshop.** Portraits, kids, families, candid, travel, events, weddings. Full day plus follow-up.
- Tuesday 5th October. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 2nd November. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 7th November. “Black and White Magic Photography” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 7th December. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

One day workshops 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

COST: One-day workshops: \$295 – or \$245 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before the workshop. Full-time students with ID \$145. Course fees **include tuition, detailed hand-outs, yummy catering, plus [for most workshops] an assignment and follow-up evening.**

6. KIM'S PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month [except January], chat 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 new ideas and tips.** There's a wide range of interests and abilities – so you're very unlikely to feel out of your depth. Bring photos if you wish, but there's no obligation to. Some people do, some don't. **The next one is on Tuesday 6th July** starting at 7.00 pm. 18 Greerton Road, Tauranga.

7. PRIVATE TUITION

Yes, like you I'm usually busy doing "other stuff" too, but I can nearly always fit private tuition in, and I am very happy to do so. Two hours \$150.

Or – for just the cost of a full-day workshop [with Early Bird discount] - \$245 – you get my full attention - one-on-one - for 4 hours. This can be out in the field or at my studio, looking at your photos on my computer, going over your camera functions, looking into specific techniques, or all of the above and more – whatever you want to do. I'm here for you. For only \$475 I'm yours for the whole day.

Think not just about cost, but "value" – it's one-on-one with an experienced photographer and teacher and we cover a lot each hour. Bring a friend if you wish - no extra charge.

PHOTOGRAPHING ARTWORKS PHOTOSHOPPING PHOTO RESTORATION

As well as teaching photography and mentoring a number of photographers, I also offer photo restoration, Photoshopping, and "Photographing your Artworks" services. \$50 per hour [we get a lot done each hour].

ABOUT KIM

- **Loves photography and loves inspiring, guiding, and supporting photographers.**
- Over 30 years as a professional photographer and teaching photography for 13 years now
- Five First Prizes in the BBC "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" competition, the Olympics of nature photography worldwide.
- 18 books published [international distributions] – written and photographed by Kim.
- <https://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/220936-kim-westerskov-award-winning-photographer.html>
- https://b29454bb-bd92-42b1-ae8-30f256446a3e.filesusr.com/ugd/337e9d_1a35f441345e4c4fb57d03976cdc88ca.pdf