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... 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

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Newsletter #44 - March 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.



Warm summer evening at the beach, Mount Maunganui – Kaydi and Eli

1. WHAT SHOULD YOU PHOTOGRAPH?

I've read hundreds – no, make that thousands – of blogs and articles about photography, both to keep my own photography fresh [to keep moving forward, to try new things] and also for the teaching & mentoring I do. Of those thousands, one has stayed clearly in my mind. It was written by a keen photographer. He photographed buildings and flowers - because everybody else did - but his photos didn't satisfy him. They meant nothing. He knew something was missing in his photography but he didn't know what.

When his mother died in an earthquake, tragically young, he realised that he did not have photographs of her. Instead of photographing someone he loved, or other people or things he loved, he had been wasting his time photographing things he felt no connection with. The key idea he now realised was **connection**. Photograph that which moves you, that which you feel connected to, that which you love. And it's different for all of us. For some it may indeed be flowers [there are some wonderful flower photographers out there], or buildings, or wildlife, or the sea, or your children or grandchildren.

There's nothing wrong photographing new subjects when your camera club has a new subject for its monthly competition, or simply that you want to try something new. In either case, you'll extend yourself, extend your abilities, and you might even find a new love in your life, photographically speaking. All of which is good. But generally your photography will be stronger and more satisfying if you photograph that which you feel connected to.

So – what's your list? Which things [or who] do you connect most strongly with? Are you currently photographing them?



For me, ever since I was a child I've loved being out in nature. The forest, the beach, the hills, the mountains, faraway islands or oceans - nature in its glorious wildness, diversity and beauty. The year I turned 16 my father took up a new job in the Zoology Department at the University of Otago in Dunedin. So we moved south, buying a house in the seaside village of Brighton, 20 minutes' drive south of Dunedin. From then on my life revolved around the sea. I became a surf lifesaver [both volunteer and professional], then a surfer [reaching the quarter finals of the NZ Surfing Champs one year], diver, marine biology student [12,000 hours studying oysters towards a PhD in Marine Sciences], painter and photographer of the sea, underwater photographer, writer of articles and books about the sea.... my career as a photographer and writer has been based around the sea and faraway cold places such as Antarctica and the subantarctic islands.



As a teacher of photography for 9 years now, I've extended my photography into new areas, but it was a real pleasure to return to the sea and run a workshop on beach photography a week ago. The photos here, and the photo on the first page of this newsletter, were all taken during that workshop, or the day before, preparing for it. What an excellent excuse to head back to the beach!



2. WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS - TONY & EDIN WHITEHEAD

As promised, here's some more photos from father and daughter wildlife photographers Tony and Edin Whitehead, whom I featured in the previous newsletter. The photos on this page [other than the small one on the right] are Tony's. The photos on the next page are Edin's. Lovely. Enjoy!





3. "PHOTO ESSENTIALS" WORKSHOP – Sunday 20th March

This is the workshop that many of you have been waiting for. We start both at the start and also wherever you are up to [yes, we can do both], and take it from there. Digital cameras are so technically clever nowadays that many people expect them to create magic right from the moment you first pull them out of the box. And to some extent, they do. But there's a lot they cannot do. You have to do your bit as well if you want better-than-average photos. And most of you are reading my newsletters because you do indeed want better photos. Who doesn't?



Photos by James Frankham [above] and Tony Whitehead [below]

I have taught many people over the years, and I keep being surprised both by how diverse we photographers are as a group, and also by how many important things most amateur photographers simply don't know. This workshop is about filling those gaps and sending you on your way towards much more fulfilling photography. You'll be surprised both by how much you'll learn and by how much more empowered you will feel by the end of the workshop.

- 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 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. We'll then move on to making you a much **more competent, confident and happy photographer**. You'll finish the workshop a much better photographer – definitely! 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 12 March. I've extended the Early Bird deadline by two days because this newsletter is out a bit later than I'd hoped. Fulltime students with ID **\$150**

4. PROGRAM FOR 2016

MARCH

- 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

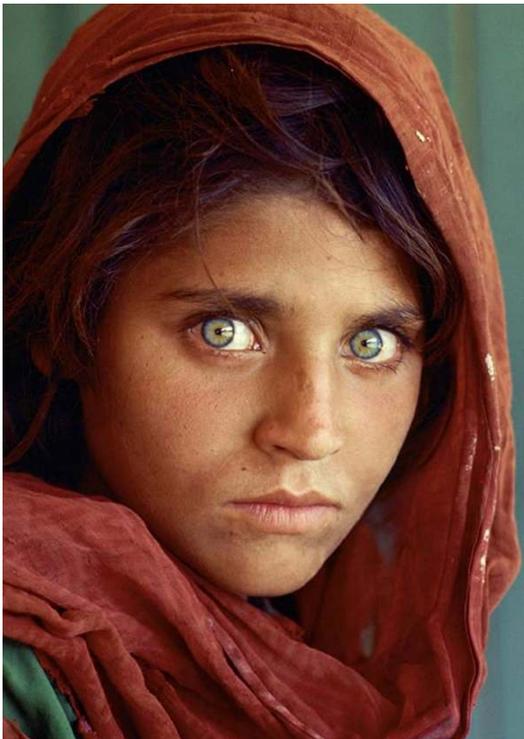
OCTOBER

- 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

5. “THE POWER OF PHOTOGRAPHY” - presentation in Hamilton - 23rd March



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 strongest 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. How and why I got them.



The adventures as well as the photos.

“Afghan Girl” photo by Steve McCurry

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>

6. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Whether you've been traveling for a while or just getting started, the path of creativity starts in your heart and mind.
The camera just goes along for the ride.”

Robert Rodriguez Jr

7. 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?"

Photos of Kim by Malcolm Macfarlane, James Frankham & 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.

And yes, I’m happy to tailor a programme just for you.

8. 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 17 March**, starting at 7.00pm. Book by email. Cost: \$55 for the evening.

9. 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 5th April**, 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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