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# Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

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## Newsletter #53 – February 2017

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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. YOUR BEST YEAR EVER?

### How to make 2017 your best year ever [photographically speaking]

Regular readers of this newsletter will have seen some of this list before, but I feel it's worth repeating as we start a brand new year.

It's reasonably simple:

1. Take photos – lots of them, often.
2. Learn new stuff – any way that works for you [photo clubs, online, books, workshops, tuition ...]
3. Go to new places with your camera.
4. Revisit old places with your camera. Get out there. Often.
5. Relax, smile, enjoy the moment. We do this for fun, remember.
6. 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.
7. **Photograph what you love.** Photograph what especially excites you, that which you are passionate about: your cats or roses or grandkids, waterfalls, the beach, letterboxes, wildlife .....
8. Give yourself **a project.** A Goldilocks one - not too easy, not too hard, something achievable and that you will feel good about. It doesn't really matter what it is, as long as it's something that will keep you interested for most of the year. Maybe show me [and others] the results later on.
9. And .... **do something with your best photos** [other than just enjoying them - which you're allowed to do of course]. Print and frame the best and hang them on your wall. Or print a collection in a book [easy ... via Blurb, Snapfish etc], enter a competition, offer some good ones to a local newspaper, bring them along to show at a Tuesday night “Photos & Coffee”, share them on Facebook or among friends via email, use them to help promote some cause you're passionate about etc. Get your best photos out there.



## 2. SUE DAVIES – FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER



“Photography has always been around in the background of my life but only a few years ago did it become an integral, thrilling, at times frustrating, and totally addictive, addition to it. I am lucky to have a very understanding and supportive husband! Art, which included pastels, oils, watercolour, pencil drawing or charcoal, was more important and I thoroughly enjoyed painting for local art exhibitions.

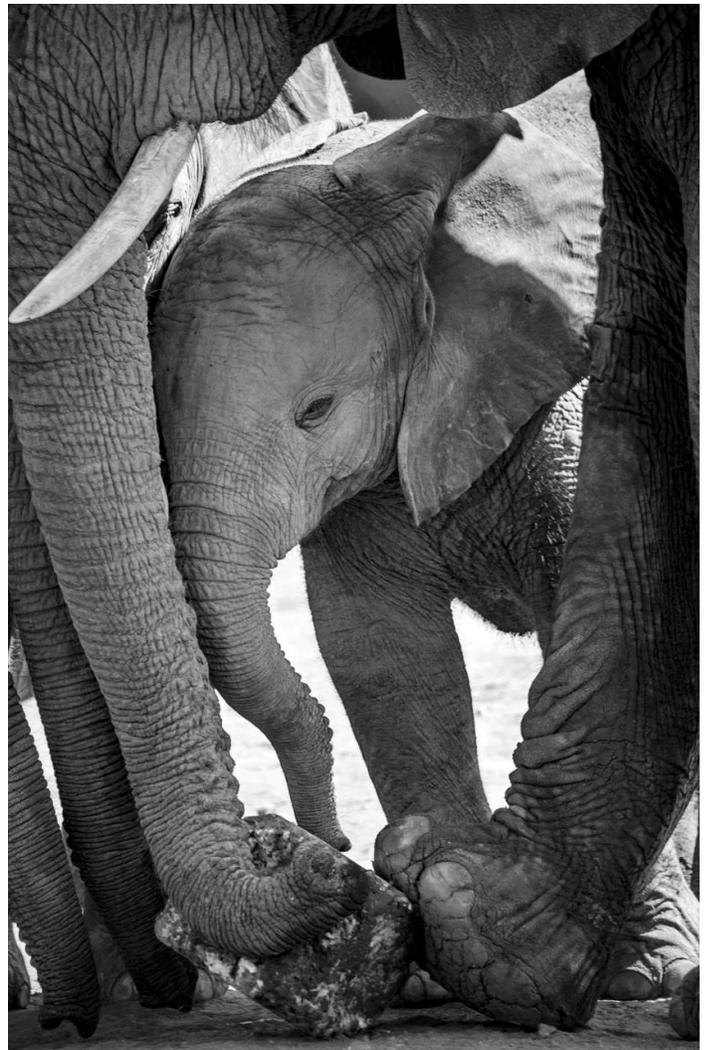
One afternoon, waiting for my daughter’s volleyball practice to end, a friend mentioned that she had started taking photography lessons and how much she enjoyed them. I was intrigued to hear her talking

about composition which has always been a favourite part of my art, and so after joining a photographic school in Tauranga with my first DSLR, a Canon 450D; I started along my photographic journey which has so changed and captivated my life. When my husband came home with a surprise Canon 5D MKII I was thrilled and it made a diploma in Professional Photography in 2013 from the PI Photography Institute so much easier to obtain.

Together with a friend, a venture into wedding and product photography proved challenging and stressful but also hugely exciting and rewarding. Ultimately though I decided that I needed to be 20 years younger, with loads of ambition, and now only do some work for friends. My inspiration now comes from wonderful workshops from Kim who has taught me such a lot and given me my love for Impressionistic imagery.

The photographs I love to capture come from going out on location, looking at the light and scenery and then deciding whether to use a macro lens and sun for bokeh, a zoom lens to shoot an impressionistic image or wide angle for a landscape. Sun flares, sparkles on the lake, raindrops on flower petals, bokeh in the distant leaves, game in an African Game Reserve backlit by the sun - nature at its best, and such a thrill to photograph. The carefully orchestrated, indoor, carefully lit images are not for me!

My very first DSLR has now been handed on to my daughter and I am so looking forward to her leaning the joys of photography. I consider myself to be so fortunate to be able to indulge in such a wonderful hobby, with all the special friends I have made along the way."



### 3. 2017 PROGRAMME

#### FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February – the first “Photos & Coffee” meeting of the year. 7.00– 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February. “Beach Magic” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up. Details in this newsletter.

#### MARCH

- **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. “Field Trip + Critique”.** Full day. Details in this newsletter.
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Sunday 26 March. “Photo Essentials” workshop.** Full day. Details in next newsletter.

#### APRIL

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April. “Travel photography – Your Next Big Trip” workshop.** Half day.
- **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April. “Landscapes” workshop.** Full day.

#### MAY

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. “Composition” workshop.** Full day.

#### JUNE

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June. “Turning your Photos into Art” workshop.** Half day.
- **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June. “Slow & Smooth – Blurred Motion” workshop.** Full day.

#### JULY

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. “Photo Impressionism” workshop.** Full day.

#### AUGUST

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August. “Black & White Photography” workshop.** Full day.
- **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August. “Making your photos look great in Lightroom or Photoshop”.** Half day.

#### SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. “Good photos, great photos – anytime, anywhere”** workshop. Full day.

#### OCTOBER

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Saturday-Sunday 14-15 October. “Great Photography Weekend” workshop.** Weekend plus follow-up.
- **Saturday 28 October. “Photography 101” workshop.** Half day.

#### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.
- **Saturday 18 November. “Close-up Magic – with or without a macro lens” workshop.** Full day.

#### DECEMBER

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free. Details below.

Half-day workshops 9.00am – 1.00pm  
Full day & two day workshops 9.00am – 5.00pm

**COST:** Course fees include tuition, detailed hand-outs, yummy catering, assignment and follow-up evenings for full and two day workshops.

- **Half day workshops:** \$135 – or \$115 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$70.
- **One day workshops:** \$295 – or \$245 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$150.
- **Weekend workshops:** \$475 [\$425 Early Bird]. Fulltime students with ID \$235.

#### 4. FROM KIM'S FIELD DIARIES – OPEN FIELD LANDING IN ANTARCTICA



Noisy and slow - but amazingly reliable over many decades - ski-equipped Hercules LC-130 aircraft are the workhorses of Antarctic transportation. Until 1990 they were run by the US Navy, and after that by United States Air Force.

There's not many places where you can safely land normal wheeled aircraft in Antarctica other than the 2-metre thick frozen sea - great in spring but unsafe/gone in summer – and summer is when most scientists and others are in Antarctica. But Antarctica does have an awful lot of flat snow and ice. And ski-equipper Hercs can land on pretty much any bit of snow or ice that is big enough - take-offs by LC-130s routinely need a take-off run of 5-8 miles of flat snow or ice, sometimes up to 20 miles [at high altitudes up on the Polar Plateau where the air is thinner], before the plane laboriously lifts into the air.

New Zealand's most remote field party during my first season in Antarctica was a deep field geological party to be flown by ski Herc from Willies Field [the permanent runway near Scott Base] to Browning Pass, near Terra Nova Bay, 380km to the north. As Information Officer [journalist and photographer] with the New Zealand Antarctic Programme, I was along to document this open field landing.

The four-man team was led by Dr David Skinner, an OAE [Old Antarctic Explorer – the unofficial label you end up with if you find your way to Antarctica often enough]. I think I eventually became an OAE, along with the many others unable to resist the siren songs of the Great White Continent]. Antarctica can be

dangerously inhospitable at times and field parties have only their tents between them and any storm. David told me of one fierce storm that had them pinned inside their tents for days. When the wind finally abated he found one of his pencils – presumably left outside – had embedded itself “into” a nearby rock and was still sitting there, testament to the ferocity of the wind. I’ve often wondered about that pencil and the physics of it all, but that’s what David said. Never argue with a geologist who’s telling a good story.

Anyway here we were, preparing to land at Browning Pass, a little north of Hell’s Gate and Inexpressible Island in Terra Nova Bay where the 6 men of Scott’s Northern Party were forced to winter over [their ship was unable to reach them before winter] with no tents, food for just a few weeks and only the summer clothes they stood in. They survived the Antarctic winter in a 12x9ft snow cave they dug, eating penguins and seal meat. Darkness, frostbite, boredom, hunger, dysentery and the roar of the incessant wind were their companions for over six months. The following spring they dragged their failing bodies south along the coast, eventually reaching their hut on Ross Island five painful weeks later.

The snow of Browning Pass looked smooth and flat, and rising slightly. Good. Now the landing bit. No-one tries to have accidents in Antarctica, but they do happen, and occasionally they happen to ski-equipped Hercules. Occasionally wrecking the plane and killing and/or injuring those on board.



The crew flew the Herc lower and lower until the twin 5.5ft [1.7 metre] wide skis were settling into the snow. At full throttle, the Herc trundled/raced along like this – half in the air, half on the snow – for quite some distance – and then lifted into the air, flew back to let the pilots look down at the tracks the Herc had just made in the snow – looking for any tell-tale danger signs the tracks could show. All looked good [presumably – along with the geology party I was deep in the bowels of the aircraft and couldn’t see a thing] so the Herc came around and then landed in the exact same tracks. With considerably shuddering and loud noises. Eventually we came to a stop. The big back cargo door opened.

David, mountain guide Shaun Norman, and the rest of the geology team unloaded their Skidoos, sledges and other supplies out the back of the Herc, tested their radio communications, posed for a few photos, and bid us farewell.



The engines had been running the whole time – in the Antarctic cold there’s always the danger of them not starting again if turned off – and they now revved up. More shuddering and a roaring noise as the Herc slowly gathered speed.

[from <http://www.firebirds.org> ] ‘Takeoffs from the snow are triumphs of hope over physics. The object is simple—get to sixty-five knots and get the nose up off the snow. “Once we get the nose up, it will fly,” says Capt. Norman. “Getting to that point is the trick.” ‘

The nose of our Herc eventually lifted into the clear Antarctic air. We headed home over Hell’s Gate, Inexpressible Island, the massive Drygalski Ice Tongue and the stunning coastline of the western Ross Sea. Aaaaah. Another day in the life of the 1982-83 Scott Base Information Officer.

## 5. "BEACH MAGIC" PHOTO WORKSHOP – Sunday 19 February

Sunday 19 **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 in previous years was that I went the beach at Mount Maunganui the day before the workshop at the same time of day 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.

All the accompanying photos were taken over the last 18 months at Mount Maunganui Beach and Papamoa Beach.

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 11<sup>th</sup> February]. Fulltime students with ID **\$150**.

Some unsolicited comments about previous "Beach Magic" photo workshops:

"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. NZ GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Rotorua's Tony Whitehead for his Second Place in the highly competitive Landscape section of the 2016 New Zealand Geographic Photographer of the Year, and to his daughter Edin Whitehead for her Highly Commended in the Wildlife section.



## 7. FIELD TRIP + CRITIQUE - 4 March - full day - \$75

During the latter half of 2016 I ran **"Field Trip + Critique"** days in Whangarei, Dargaville and Whakatane. Feedback from all three was great, and so on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March I'm running one here in Tauranga. These are very cost effective days. Cost \$75, minimum number 4 photographers, maximum 10 photographers. Contact me if you'd like to come.

The day's programme is:

- 9.00-12.00 noon – I accompany you for three hours of photography to somewhere local – we decide where on the day – possibly McLaren Falls Park or a local beach. After a few words from me you then take a variety of photographs [ideally 20 – 100] over the next few hours and chat to me as much as you wish. I'm there for you.
- 12.00 – 1.00pm. Lunch. Bring your own, or share a potluck, or head off to a café.
- 1.00 – 5.00pm – we meet back at 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, where I upload the photos you've taken and critique them constructively: what works well, why it worked well, what didn't work so well, why it didn't work so well, what could be done differently next time ... taking some into Photoshop/Lightroom to show you how I would process them: cropping if needed, and optimizing the overall look of the photo. Many photographers report that they find the afternoon session valuable, including being surprised how much better nearly all photos can be made to look in Lightroom/Photoshop. The afternoon goes quickly. You'll find my critiques and comments both friendly and hopefully useful.

## 8. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Once you’ve got your exposure figured out, and can competently focus an image, two things the camera is getting very good at doing, the only thing left is to create something that connects. That’s the human task, the part that requires creativity, soul, and something to say. We do that with composition, with colour, with our choice of moments, and we do it with storytelling.

Human beings are storytelling creatures. We find meaning there, we find hope. It’s how we change minds and stir hearts to action. And knowing how to use your camera won’t help you with this. This part of the photographic journey is done with the heart and the imagination, because it’s the heart and the imagination to which we speak on the other side of the image.”

David duChemin

## 9. INVITATION TO ALL CAMERA CLUBS

If your club or group might be interested in hosting one of my presentations - or workshops - or Field Trip + Critique days, please get in touch.

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

Phone 07-578-5138

## 10. MENTORING

“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 & Tony Whitehead

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 as 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.

**Who is mentoring for? Anybody. At present I'm mentoring both established professional photographers and amateurs.**

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

1. Everything listed above, with at least 90 minutes [probably more] of my time every month. \$115/month.
2. Everything listed above, with at least 3 hours of my time [probably more] every month. \$165/ month.
3. Everything listed above, with at least 4 hours of my time [probably more] 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 of nature photography worldwide.
- 18 books published – written and photographed by me. Five are currently "in print".
- **Passionate about photography and passionate about inspiring, guiding, and supporting photographers.**

## 11. 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 first one of 2017 will be on Tuesday **7 February** starting 7.00pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga.

## 12. 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. If you come again, it's \$70 per hour right from the first hour.

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