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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 #94 – May 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.



Mandala – autumn leaves from our flowering cherry tree

1. AUTUMN PHOTOGRAPHY



Aah, autumn, my favourite season. Adventure beckons on the evening breeze or calls silently in the still evening air. Magic stirs. Life is good.

Blues and greens are the peaceful, calming, balancing colours in the natural world: the sea and sky and the trees and grasses and everything that photosynthesizes and keeps us alive with the oxygen so created. The warm sensual reds, oranges, and yellows of autumn are visual treats, like a welcome coffee or rich chocolate. We wouldn't want to live on coffee and chocolate alone, but "as part of a balanced diet" [visually speaking], they are great. Maybe that's why we like fiery sunsets so much too.

So, let's enjoy the 2021 autumn which, where I live, feels more like the latter stages of a very long summer than a normal autumn, and, as we are photographers, let's do our best to capture some of its magic.

There's something almost hypnotically compelling about autumn's golds and reds, so how do we best honour them? We can, of course, just photograph the trees themselves in their autumnal attire, and there's a certain satisfaction in doing that well. But can we go deeper than that, can we photograph autumn without simply photographing the brightly coloured trees? Certainly, and here in the first four pages of this newsletter are some ideas for you.



My three main approaches here were:

1. Photographing not the trees themselves, but their reflections in the gently-rippled waters of a lake, with or without swans.
2. Turning autumnal leaves still on their branches into photo impressionism, using deliberate camera motions of various kinds, often combining two or three separate motions at the same time e.g. moving the camera in predetermined ways while zooming the lens. Almost never straight lines, mostly curves and arcs and wriggles.



3. Photographing the fallen leaves. One autumn I spent many hours finding the most perfect thousand or so leaves under our flowering cherry tree and then arranging and photographing them in a variety of ways, both outside on the ground



and inside in the studio. Arrangements were both "natural" [the seemingly random way a thousand leaves might have fallen to the ground] and carefully orchestrated e.g. the leaves all facing the same direction or in a circle or other shape. I spent over a week trying many arrangements and variations, leading finally to the Mandala photo that opens the newsletter. Hours and hours selecting thousands of perfect leaves of as many colours as possible and then seeing what arrangements I could create with these leaves, including the "circle of life", where the colour of each leaf was just a bit different from its neighbours. It was often about 1-2 am before I had the arrangement looking good. They then had to be photographed straight away, as by the next morning the leaves had curled up in the dry studio air and I had to start again with a fresh batch of leaves. Drove me nuts nearly. But I'm pretty happy with the final result.

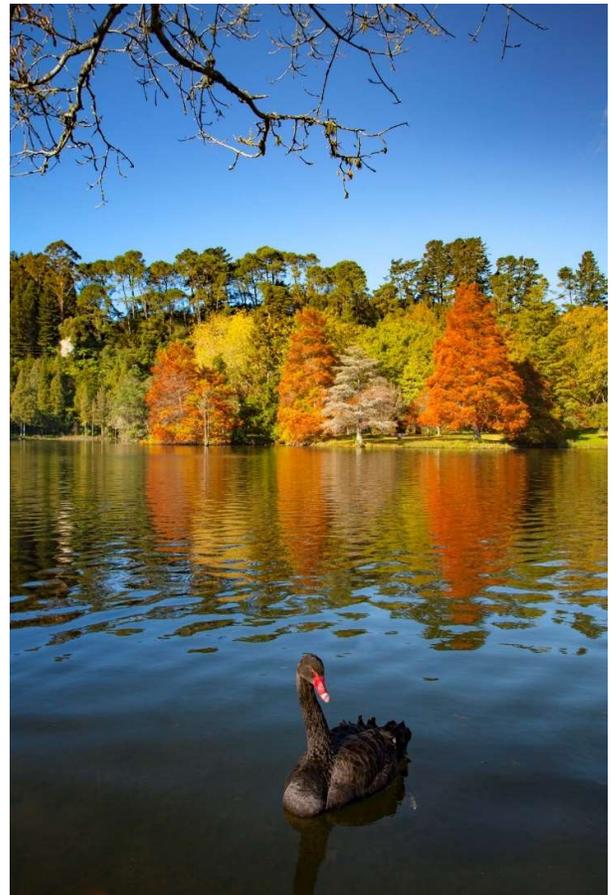
So – there's some ideas for you. What other ideas can you come up with? Surprise yourself. Surprise me.

2. AUTUMN PHOTO WALK – McLaren Falls Park 15th May - free

So what are you doing Saturday morning the 15th of May? Why not join me for an autumn “Photo Walk” at McLaren Falls Park. The cafe people there tell me “there’s good colours and [quite a few] photographers around.”

We’ll meet at the café [next to the information centre] at McLaren Falls Park at 9.00 am on Saturday 15th May, and then spend the next three hours photographing and chatting [if you wish to chat]. We’ll finish at noon, and then those who want a coffee or lunch [or both] plus a chat will descend on the café. During the walk, you’re very welcome - encouraged in fact - to ask me anything you like about photography, or just chat about your own photography, or whatever. It will be an informal, friendly few hours, with no formal structure.

It’s free [no charge], but please email me to let me know if you’re coming. My email system is playing up, so please reply to natural.images.nz@gmail.com and also send a copy [CC] to kim.westerskov@xtra.co.nz
See you there?



3. “Close to home” photography – part 2

Outside – our gardens and the sky above

Inside

This is the second 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
2. **Home – outside [garden and the sky above]** This newsletter [#94]
3. Nearby – within a 30-minute drive. Coming in Newsletter #95
4. A bit further afield – within a few hours’ drive. Coming in Newsletter #96

All the photos on these three pages were taken outside my home and workshop studio here in suburban Tauranga, apart from this amazing evening cloud [below], which I walked across the road to get a clearer view of [there were fewer telephone lines there].

The whole point of 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 realise 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. Seek it out. It may be as simple as looking up at the sky every now and then or noticing which flowers in your garden are looking particularly good at the moment. Or which insects are around. Looking close. Looking for the unexpected – like the patterns formed by the rain on your car windscreen if you turn off the wipers and wait a few minutes. Street lights on a foggy night. Raindrops [including ones you’ve created yourself 😊]. Bees. Wasps. Butterflies. Praying mantises. Sunrises. Sunsets. Reflections off any shiny surface, such as a freshly cleaned car in the driveway. And people, of course. The people in your life, the people that matter most to you.







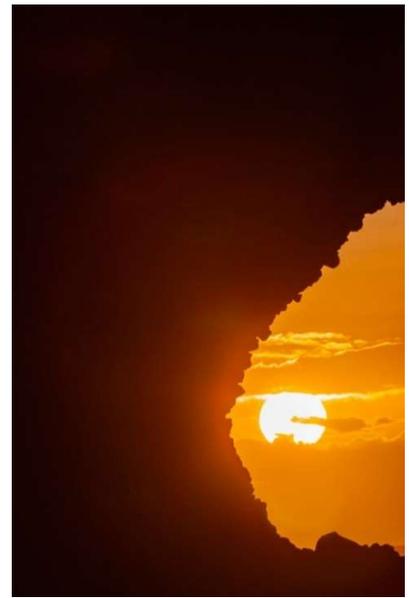


4. “GOOD PHOTOS, GREAT PHOTOS – ANYTIME, ANYWHERE” Sunday 23rd May

Will that trip to Africa or Europe [if it ever becomes a possibility again] – or anywhere – make you a better photographer? Probably not. You’ll take more photos than usual, but will they do the trip [the expense, the time, the effort, the early starts] justice? Those big trips are precious, so you owe it to yourself to bring back the best photos you can. The best approach is to become the best photographer you can BEFORE you leave on your big trip. A new camera or lens may or may not make much difference either, but a collection of new skills definitely will. And that means getting to know your camera better, the principles of photography better, and – most important of all – developing your vision – being able to “see” photos everywhere. There is no simple “secret setting” for this but it can be learned. That’s what this workshop is about – “seeing” photos wherever you are. “Finding” photos wherever you are, whatever the light.

This workshop will explore 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. Or within walking distance or 30 minutes drive at the most. Or anywhere else. We will dispel the myth that “I would get great photos if only I could go to Paris or Africa or Antarctica or somewhere interesting”. We explore the idea of “seeing photo possibilities”, seeing and getting good [and sometimes great] photos wherever you are. LOTS of techniques, approaches, tips, ideas, inspiration, lists of “get yourself going” ideas for you to try.





Assignment [“homework”]. At the end of the workshop, I’ll give you some “homework” [or you can choose your own], a series of assignments that will help consolidate what you’ve learned. Photographers report that they find this really useful.

Follow Up meeting. We meet again [at a time that suits everybody, probably a weekday evening 2-3 weeks later] to look at and evaluate your assignment photos. This evaluation can be done by email if you’re from out of town.

Sunday 23rd May. 9.00am – 5.00pm.

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





5. "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] **\$295** - or **\$245** for Early Birds [if you register before 2nd June. Full-time students with ID **\$145**.



6. 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.**

7. 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 1st June** starting at 7.00 pm. 18 Greerton Road, Tauranga.

8. 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>
- http://kimwesterskov.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/f11_Magazine_March-2015_Westerskov_2_4MB.pdf