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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 #74 – March-April 2019

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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. LOOKING, SEEING, FEELING, PHOTOGRAPHING

Looking is not seeing. To be good photographers we have to look deeper than just what our eyes see, what a TV news crew might film. As I said recently to a photographer: **“Put less effort into recreating the scene and documenting the moment - and put more into capturing the feeling – the smell of the forest, the birdsong, the crack of the waves, the feeling of freedom and wonder of being in the forest or on the mountain or the beach”**.

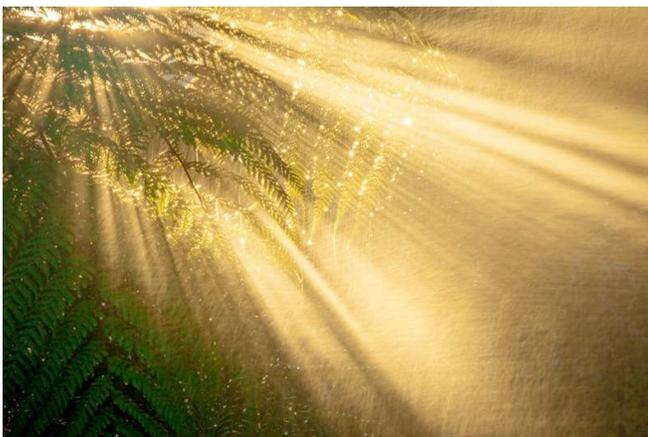
## 2. GIVE YOURSELF A PHOTO PROJECT

If you visit me not in the workshop studio that many of you know, but in my “other office” down the back of our section, you will see my office splendidly surrounded by native trees, tussocks and a good number of tree ferns and other ferns.

What became “The Intimate World of Tree Ferns” project didn’t start life as a photo project. It started simply because I love our native trees, ferns, and other native plants. So I liberated some ground ferns and baby tree ferns from pine plantations and planted them around my lower office. Some of them now tower high above me. When the wind blows, the fronds dance and I’ve spent hours trying to capture some of that dance in photos.

Give yourself a project. If you’re not sure what to choose, just go with photographing what you most like to photograph, whatever it is. It doesn’t matter what it is, as long as it’s something that matters to you, that you connect with. It can be your grandkids. Or your roses. Or wild birds. Or the seashore. Or derelict buildings. Or .....

You’re allowed to have more than one project on the go at any one time, of course. I do. So, what would make a good project for you in 2019?



### 3. "DYNAMIC LANDSCAPES" and GALEN ROWELL



Galen Rowell was one of the world's great landscape photographers, his life tragically cut short at age 61 when he and his wife were killed in a plane crash. During his life - and after - he inspired countless photographers around the world, me included. His 1986 book "Mountain Light: In Search of the Dynamic Landscape" is one of the treasured books in my library here. It shaped my outdoor photography in the 1980s and 1990s, and probably still does today.

Galen called his photographs "dynamic landscapes," as light and conditions are in a constant state of change. He described dynamic landscapes as **"photographs that combine a personal vision with splendid natural events. The results are images that depict landscapes not only as recognizable natural scenes but also as what appear to be unrepeatably moments that evoke strong emotions."**

When you're standing in front of what looks like a great photo, don't assume it's going to be there later. In Galen's words: "If it looks good, shoot it; if it looks better, shoot it again." Now.

Galen travelled light. He was after the moment of magic, and heavy equipment would just get in the way. "Ninety percent of my best life's work could have been made with a manual body, a 24mm lens, and a telephoto zoom in the 80-200mm range."

Galen: "My interest in photography did not begin with a burning desire to see the world through a camera. It evolved through an intense devotion to wilderness that eventually shaped all parts of my life and brought them together."

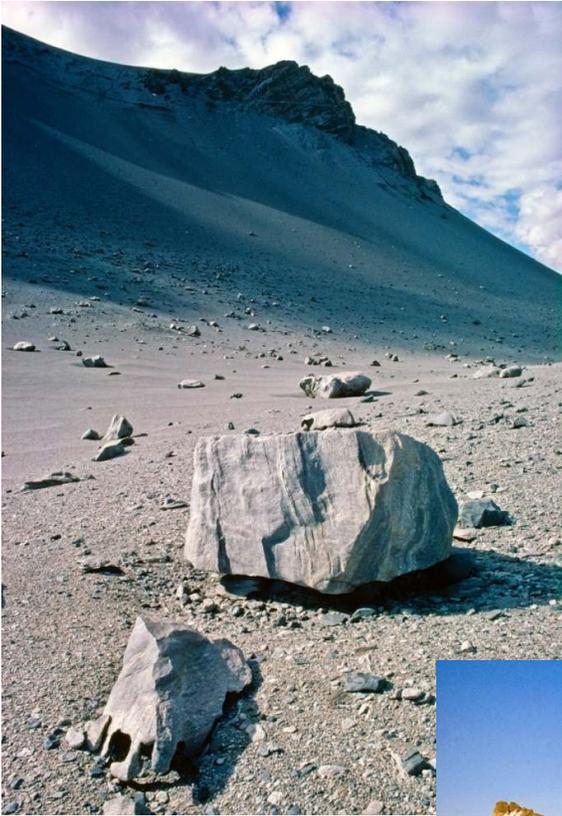
To Galen, the technical side of photography was secondary to capturing an image that conveyed emotion. If a photo has power, it comes from the emotion embodied in it.



Photos by Kim, inspired by Galen

#### 4. FROM KIM'S FIELD DIARIES - ANTARCTICA'S DRY VALLEYS





Aaaah, Antarctica's Dry Valleys – one of my favourite places on Planet Earth. There's countless places I haven't been to, of course, but of those I've had the privilege to visit, Antarctica's Dry Valleys seem to be the top of my list, I especially Beacon Valley [see newsletter #70 at [www.kimwesterskov.com/newsletters](http://www.kimwesterskov.com/newsletters)] and the Wright Valley [this newsletter].

Exactly why they've risen to the top of my "Special Places" list is far from clear. They are desolate, raw, frozen, uninviting, harsh, primitive, devoid of all obvious life [tiny plants in the dry valleys live **inside** rocks – outside is too tough] but they have a raw primal beauty all of their own. A siren song to those of us who love wild places. Especially cold treeless places. Barren, wild and inhospitable many would call them. Wild and wonderful others of us would call them. A place where, perhaps, the veil between the real world and some of the deeper truths of the universe is thinner.

Just a few weeks ago I came up with the terms "spirit lands" and "spirit landscapes" [though I imagine I'm not the first to do so], having recently spent some time in places that seemed to have a strong spiritual power. Do Antarctica's Dry Valleys come into that category of "spirit landscapes"? Possibly, yes. Even probably, yes. I think there's a good argument that all lands have spiritual power, but in some places it is so strong you can almost taste it.

Whatever the reason, if there was one remote place I was allowed to visit again, yes, I'd probably choose Antarctica's Dry Valleys.

## 5. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

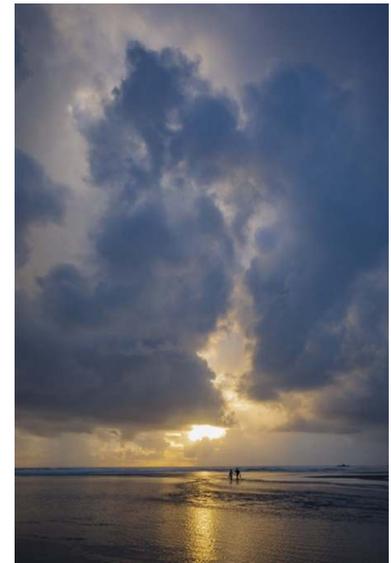
“Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything.”

Aaron Siskind

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> April** starting 7.00pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga.

## 7. “SEA, SURF, SHORE & SEABIRDS” workshop Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April



Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 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 shorelines - 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 your 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 well in previous years was that I went to 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 [and discussing] 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 28<sup>th</sup> March]. Fulltime students with ID **\$150**.

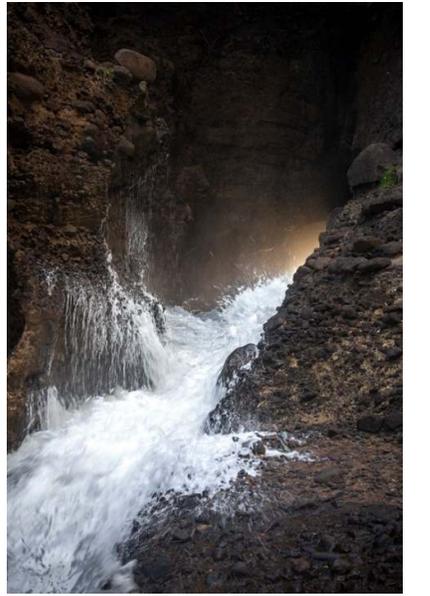
Some unsolicited comments about previous workshops:

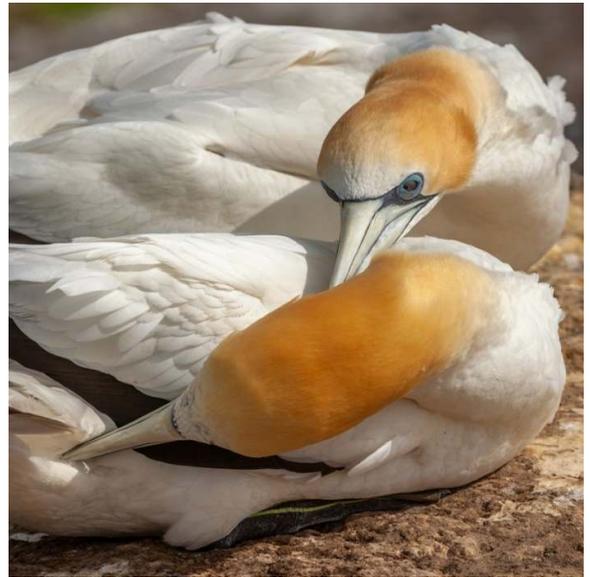
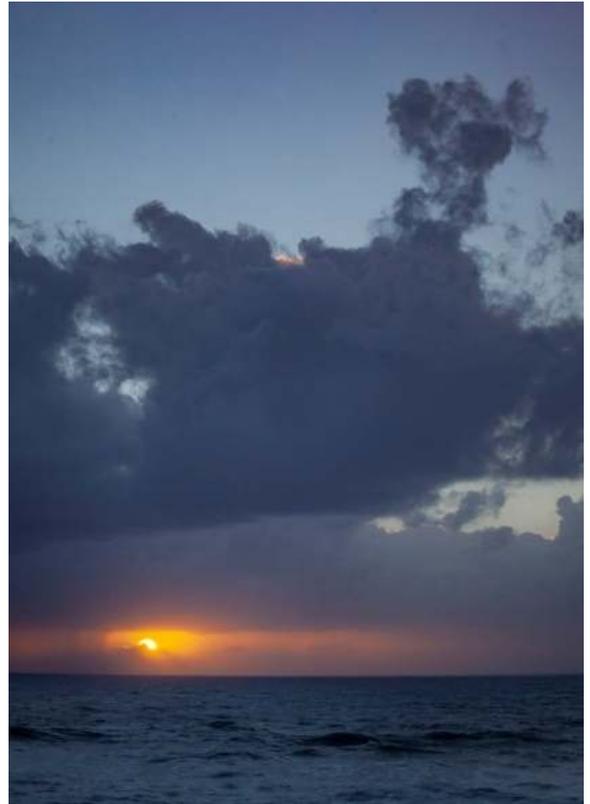
“Thanks Kim. The workshop was great. I especially liked the approach of looking at your photos from that spot, then going back to the same spot. Thanks very much”. **Raewyn Adams**

“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**







## 8. "TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY – YOUR NEXT BIG TRIP"

Workshop - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April – half day

Don't come back from your next trip disappointed with your photos. In this half-day workshop, I'll cover pretty much everything you need to know to come back with great photos. I'll cover:

- Planning your trip
- What's in your camera bag?
- Photographing strangers. Ask permission or not?
- Best approaches for street photography. Equipment. Techniques. To observe or engage?
- The travel photographer's Code of Ethics
- By yourself or with a group?
- Dealing with crowds & weather.
- Where tripods are forbidden
- Low light photography: dawn, dusk, night, interiors - with & without a tripod
- Flash or no flash?
- Tips for getting the most out of every situation: "Kim's 5 photos from anywhere"
- Dealing with heat, dust, cold, wind, rain. Kim's cheap and nearly-instant camera weatherproofing
- Should you wait for better light/weather/crowds - or not?
- Landscapes, cities, wildlife, people
- Snaps, or good photos, or both?
- Backing up
- Keeping yourself safe. Keeping your photo safe.
- Legal issues, copyright, and ethics
- Once you are home. What to do with your photos.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. 9.00am – 1.00pm.

Venue: Kim's workshop studio at 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga

Cost: Full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-out, Vivienne's yummy morning tea] **\$115**. Fulltime students with ID **\$65**.

Lion cubs photo: Vicki Ostler  
Louvre Pyramid [far right]: Brett Williams  
Beefeater: Conrad Kuriger



## 9. 2019 PROGRAMME

### APRIL

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. "Sea, Surf, Shore & Seabirds" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. "Travel" workshop.** Half day.
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### MAY

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. "New Photo Techniques" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### JUNE

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. "Photo Essentials" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### JULY

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. "Photo Impressionism" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### AUGUST

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August. "Black & White" photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. "People" workshop.** Portraits, kids, families, candid, travel, events, weddings. Full day plus follow-up.
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### OCTOBER

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. "Good photos, great photos – anytime, anywhere" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

### DECEMBER

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

Half-day workshops 9.00am – 1.00pm

Full day workshops 9.00am – 5.00pm

**COST:** Course fees include tuition, detailed hand-outs, yummy catering, plus [for most full-day workshops] an assignment and follow-up evening.

- **Half day workshops:** \$135 – or \$115 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before the workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$70.

- **One day workshops:** \$295 – or \$245 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before the workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$150.

## 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. 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. 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.

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.

**MENTORING:** See the previous newsletter at [www.kimwesterskov.com/newsletters](http://www.kimwesterskov.com/newsletters)

## 11. 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].

## 12. INVITATION TO ALL CAMERA CLUBS & GROUPS

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

## ABOUT KIM

- **Passionate about photography and passionate about inspiring, guiding, and supporting photographers.**
- Over 30 years as a professional photographer and teaching photography for 12 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.