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Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

Email: kimsworkshops@gmail.com

Web: www.kimwesterskov.com

20 Greerton Road, Tauranga 3112, New Zealand

Phone 07-578-5138

Newsletter #77 – June 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.



Piha [love this coastline!]

1. THE PERFECT MOMENT

In the two previous newsletters [<http://kimwesterskov.com/newsletter/> if you missed them] we looked at how good people photography is all about capturing special moments – the precise moment when somebody does something interesting and different: they jump, turn, reach out, smile, wink, laugh, or their eyes momentarily connect with you. Or even moments when their attention is elsewhere but that for other reasons it's simply a good moment. That it works somehow. That you've captured a special moment.

It's pretty much the same when photographing animals, waves, or anything else that moves. There are simply some moments that look better than those before or after. The first two photos here are pretty much self-explanatory – each is obviously the right moment, the best moment. With the albatross pair, there will be other good moments too, but this will be one of the best.

In the photo of a Campbell albatross soaring over stormy seas, the bird achieves a number of things: [1] It gives scale. We all know that albatrosses are big birds, so it being in the photo shows the size of the ocean swells [you're quite right, there weren't many in the messroom for lunch or dinner that day] [2] It adds considerable extra interest to the photo, something for the viewer to connect with, and [3] it's a good moment. There are one or two other places in the photo where the albatross would have looked "right", but this one will do just fine. Too close to either side of the photo would have looked awkward. So would right above the wave crest.



There are several things happening in this photo from Solander Island, a small rugged island northwest of Stewart Island. Some are simply good luck [though the more effort I put in, the luckier I get], such as only one of the two pinnacles being lit by the sun. Also, there being two gulls per pinnacle. There's no special moment for the two gulls sitting in the afternoon sunlight, but there definitely is with the two "discussing" who gets the prime spot at the top of the pinnacle. Lucky? Yes and no. I had my 70-200mm lens focused on this rock and the gulls for quite a while, waiting for something interesting to happen. Wildlife photographers spend a lot of time waiting for something interesting to happen. It's how we capture the good moments.



In the photo at the right, the penguin has created a special moment by appearing to pause before crossing a crack in the Antarctic sea ice. I was sitting on the sea cliffs at the Cape Royds Adelie penguin colony, the world's southernmost colony. It was late spring, a cold but stunningly beautiful time to be in Antarctica. The sun was low in the sky for much of the day, so "golden hour" was many hours long. Lucky? Not really. I sat there for hours, watching the penguins approaching the colony over the sea ice. As I often do, I took many photos. Luck and "special moments" come to those who wait. And who take lots of photos. It's pretty simple, really.



And finally, this photo I call "Double Banger Wave", which was awarded a Third Prize in the Nikon Photo Contest International many years ago. At any hint of big surf, I'm often itching to be at the beach with my camera. This wave was at Kaitorete Spit, the long, isolated finger of land that separates Lake Ellesmere from the Pacific Ocean. The shingle beach here is steep, causing the incoming waves to be undercut by the strong undertow or backwash from the previous wave. I didn't have a good telephoto lens back then, so I had to get close. Too close probably. The incoming wave would catch up with me as I ran back up the beach after each photo, sandblasting the backs of my legs with fine gravel as it chased me up the beach. And the photo? Definitely a special moment.



2. FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER – CONRAD KURIGER

Conrad has the unique distinction of having attended both my first ever workshop [in 2007] and the first workshop I ran from my own workshop studio in Gate Pa, Tauranga [in 2010]. Since 2010 Conrad has attended various workshops and many Tuesday “Photos & Coffee” evenings. As well as his photos, he always brings his own infectious enthusiasm. At the right is what for

me is Conrad’s finest photo, a superb semi-abstract [but 100% real] image of sand dunes in Morocco.

Looking at some of his fine photos during one of these evenings I thought “It must be time to feature Conrad’s photography in the newsletter” so here we are. “Send me some photos and write a bit about yourself – anything you like about you and your photography” was Conrad’s brief [I don’t remember the exact words, but it would have been something like that]. Conrad’s response is below – all in his own words, though I’ve shortened it a bit – so I could show you more of his photos.

“CONRAD KURIGER – Family man, Builder, Traveller, Runner, Amateur Photographer.

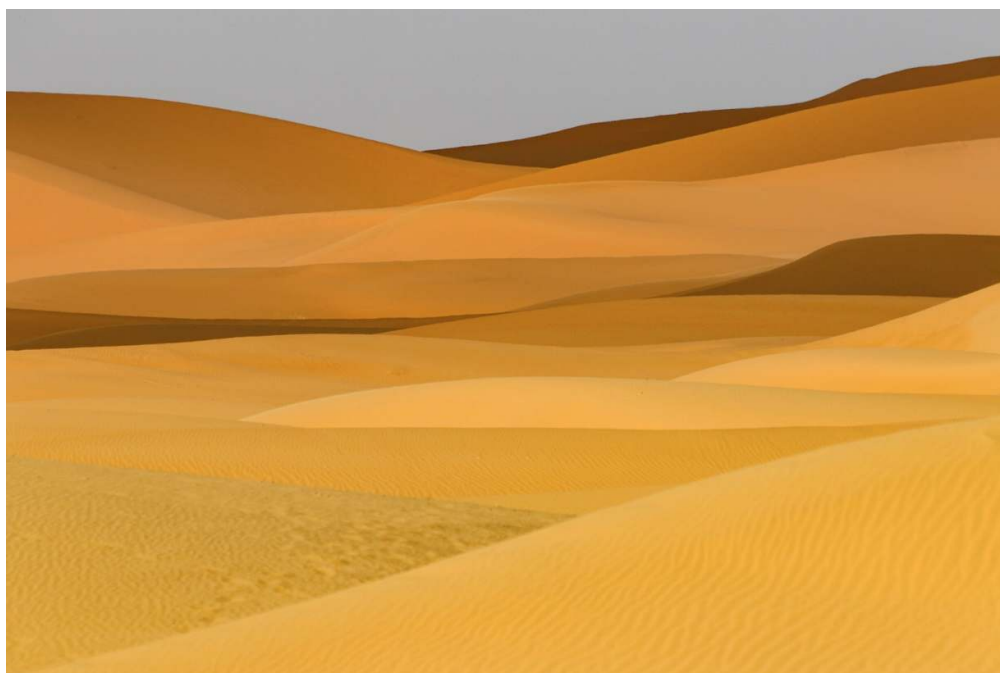
Spouse - Robyn (Married 38 years).

Family (4 Children) - Amanda, Chantelle, Jeremy, and Simon. 5 Grandchildren.

Career - Builder for 47 years and in business for 38 years.

Interests - Travel, Photography, Fitness, Off-Road Trail Running, Golf, Adventure, Following all things Sport, Architecture.

Photography Journey: I started photography in 1976 with my first film camera, a Canon AE-1. At the time most people were using Instamatics with very poor results, so I instantly felt better about the success of my photography due to the quality I was able to produce. With film, there was no instant review so it was



a matter of taking photos and manually recording the camera settings to review when the films were developed.

This was the start of recording my Life in Film – my life diary. In 1979, I upgraded to the Canon AE-1 Program, including wide angle and telephoto lenses. This camera served me well until 1994 when I traded it in for a new Olympus IS-3000. This allowed for a more compact travel camera package.

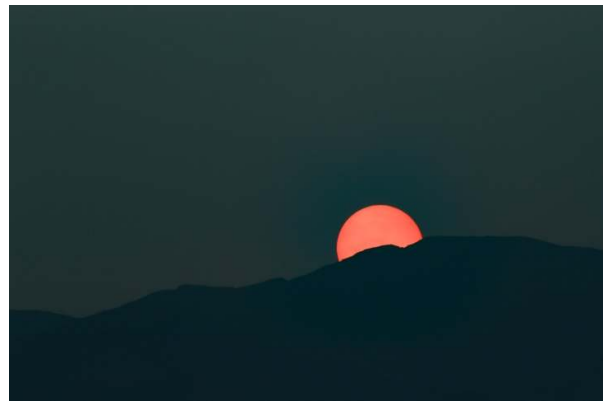
In 2006 I moved up to a Canon EOS 400D. This served me well until 2015 when I upgraded to my current Canon EOS 7D Mark II and new lenses: Sigma 24-105mm f4, Canon EF 70-300mm IS and Canon EF-S 10-18mm.

I carry a tripod but don't use it enough as I am generally on the move while travelling to capture as much as possible. I have travelled around the world extensively since 1987 to 39 different countries and have another seven planned to tick off in 2019.

I first meet Kim in 2009 at a Waikato University workshop, followed by a Tulloch/Westerskov workshop. I have attended several of Kim's workshops over the years and am always inspired by his creative approach to photography and encouragement. The feedback is always an opportunity to learn. I am a casual attendee at Kim's coffee evenings and enjoy the friendship and enjoyment of viewing other people's photographic portfolios and their efforts to get out and capture people, animals, landscapes, and moods.

I do not do any Photoshopping of my photographs due to family, business, travel, and adventure running but I do catalogue my photos into slide shows to enjoy with family and friends.

Thank you, Kim, for your friendship, knowledge, advice, encouragement, and sense of humour. I look forward to continuing my photography journey."





3. NORTH SHORE SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

The North Shore Salon of Photography started in 1995 and has grown to be one of the biggest and most prestigious amateur photographic competitions in New Zealand. This year I was honoured to be one of the six judges tasked with sifting through the thousands of entries. For someone who loves photography and creativity, this was definitely one of my year's more enjoyable jobs. I especially enjoyed the robust [though very well-mannered ☺] discussions among the judges. We all see things differently so having a panel of 6 judges is an excellent idea, helping to moderate widely divergent views. Good photography is art, and art is highly subjective, so I would argue that widely differing responses to any one photograph are both normal and healthy.

The results are here: <https://www.northshoresalon.co.nz/Results/2019>

This page will show you the Gold Medal winners. Click on any of these images to see a list of all the awarded photographs within that category. Then click on the link up near the top of the page to see a slideshow of them. You will find [as I did] that it is well worth spending some time looking over the many fine images. Among them, you will find creativity, inspiration and many fresh ideas for your own photography.



4. 'PHOTO ESSENTIALS' WORKSHOP – Sunday 16th June – SPECIAL LOW PRICE

- 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 out 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:

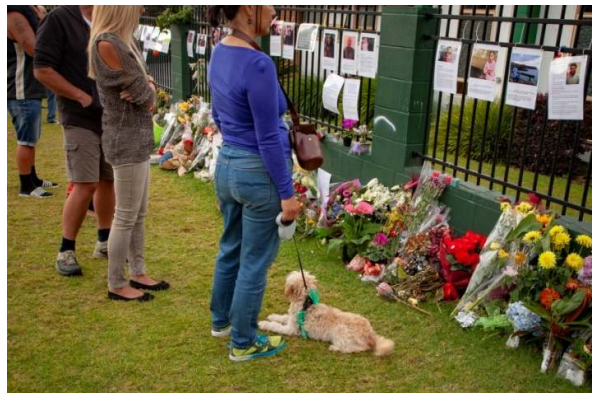
1. The myths about photography
2. The 4 things that hold most photographers back
3. Digital workflow
4. Composition
5. The different kinds of light
6. KIM’S TRIANGLE: Head, Heart & Technical
7. EXPOSURE TRIANGLE: Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO
8. DEPTH OF FIELD TRIANGLE: Aperture, Distance, Focal Length
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

Handouts:

1. “Before Taking the Photo – Checklist”
2. “Checklist for Critiquing Photos”
3. “Elements of a Good Photo”
4. Depth of field - the three amigos



Cost: The full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, Vivienne's yummy catering, assignment, and follow-up] is normally \$295 - or \$245 for Early Birds. I'd like to offer this workshop to you for just \$200.



5. 2019 PROGRAMME

JUNE

- **Sunday 16th June. “Photo Essentials” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 3rd September. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 7th September. “People” workshop.** Portraits, kids, families, candid, travel, events, weddings. Full day plus follow-up.

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OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 5th November. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 3rd 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.**

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

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 2nd July** starting 7.00pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, 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 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 "Mentoring by Kim" here:

http://kimwesterskov.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Newsletter_75_22-April-2019_v3.pdf

8. 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].

9. INVITATION TO 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.