

**Please forward this to anyone you think might be interested**

... 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

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

Web: [www.kimwesterskov.com](http://www.kimwesterskov.com)

20 Greerton Road, Tauranga 3112, New Zealand

Phone 07-578-5138

## Newsletter #81 – September 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. Reflections - for great beach photos

You don't need me to tell you that the beach is a great place to be. We all know it. On summer days, we're attracted to the beach like iron filings to a magnet.

I have many happy memories of the beach and the sea: as a surf lifesaver [professionally, briefly], then as a surfer, surf photographer and writer, diver .... leading on, inexorably, to a career documenting [in photos and words] the sea and its inhabitants, the shorelines, and wild remote places, preferably surrounded by wild seas.



And you? You will have different memories, but good ones too, no doubt.

So – what do we need to know about photographing the beach, and capturing some of its magic?

Getting great photos at the beach is partly about timing and partly about location. A reasonable knowledge of your camera and some spare time up your sleeve will definitely help too.



**Timing & weather:** any day at the beach is a good day, in my books. But as with all landscape [and seascape] photography, some times are better than others. Being there as a moody mist clinging to the shore is lit by a golden sunrise [or sunset] will yield you more keepers than dull overcast days.



**Location:** again, any beach is a good beach in my books, but some parts of the beach work better than others. Photos taken in the sand dunes among the bunny tails, marram grass, and pingao can work wonderfully, and I've spent many happy hours there.

The worst part of the beach, photographically speaking, is the part you probably spend most of your time lying or sitting on - the nice dry sand between the dunes and the edge of the wet sand. This is where we picnic, sunbathe, and generally while away the happy sunny, sandy, salty hours. It's also where you'll find whatever the sea has gifted the shoreline in recent weeks and months: shells, seaweed, driftwood, flotsam and jetsam, plus the footprints, lost jandals, discarded rubbish, and other reminders that it's the busiest part of the beach. It's all this stuff [footprints included] that makes it the least photogenic part of the beach.



The best place to be is down by the water's edge, especially at low or mid-tide when each wave washes away footprints and there's a slick of water over the clean low-tide sand. This is my happy place. So even when I'm wanting to photograph the wider scene I'll most likely do so from down where my feet get wet every now and then.

The waves wash any new flotsam further up the beach, remove all footprints, and rearrange the sand into often-lovely textures, patterns, and colours.

Here's a selection of photos from my long love affair with the beach, especially the bit down where my feet get wet.

Note how much the reflections contribute to the success of each photo. Tapping into the magic is not hard. It's largely just a matter of where you stand. You'll get wet feet at times, but you'll also get great photos.

A well-known compositional rule says that horizons should not divide photos into two equal halves. I'm no great fan of "rules" but this one generally holds true. One major exception is when the sky is faithfully mirrored in a low tide slick or the calm waters of a lake.





## 2. "NZ Geographic Photographer of the Year" - 2019 finalists

Finalists in New Zealand's biggest and brightest photographic competition have been announced. There's many superb images here, selected by the panel of judges from nearly 3,000 entries. View them - and vote for your favourites - at <https://www.nzgeo.com/photography/finalists/>



## 3. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"It is an illusion that photos are made with the camera... they are made with the eye, heart, and head."

Henri Cartier Bresson

#### 4. "GOOD PHOTOS, GREAT PHOTOS - ANYTIME, ANYWHERE" – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October Kim's last workshop of 2019

Will that overseas trip to Africa or Europe – 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.





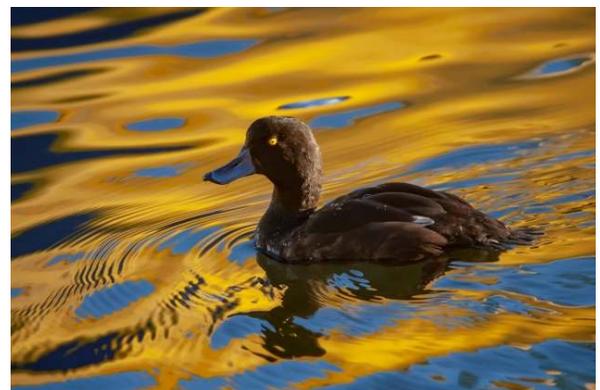
**Assignment [“homework”].** At the end of the workshop, I’ll give you some “homework” [or you can choose your own], a series of assignments that will help consolidate what you’ve learned. Photographers report that they find this really useful.

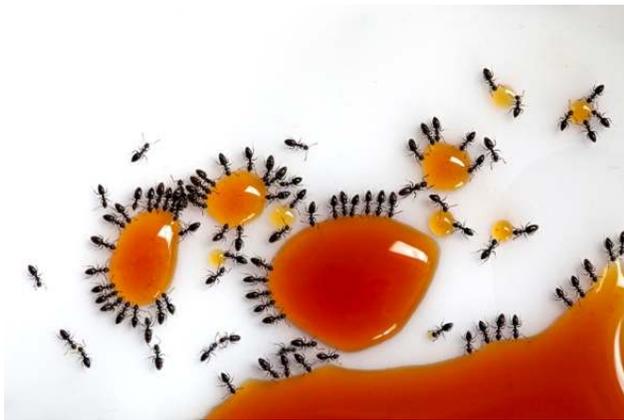
**Follow Up meeting.** We meet again [at a time that suits everybody, probably a weekday evening 2-3 weeks later] to look at and evaluate your assignment photos. This evaluation can be done by email if you’re from out of town.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. 9.00am – 5.00pm.**

**Cost:** Full course fee [which includes tuition, hand-outs, Vivienne’s yummy catering, assignment, and follow-up evening] **\$295** - or **\$245** for Early Birds [if you register before 28<sup>th</sup> September].

Fulltime students with ID **\$145.**







## 5. KIM'S PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS

We meet on the first Tuesday of most months [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 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 1<sup>st</sup> October** starting 7.00 pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga.

## 6. NEXT YEAR'S WORKSHOP PROGRAMME – your ideas please 😊

I'm starting to put together the 2020 workshop programme. If there is any photographic topic you'd possibly be keen on, please let me know. Nominating any topic puts you under no obligation to come.

## 7. The remainder of 2019 PROGRAMME

### 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 [9.00 am to 5.00 pm plus follow-up.

### NOVEMBER

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

### DECEMBER

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

## 8. 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 [#80] at [www.kimwesterskov.com/newsletters](http://www.kimwesterskov.com/newsletters)

## 9. 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].

## 10. 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
- Teaching photography and mentoring photographers for 12 years now. Yep, time flies.
- 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.