

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

Web: www.kimwesterskov.com

20 Greerton Road, Tauranga 3112, New Zealand

Phone 07-578-5138

Newsletter #86 – August 2020

1. Dull day photography – Part 1
2. 2020 programme
3. "Long Exposures" workshop – 9th August
4. "Great People Photos" workshop – 22nd August
5. Tuesday "Photos & Coffee" evenings
6. Private tuition

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.



Karekare by starlight and moonlight

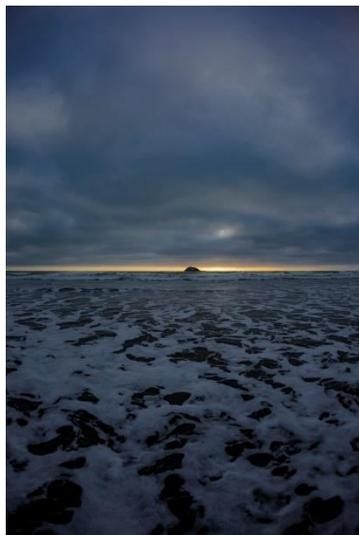
1. DULL DAY PHOTOGRAPHY – Part 1

So what do you do when the light is dull? When the sun is nowhere to be seen, sulking behind thick cloud and everything looks dull? Dull, dull, dull. Blah!

A photographer recently showed me her results from shooting in dull overcast conditions around the Rotorua lakes. She is a good photographer, so the results were OK - but not great. Which got me thinking "So what can a keen photographer do on dull days?"

The good news is that you have many options, and I'll discuss some of these here and in the next newsletter.

First of all, if you are somewhere pretty unique and that you may never get back to – like being in a small charter plane flying around the Stewart Island coastline [photo at right] – then, of course, go for it. Take photos. Lots of photos. And cheer them up later in Lightroom or Photoshop. The Dehaze slider is often useful for hazy or dull skies.



Rather than ignoring the clouds, you can make them the main feature, especially if some parts of the cloud are lighter. Again, some adjustments in Lightroom or Photoshop [using the Dehaze, Contrast and Clarity sliders especially] can make some cloudy day photos sing.



If it's raining, why not photograph the rain, the mistiness, the raindrops, making rain the main point of the photo?

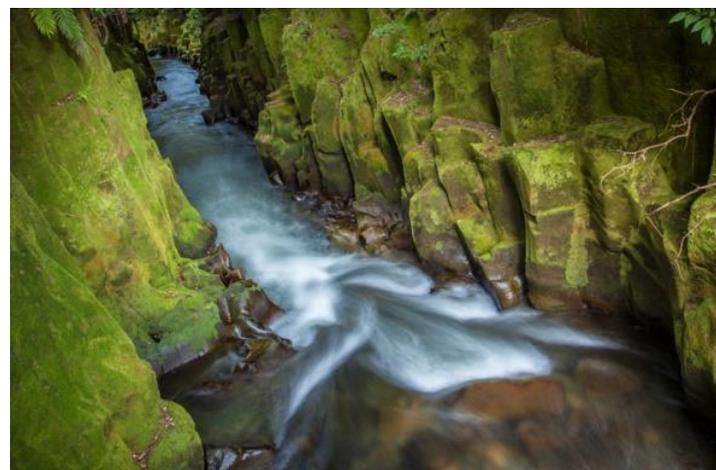
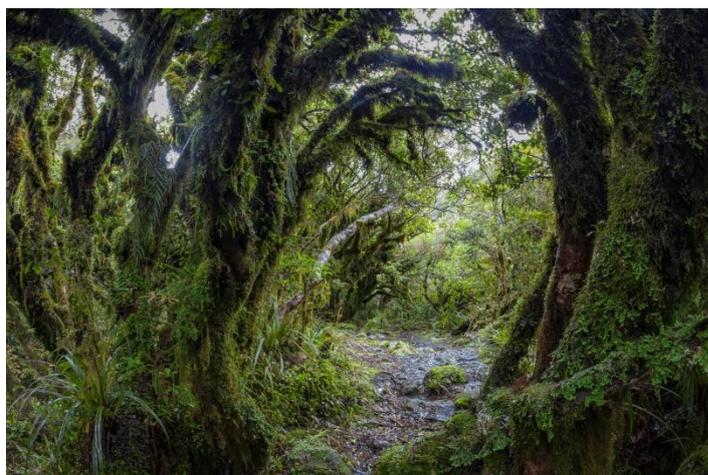


The two photos at the top right are of rain on my van's windscreen and the raindrops and reflections of our flowering cherry tree in the red paintwork of Vivienne's car. The praying mantis is on our wet bathroom window. You never know when good photo opportunities will arise. Have your camera within reach most of the time. And give yourself a few minutes to capture such moments.

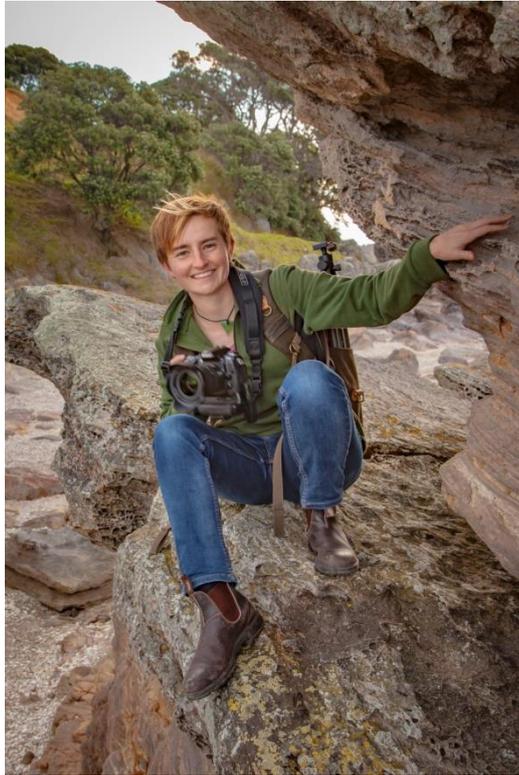


Dull light on overcast days makes it a lot harder to get good photos of the Classic Landscape kind [where you see the view off to the distant horizon] but “Intimate Landscapes” can work well when the light is dull. Intimate Landscapes are not easy to define. They are not the sweeping vistas of Grand Landscapes, nor are they close-ups. They are most of the natural landscapes in-between.

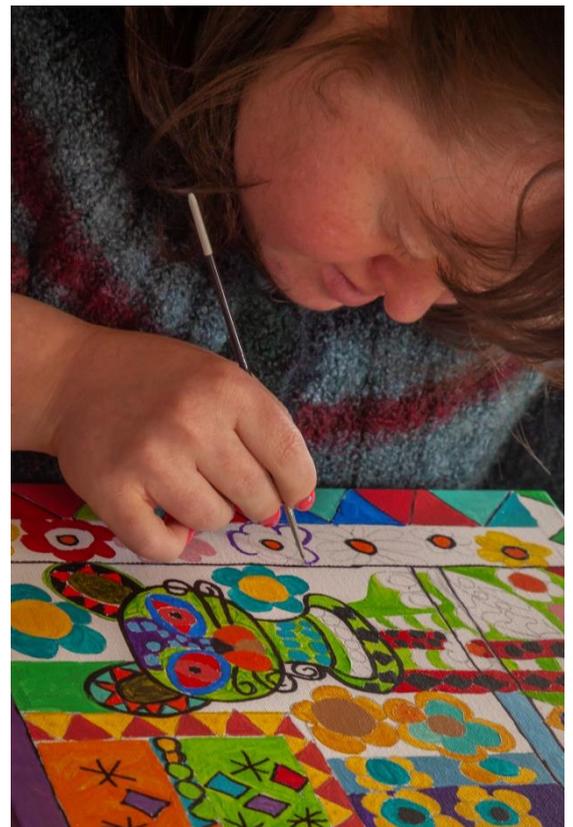
Whereas Classic Landscapes usually feature the horizon and sky as important parts of the photo, Intimate Landscapes often have neither horizon nor sky. Typically there is a foreground and middle ground but not a far distance. Some Intimate Landscapes are taken inside forests and caves, but you can find them pretty much anywhere. The four shown here were all taken with wide-angle lenses, but normal or telephoto lenses work just as well, often finding or extracting an Intimate Landscape from within the larger landscape that is more obvious.



The soft “everywhere light” of overcast days is also ideal for portraits. Colour is often fine [after some warming and lightening in Lightroom or Photoshop] but black and white may work even better.



Note the soft diffused lighting of overcast days in the three photos above. No harsh shadows. No burnt out highlights. And nobody is squinting!



That soft, diffused light of dull days also comes in through windows and softly illuminates the rooms inside your house, though you may need to increase the ISO on your camera as the light is dimmer than on bright sunny days. These two photos of Anne were taken inside, with no extra lighting from flash. Just whatever light was dancing softly around the room.

There are so many ways to keep a keen photographer gainfully employed on dull days that I've had to divide this important topic into two parts. Catch up with some more ideas in the next newsletter.

And finally, for now, sometimes a perfectly acceptable solution to dull grey weather is simply to give up for the day. Go home or find a café to enjoy a coffee – and come back some other time.

2. Kim's revised 2020 PROGRAMME

JULY

- **Sunday 12th July. "Close Up Magic" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- Tuesday 14th July. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 25th July. "Photo Essentials" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

AUGUST

- Tuesday 4th August. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 9th August. "Slow, smooth & wonderful – long exposures" workshop.** Full day + follow-up.
- **Saturday 22 August. "Great people photos" workshop.** Portraits, kids, families, candid, travel, events, weddings. Full day plus follow-up

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 1st September. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 5th September. "Photo Impressionism & Photo Art" workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- **Sunday 27th September. "Landscapes & Seascapes" photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

OCTOBER

- Tuesday 6th October. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 10th October. "Composition & Light" photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- **Saturday 31st October. "Even more exciting new techniques" photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

NOVEMBER

- **Sunday 15th November. "Good photos, great photos – anytime, anywhere" photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- Tuesday 3rd November. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 1st December. "Photos & Coffee" informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

One day workshops are from 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

COST: Course fees include tuition, detailed hand-outs, yummy catering, plus [for most 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 \$145.



3. “SLOW, SMOOTH & WONDERFUL – LONG EXPOSURES” workshop Sunday 9th August

Magical. Artistic. Ethereal. Silky. Otherworldly. Clever. Wow!

If you’d like your photos to be described like this, then Long Exposure Photography could be exactly what you next need to explore.

Long Exposure Photography creates magic out of what is often “nothing much”, photographically speaking. It turns scruffy, choppy seas or cloudy skies into satisfying art. It can do the same with rivers, waterfalls, roads, night skies, moving cars at night, even moving wildlife. The results are often so good it almost feels like cheating.

If you’re 100% into “documentary, totally real, everything sharp and crisp” photography, then Long Exposure Photography may not be for you.

There’s absolutely nothing wrong with “documentary, totally real, everything sharp and crisp” [it’s what my career was solidly based on] but why not create “magical, ethereal & artistic” as well? I love both. Many of you will too, I predict.

When photographers talk about Long Exposure Photography, the images that come to mind are usually of silky smooth waterfalls or ethereal misty water around coastal jetties or rocks. Or the light trails of moving vehicles at night or stars in the night sky. These are good uses of one of the main techniques, but there are many other kinds of long exposure as well. It’s a remarkably versatile set of techniques, definitely not a “one-trick pony”. We’ll cover the many techniques in this workshop.

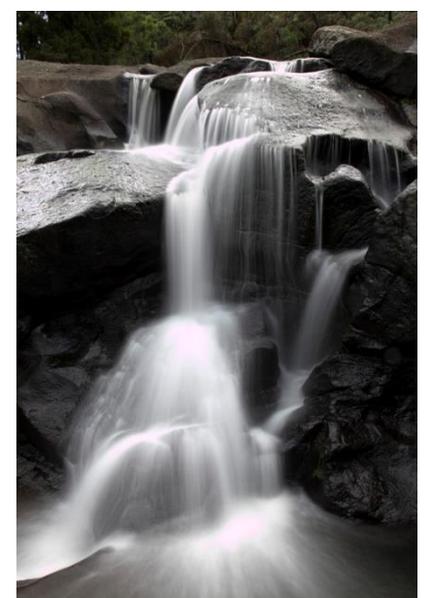
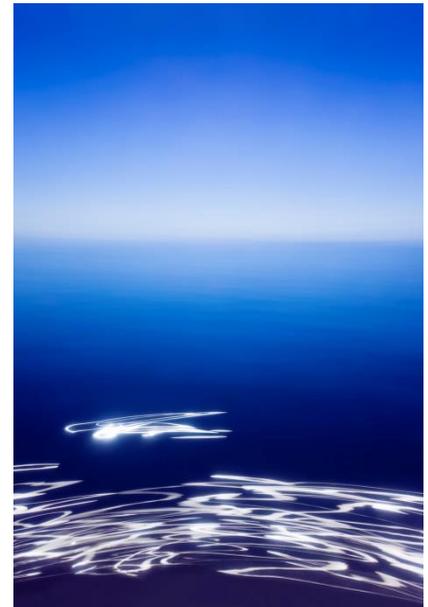
I’ve been researching, developing, and using these techniques for decades and have recently come back to explore them further. Deliberate Blurs easily qualify for the “jolly good fun” category. I love the results. I think many of you will too.

Warning: you may find Long Exposure Photography addictive [don’t say I didn’t warn you 😊]

Maybe go back and check out the “Karekare by starlight and moonlight” photo on page 1 of this newsletter - a 12-minute long exposure.

Magic? Ethereal? Let’s do it!!

Are the techniques easy? Yes, the basic techniques are reasonably easy, or at least not hard.

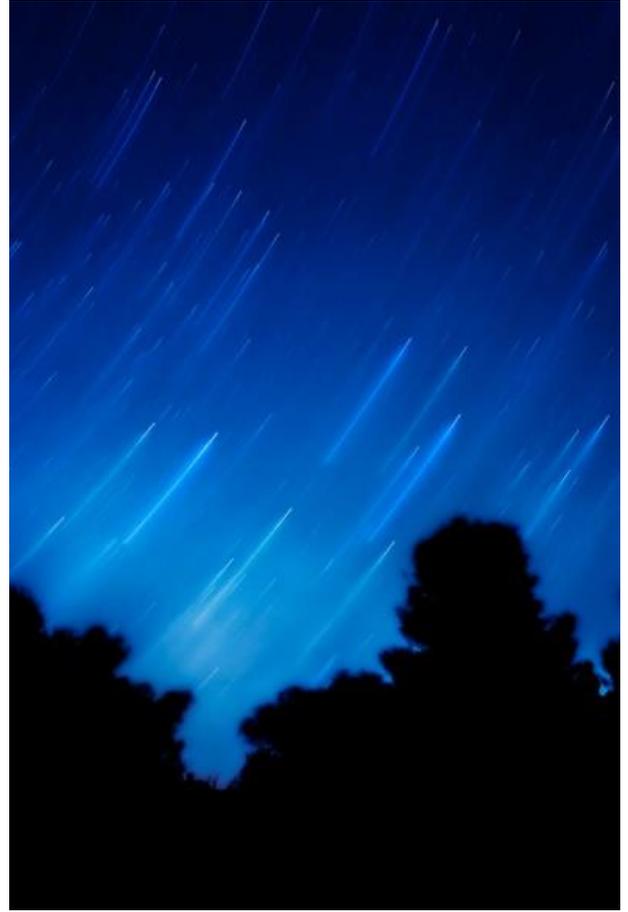


Do I need any special equipment? No, not for most of the techniques, as long as you have a camera with shutter speeds of up to 30 seconds [or more] long and Bulb Mode ["B"]. I'll show you how to get good long exposure photos with just your normal camera [and tripod usually], nothing else needed. One advanced technique [still not too hard] needs a strong neutral density filter [8-12 stops]. But don't worry if you don't have one – I have three that I'm happy to lend you for the afternoon. **First in, first served – book yours now.** They are 77mm filters, but I have step-up rings that allow these filters to be used on lenses with filter sizes of 52mm, 58mm, 67mm & 72mm, and I'm happy to lend these as well.



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





4. "GREAT PEOPLE PHOTOS"

Portraits, kids, families, candid, travel, events & weddings

Saturday 22nd August

What are the most important photos you take? My answer would be people. Definitely. Even the ones we just "snapped" of family and friends take on more and more importance as the years fly by. If I was heading off to Mars and could only take a few photos [there's not much room on those spaceships] – most would be of Anne, Gareth, and Vivienne. Perhaps one or two of wider family & friends, plus a few hero photos from my long career out in nature.

There are many genres of people photography, and we'll look at each of these in turn: candid, family, children, portraits, events, street photography, travel [with particular emphasis on how to photograph people you've never met before] and weddings.

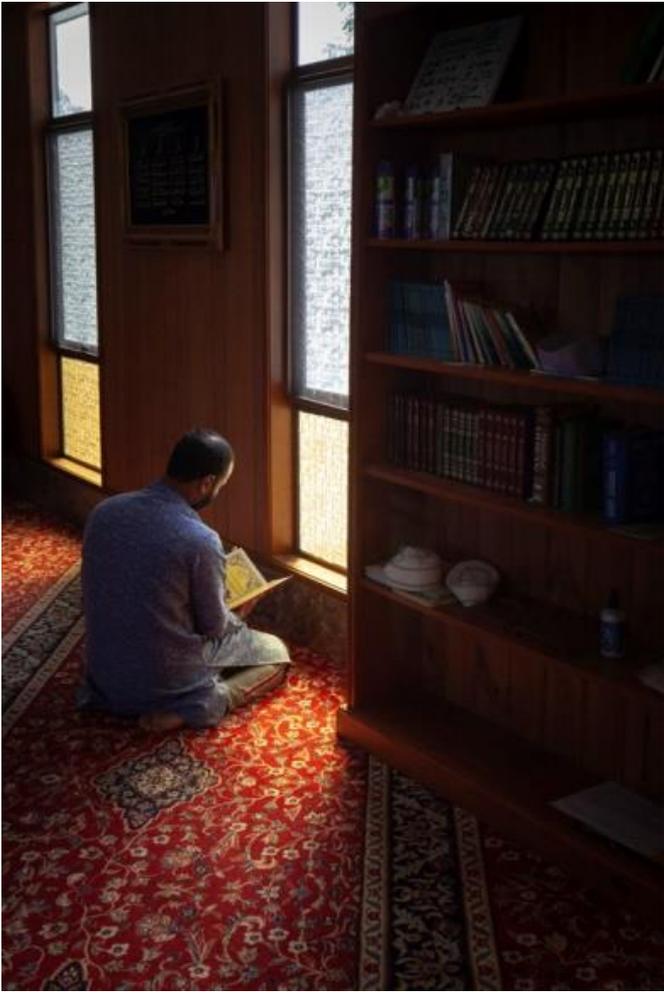
In this workshop, we'll cover the gear, settings, approaches, and techniques needed for great people photos. There will be some good handouts, including "cheat sheets" showing many different ways to pose people – poses that have been tried, tested, and always work well.

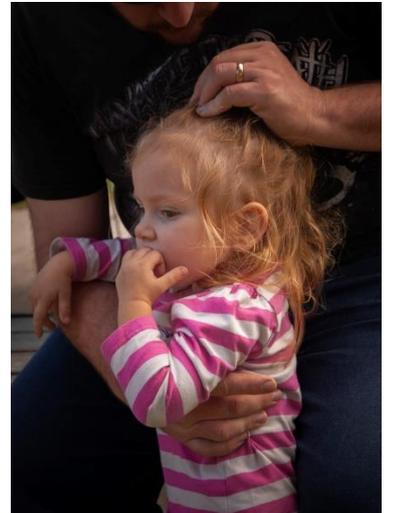
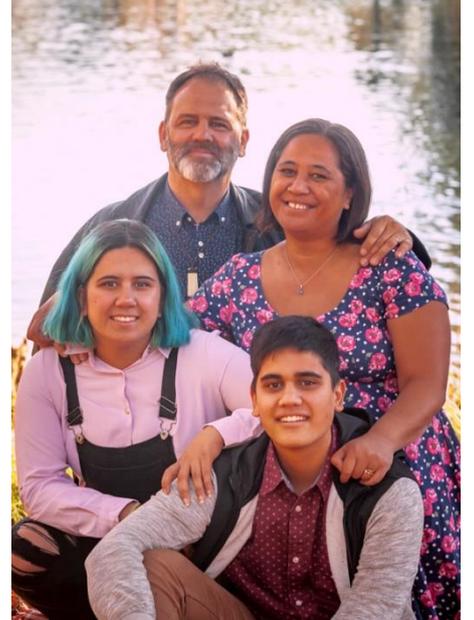
In the afternoon we'll put into practice what we learned in the morning – photographing real people. It should be a great day. Care to join us?

Saturday 22nd August 9.00 am – 5.00 pm 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.

Cost: Full course fee [which includes tuition, follow-up, hand-outs & yummy catering **\$295** - or **\$245** for Early Birds [if you register by **12th August**]. Fulltime students with ID **\$145**.







5. 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 4th August**, starting at 7.00 pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga. Email me if you'd like to come.

6. 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 for \$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.

ABOUT KIM

- **Passionate about photography and passionate about 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