

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

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# Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

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## Newsletter #93 – April 2021

1. **The never-ending hunt [for good photos]**
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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. The never-ending hunt [for good photos]

*Inside*

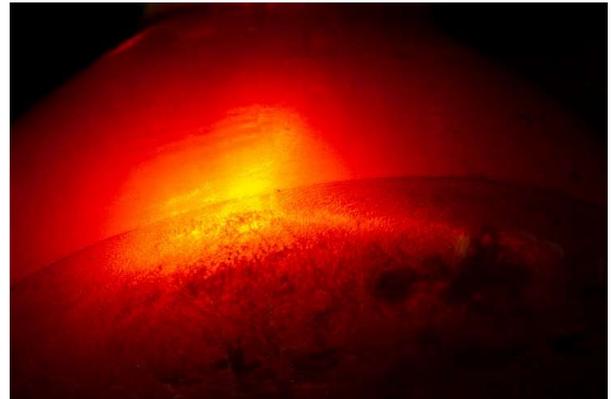
There are many myths about photography. Most have at least some truth to them, but mostly they will just hold you back from getting better and better. They are potholes on your journey towards great photography. Over the years I've addressed many of them in workshops, tuition, and these newsletters, and will keep doing so.



One of the most damaging myths runs something like “If I could go somewhere interesting I'd get great photos. Paris or London or Croatia or Alaska or Antarctica or the Serengeti”. Or wherever. Sure, you will only find the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the pyramids in Egypt, but there's so much more to life than the Eiffel Tower and the Egyptian pyramids.

As I see it, you can get [find and create] **good photos** pretty much anywhere. And **great photos** are all around you. It's mostly a matter of seeing them. And therein lies the main problem – we simply don't “see” the countless photographic possibilities that are all around us most of the time.

A simple example should demonstrate this. If you and I went out with 28 other photographers [a few beginners, a few professionals, but mostly competent amateurs] and took them somewhere, anywhere: a beach, town centre, forest, even a supermarket carpark – and said “You're here for 2 hours. Without moving more than [say] 100 metres from here, find and create as many interesting photos as you can, and then we'll go back to the workshop studio to see what you've taken.”



Two and a bit hours later we're back in the studio and starting to look at the photos taken by all 30 of us. The most likely result of this exercise: some photographers got some really good photos and demonstrated a variety of styles and subjects. Top marks. However, a few got nothing much at all and complained that the whole exercise was a waste of time [and could they please go home now]. And most ranged across the spectrum between those two extremes.

Same place, same time, same light, same opportunities, but vastly different outcomes. [Yes, some indeed had more or “better” camera gear but all 30 photographers had gear good enough for the results that the successful photographers got].

So why such a range of outcomes? Mostly it's a matter of imagination and trying and “seeing” photographic possibilities. “Seeing “ is one of the hardest things to teach, but it can be learned. Not instantly, but steadily over time we can learn to “see” more and more photo possibilities in front of us. Two things that will help here are [1] “playing” – trying a whole lot of different angles and subjects and lenses and techniques [2] tapping into the creativity of others and noting what they see. This can be the results of the photographer standing next to you or the results of a Google search. In both cases there will be moments of “Aha! I didn't think of that. I'll keep that in mind for another time [or now].”

## 2. “Close to home” photography – part 1

### Inside our homes

#### Inside

I’ve had a wonderful career that included nearly a year of my life in Antarctica spread over 5 visits, a 44-year diving career with memorable dives from Antarctica to the tropics [all with my camera in hand], various trips to the tropics [including swimming with whales and sharks] and many mini-expeditions around New Zealand and to most of our offshore islands. Nowadays I’m mostly based right here in Tauranga, teaching much of the time, looking forward to the next coffee, and always on the lookout for yet more creative and satisfying photos. It’s what I do [between coffees]. It’s what I enjoy. You too? If you’re reading this, then you’re almost certainly on the lookout for good photos too. Over the next six pages, let me share with you some of what I’ve found here where I live.

If, as I wrote in the lead article, good photography comes largely from “seeing possibilities” [or stumbling across them when trying a whole lot of different stuff] then should we not be able to find good photos wherever we are? I’d answer “Yes, of course” to that. “Then what about where I live – my home, my neighbourhood, my town or city, the surrounding countryside?”

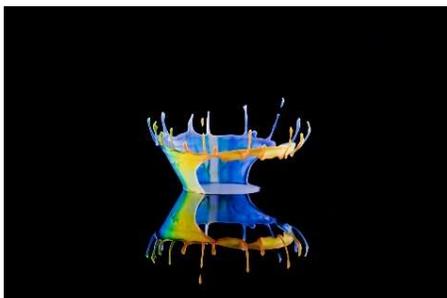
Definitely! Over this and the next three newsletters, I’ll share with you some of the photos I’ve found/created here where I live, and nearby. These four photo collections will not be tutorials but rather “inspiration libraries” [if that’s not too grand a label] - to give you some ideas for your own photography, particularly subjects and techniques that might be well worth you trying during 2021 and beyond.

The four “Close to Home” portfolios I’ll share with you are:

1. Home – inside
2. Home – outside [garden and the sky above]
3. Nearby – within a 30-minute drive
4. A bit further afield – within a few hours’ drive.

So, let’s start with “right here”. **All the photos on the first 8 pages of this newsletter were taken inside my main office, inside the home I live in with Vivienne, Gareth, and Anne - and in the workshop studio next door that many of you know.**

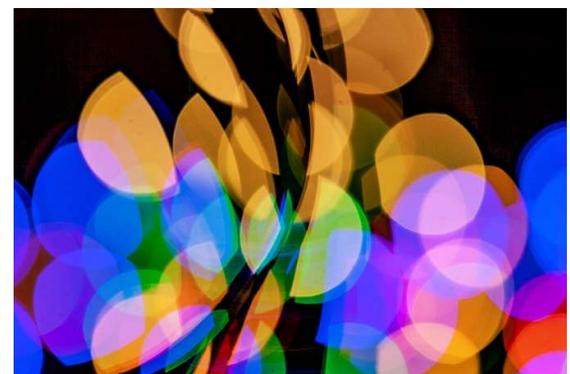
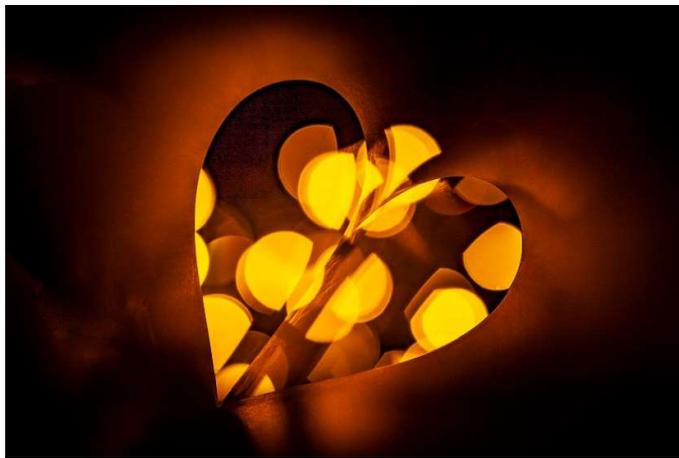
My photographic philosophy is usually something like “What’s the simplest way I can get good photos, not what’s the most complicated way”. So most of these “Home” photos were pretty simply taken, equipment-wise and technique-wise, including the ant photo above. However, the soap bubble photos on page 8 and the two photos below and to the right did indeed require more sophisticated equipment and techniques.

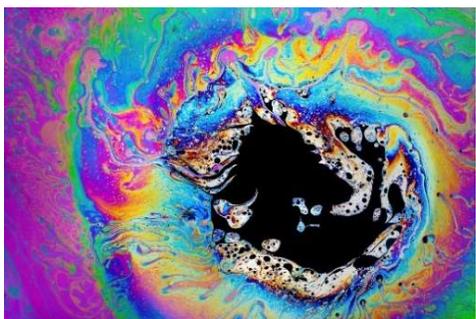
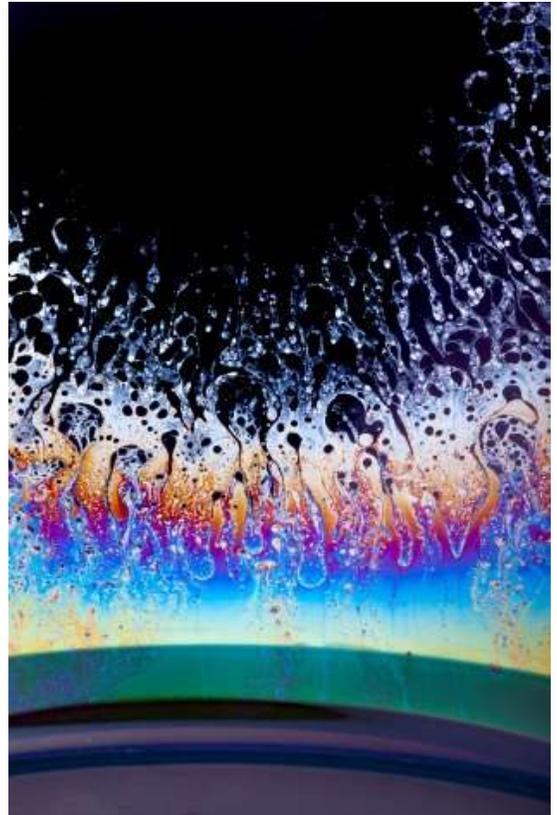
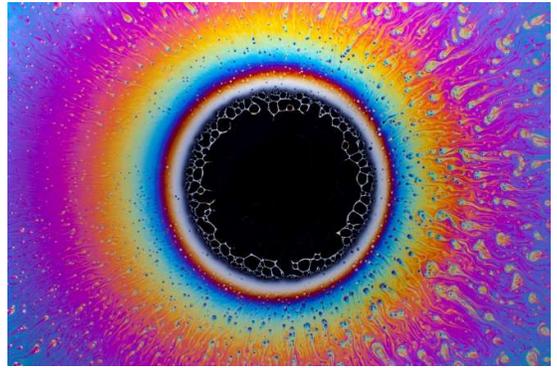
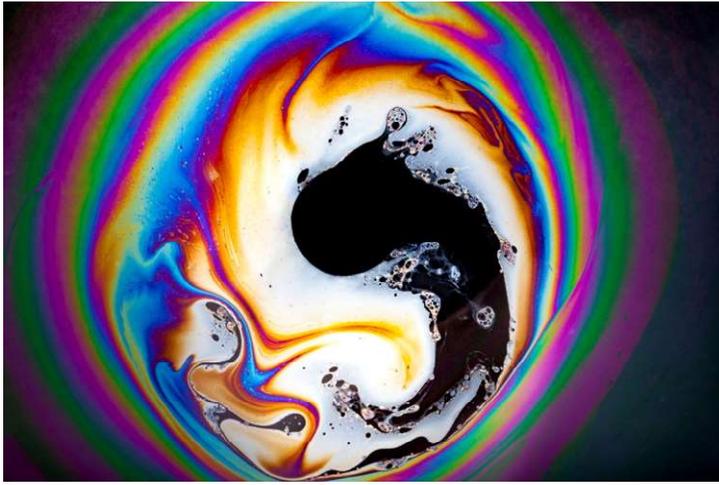












### 3. “SLOW, SMOOTH & WONDERFUL – LONG EXPOSURES” workshop Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April

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 windy cloudy skies into satisfying art. It can do the same with rivers, waterfalls, roads, night skies, moving cars at night, even wildlife on the move. 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.

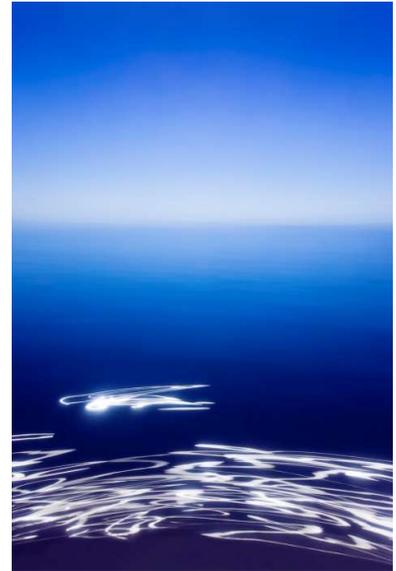
When photographers talk about Long Exposure Photography, the images that come to mind are usually of silky smooth waterfalls or ethereal misty water around coastal jetties or rocks. Or the light trails of moving vehicles at night or stars in the night sky. These are good uses of one of the main techniques, 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 😊]

If you’re into Magic and Ethereal – this workshop is for you.

**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 tripod and 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**. Full-time students with ID **\$145**.





## “GOOD PHOTOS, GREAT PHOTOS – ANYTIME, ANYWHERE”

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Preliminary notice – more details in the next newsletter

Will that trip to Australia [or later, to other countries too] – 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? With any big trip, 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 a 30 minutes drive at the most. Or anywhere else. That’s what the articles in this newsletter are about – finding good photos right here, right now. LOTS of techniques, approaches, tips, ideas, inspiration, lists of “get yourself going” ideas for you to try.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. 9.00 am – 5.00 pm.

Cost: Full course fee [including follow-up evening] \$295  
[\$245 if you book before 13 May]. Fulltime students \$145.



## 5. Kim's 2021 PROGRAMME

### FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – the first “Photos & Coffee” meeting of the year. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February “Photo Walk” at McLaren Falls Park 9.00 am to 12.00 midday. Free.
- **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February. “Beach Magic Photography” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### MARCH

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 28<sup>st</sup> March. “Close Up Magic” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### APRIL

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April. “Slow, Smooth & Wonderful – Long Exposures” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### MAY

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. “Good photos, Great Photos – Anytime, Anywhere” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### JUNE

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June. “Photo Essentials” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### JULY

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July. “Photo Impressionism & Photo Art” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### AUGUST

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 7<sup>h</sup> August. “Soul in your photos” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September. “Exciting New Techniques” photo workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### OCTOBER

- **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. “Great people photos” workshop.** Portraits, kids, families, candid, travel, events, weddings. Full day plus follow-up.
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November. “Black and White Magic Photography” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### DECEMBER

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

One day workshops 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. Full-time students with ID \$145.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> May** starting at 7.00 pm. 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 I am very happy to do so. Two hours \$150. Three hours \$200.

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 a caring, experienced photographer and teacher and we cover a lot each hour. Bring a friend if you wish - no extra charge.

## ABOUT KIM

- **Loves photography and loves inspiring, guiding, and supporting photographers.**
- Over 30 years as a professional photographer and teaching photography for 14 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>
- [https://b29454bb-bd92-42b1-ae8-30f256446a3e.filesusr.com/ugd/337e9d\\_1a35f441345e4c4fb57d03976cdc88ca.pdf](https://b29454bb-bd92-42b1-ae8-30f256446a3e.filesusr.com/ugd/337e9d_1a35f441345e4c4fb57d03976cdc88ca.pdf)