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# Newsletter from Kim Westerskov

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## Newsletter #62 – January 2018

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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. 2018 – YOUR BEST YEAR EVER?

Could 2018 be your best year ever for your photography? If you want it to be, I can't think of any good reasons why not. First of all, realize that 2018 will be the best year ever [among the civilizations we know about] for amateur photographers. The equipment is the best ever [the best quality, the widest selection, more affordable than ever], the opportunities to travel safely to your dream places are undoubtedly the best they've ever been, and the opportunities for learning new stuff are certainly the best ever. And there are great ways of sharing and showcasing your photos too, of connecting with like-minded souls, and learning from them.

So ... welcome to 2018. Go for it ... and enjoy.

So how do you make 2018 your best year ever, photographically? It's reasonably simple. [Regular readers will remember this list, but at the beginning of 2018 let's remind ourselves].



1. Take photos – lots of them, often.
2. Learn new stuff – any way that works for you [photo clubs, online, books, workshops, tuition ...]
3. Go to new places with your camera.
4. Revisit old places with your camera. Get out there. Often.
5. Relax, smile, enjoy the moment. We do this for fun, remember.
6. Have your photos **critiqued** by people whose opinions you respect [and/or by yourself]. Ask “What worked? Why did it work? What didn't work? Why not? What can I learn from these photos?” Next time do better and try new ideas.
7. **Photograph what you love.** Photograph what especially excites you, that which you are passionate about: your cats or roses or grandkids, waterfalls, the beach, letterboxes, wildlife, Paris, London .....
8. Give yourself **a project**. A Goldilocks one - not too easy, not too hard, something achievable and that you will feel good about. It doesn't really matter what it is, as long as it's something that will keep you interested for most of the year. Maybe show me [and/or others] the results later on. One idea could be what I did last year – for Christmas I gave each family member a photo book I'd created, with photos of our family. “Family, Friends & Moments” I called it. You could do something similar. Or it could be on any other topic that interests you – your grandkids or your local beach or roses or funny letterboxes you've come across ...
9. And .... **do something with your best photos** [other than just enjoying them - which you're allowed to do of course]. Print and frame the best and hang them on your wall. Or print a collection in a book [easy ... via Diamond Photo [NZ], Snapfish [NZ], Blurb etc], enter a competition, offer some good ones to a local newspaper, bring them along to show at a Tuesday night “Photos & Coffee”, share them on Facebook or among friends via email, use them to help promote some cause you're passionate about etc. Get your best photos out there.



## 2. HAMILTON ZOO DAY - Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February

[From the website of Hamilton's Snapshot]

### A Day at the Zoo with Snapshot, Canon and Kim Westerskov

Sunday, February 25, 2018 from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Come along and join us, Kim Westerskov and Canon for a day at the Hamilton Zoo!

This is a great opportunity to get tips from an expert wildlife photographer and to test out some of the latest gear from Canon.

Following the initial talk by Kim at the Savannah (where we will be based) there will be two group photowalks - one in the morning and one in the afternoon (please only book for one of the walks). There will be further opportunities at other enclosures to pick up some tips from Kim for photographing animals and birds. Canon staff and Snapshot will be around with bodies and lenses for you to try out - bring an empty memory card so you can take the pics home. Even if you aren't a Canon user this is a fantastic opportunity to network with like-minded people.

**The event is free** but you will need to pay the Hamilton Zoo entry fee to join us - visit this page for **Zoo pricing**. If you have an annual pass to the Zoo then you pay nothing. We ask everyone that intends coming along to pre-register as this will make it easy for us to provide a reminder, and updates if necessary, via email.

<https://nzphotoclasses.wordpress.com/events-list/42175335564/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2113243608905418/>

**Note from Kim:** at the time of writing, most of the places on the two group photowalks had been booked, so if you're interested, be in quick. When Gareth and Anne were younger we visited Hamilton Zoo a number of times. Before the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, I will make another visit, spend some hours there, take lots of photos and write a handout about zoo photography. This handout will be available on the day.



## 3. WIN A FREE Photo Day with Kim

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March I'll be running a "Field Trip + Photo Critique" day here in Tauranga. Cost only \$70 for the whole day. Better still, be in the draw to win one of three free places. Just email me before the 10<sup>th</sup> of February saying that you'd like to be in the draw. On February 10 I'll put all the names in a hat and my DDD [Dearest Darling Daughter] Anne will pull three names out of a hat and I'll contact the winners.

The day's programme is:

- 9.00-12.00 noon – I accompany you for three hours of photography to somewhere local – we decide where on the day – possibly McLaren Falls Park or downtown Tauranga or a local beach. After a few words from me you then take a variety of photographs [ideally 20 – 100] over the next few hours and chat to me as much as you wish. I'm there for you.
- 12.00 – 1.00pm. Lunch. Bring your own, or share a potluck, or head off to a café.
- 1.00 – 5.00pm – we meet back at 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, where I upload the photos you've taken and critique them constructively: what works well, why it worked well, what didn't work so well, why it didn't work so well, what could be done differently next time ... taking some photos into Photoshop/Lightroom to show you how I would process them: cropping if needed, and optimizing the overall look of the photo. Many photographers report that they find the afternoon session valuable, including being surprised how much better nearly all photos can be made to look in Lightroom/Photoshop. The afternoon goes quickly. You'll find my critiques and comments both friendly and hopefully useful.

## 4. "BEACH MAGIC" WORKSHOP – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 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 beaches - 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 a 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 so well in previous years was that I went 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 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.

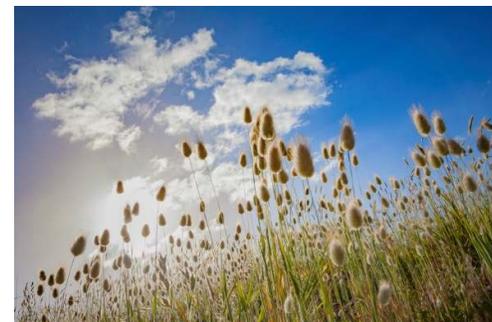
All the accompanying photos were taken over the last 2-3 years at Mount Maunganui Beach and Papamoa Beach.

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 12<sup>th</sup> of February]. Fulltime students with ID **\$150**.

Some unsolicited comments about previous "Beach Magic" photo 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



## 5. FROM KIM'S FIELD DIARIES – BOUNTY ISLANDS UNDERWATER

The year was 1788. Shortly before the famous mutiny, Captain William Bligh chanced upon a few dozen tiny specks of rock in the wide, wide Pacific Ocean east of New Zealand, named them after his ship [the Bounty] and carried on to Tahiti where mutiny and infamy awaited him 7 months later.

The term “islands” is probably overdoing it. “Rocks” or “islets” would be more accurate. The swell-beaten, weather-beaten clusters of granite lie 670 km east-south-east of the South Island, and 530 km south-west of the Chatham Islands.

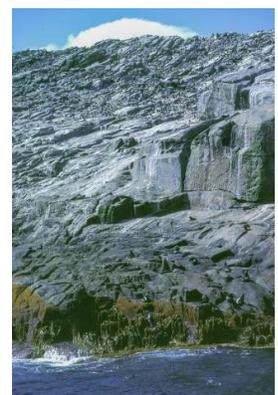
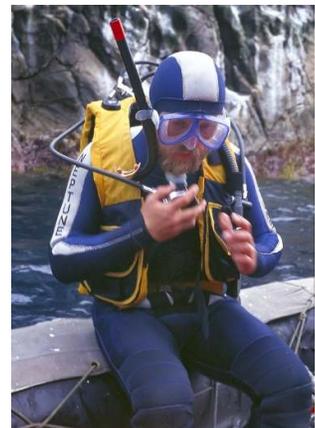
Of all the New Zealand territories between Campbell Island in the Furious Fifties and the Kermadec Islands in the balmy subtropics, what's the remotest, hardest-to-get-to dive spot? And the furthest from a decompression chamber or other help if it all goes wrong? “The Bounty islands?” “Yep”. “Where you're diving today?” “Yep”. “So you'll be careful, Kim?” “As careful as usual”. “Spoken like a politician. You've got a dive buddy today Kim?” “I'm diving with the navy, so I have to. Anyway John [Cooper] is good value. He'll collect specimens for me and keep an eye out for danger”. “Danger? Like what?” “Stroppy seals maybe. But sharks mainly. Especially the ones you don't see. White pointers often hang out around seal and sealion colonies. Easy pickings – there's always a meal there”. And you're about the size of a seal Kim!” “Thanks. Don't remind me”.

“So how did you manage to wangle this trip, Kim?” “I'm official underwater cameraman for the National Film Unit's documentary “Beyond the Roaring Forties”. Their cameraman doesn't want to dive with fur seals and sealions [something to do with white pointers around seal colonies?], so I volunteered. Happy to help - being the underwater cameraman gets me to all five subantarctic island groups”. “I didn't know you shot [movie] film, Kim”. “I'd never shot movie film before, but I forgot to tell them that. It can't be too hard. I think I've got it figured”. Later the results showed that I had indeed got it right, so that was a relief. I still have the Bounty Islands underwater vistas and sealife on 16mm film sitting somewhere in my office here – the National Film Unit gave it to me after they'd taken what they needed.

Above water, the Bounty Islands are mostly variations of grey [at least 50], except for the white guano and down at the water line where the normally dark brown bull kelp is a lovely golden colour. Underwater, the same golden kelps dance back and forth in the surge. Sinuous. Sensual. Hypnotic. I was under strict orders from the film's director to film only fur seals, nothing else. So I filmed fur seals executing their graceful underwater ballet... and the golden kelp. Much later I was pleased to see they included my kelp sequences in the final documentary.

Right: our dive site

As well as the golden bull kelp, the underwater rock face is covered in a colourful tapestry of life in more colours than I know the names of: pinks, orange, magentas, purples, blues, greens, reds, browns, and hundreds more. The colourful mosaic was made up of sea anemones, starfish, sponges, sea squirts, mussels, small urchins,



coral-like bryozoans, whelks, large chitons, various seaweeds and large barnacles with beautiful bright orange "mouths". But no crayfish and very few fish. At a depth of 60ft/18metres the "pink paint" coralline alga covering the underwater cliff face was home to large numbers of virgin paua, the smallest of the three New Zealand species.

The clear water let us see a long way, always a good thing in sharky waters. In places the water was thick with countless transparent salps and other planktonic animals.

Most of the dive I did what I was meant to do – capture underwater film of the fur seals as they played, twisting and zooming in the clear blue water. When my air pressure gauge told me "only 500 PSI left [i.e. three-quarters of your air has been used]" I surfaced, handed the movie camera to the navy boatman, grabbed my Nikonos underwater camera and flash and headed back down.

A roll of Ektachrome was pulled through my Nikonos at high speed, the shutter going "click, click, click" with machine gun rapidity.

With hardly any air left I headed to where I'd seen a very unusual sight 30 minutes earlier. Six metres [20ft] below the surface there was a small indentation in the cliff face. Clustered tightly on the walls of the small amphitheatre were hundreds of female painted spider crabs. On the floor of the amphitheatre two large males were still locked in battle, as they had been earlier. Using the very last gasps of air I could extract from my dive tank I took three quick photos [waiting for the flash to recycle each time] and headed for the surface. Aaaaah, air, sweet air.

"So... a pretty good dive Kim?" "Wonderful, one of my best ever". "And no sharks?" "No, but the fur seals seemed edgy, more wary than normal. Maybe there are sharks around". Back onboard the Monowai that evening, scientists who'd been on the island told me about a "twenty-foot shark with a red stain in the water around its mouth" they'd seen on the other side of our small island. This island, the largest island in the Bounty Islands group, is only 700 metres long and 400 metres across. How easily and quickly could a big shark swim around to the other side of the island to check it out? Too easily. Too fast.



## 6. 2018 PROGRAMME

### FEBRUARY

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February – the first “Photos & Coffee” meeting of the year. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. “Beach Magic” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February. “Hamilton Zoo Day”** with Snapshot, Canon and Kim. 9.30 am – 4.00 pm. Free but you will need to book and pay the Hamilton Zoo entry fee.

### MARCH

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. “Field Trip + Critique”.** Full day. \$70.
- **Sunday 18 March. “Forests, Ferns, Flowers & Fotos” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### APRIL

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April. “Wide Angle & Telephoto” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### MAY

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May. “Photo Essentials” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### JUNE

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June. “People” workshop.** Portraits, kids, families, street/travel, weddings. Full day plus follow-up.

### JULY

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July. “Landscapes” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### AUGUST

- **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August. “Composition & Light” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August. “Getting started in Lightroom”.** Half day.

### SEPTEMBER

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

### OCTOBER

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday-Sunday 13-14 October. “Great Photography Weekend” workshop.** Weekend + follow-up.

### NOVEMBER

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.
- **Saturday 17 November. “New worlds with your camera” workshop.** Full day plus follow-up.

### DECEMBER

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. “Photos & Coffee” informal meeting. 7.00 – 10.00pm. Free.

Half-day workshops 9.00am – 1.00pm  
Full day & two-day workshops 9.00am – 5.00pm

**COST:** Course fees for workshops include tuition, detailed hand-outs, yummy catering, assignment and follow-up evenings for full and two day workshops.

- **Half-day workshops:** \$135 – or \$115 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$70.
- **One-day workshops:** \$295 – or \$245 for Early Birds if you register by 10 days before workshop. Fulltime students with ID \$150.
- **Weekend workshops:** \$475 [\$425 Early Bird]. Fulltime students with ID \$235.

## 7. SOME CLOSE UPS FOR YOU

An important part of most of the workshops I run happens after the workshop itself - the “homework” I give at the end of it. This “homework” - often set by the attendees themselves - is a series of photographic assignments using the techniques and approaches covered in the workshop. This consolidates the new techniques, beds them in, and usually results in portfolios that the attendees are proud of.

“Your homework photos are really good - well done everybody” I said at the follow-up session after the “Close-Up Photography” workshop late last year. “Why don’t you put them in your next newsletter then” suggested one of the photographers. “Good idea” I replied “I might just do exactly that”. Enjoy.



Raewyn Adams - lower left and right  
Lindsay Muir - above left  
Sandra Simpson - above middle and right  
Deb Primrose - below



Raewyn Adams - top left  
Deb Primrose - top right, middle left  
Lindsay Muir - middle right, bottom right  
Sandra Simpson bottom left

## 8. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Don’t be afraid of being obsessive”

Annie Leibovitz

## 9. PHOTOGRAPHING ARTWORKS, PHOTOSHOPPING, PHOTO RESTORATION

As well as teaching photography and mentoring photographers, I also offer photo restoration, Photoshopping, and "Photographing your Artworks" services. \$50 per hour [we usually get a lot done each hour].

## 10. 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.

## 11. COACHING, 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 also "value" - it's one-on-one with an experienced photographer and teacher, so we cover a lot each hour.

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 or your laptop, 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 you have me for the whole day.

## 12. MENTORING

"Mentoring" is the ongoing process of inspiring, advising, guiding, teaching, critiquing ... whatever is needed for the ongoing development of a photographer. It's one-on-one, so it's different for each person. One month it may be about equipment or Photoshop, next month it may be "I just want my photos to have more 'Wow' in them", the following month it may be about exhibitions or "Should I go pro?". **Who is mentoring for? Anybody. I mentor both established professional photographers and amateurs.** Minimum of 6 months. Talk to Kim about what would work best for you.



Photos of Kim by Malcolm Macfarlane & Tony Whitehead

## 13. KIM'S PHOTOS & COFFEE EVENINGS

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month [every month of the year except January], chat informally 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 for those of you who have not been before, you're very unlikely to feel out of your depth. Bring photos if you wish, but there's no obligation to do so. Some people do, some don't.

The first one of 2018 will be on Tuesday **13 February** [moved ahead a week so as to not clash with Waitangi Day] starting 7.00pm. 18 Greerton Road, Gate Pa, Tauranga. Free, but please book by email.

## 14. ABOUT KIM

- **Passionate about photography and passionate about inspiring, guiding, and supporting photographers.**
- Over 30 years as a professional photographer
- Five First Prizes in the BBC "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" competition, the Olympics/Oscars of nature photography worldwide.
- 18 books published – written and photographed by me. Five are currently "in print".
- Teaching photography for over 10 years now

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