WENDY BOWN

CAMERA OPERATOR | FILMMAKER | DRONE OPERATOR | PHOTOGRAPHER

Whangārei, Northland, New Zealand

021 191 0280 wendybown@me.com wendybown.co.nz
Showreel | Instagram | LinkedIn | IMDB

Available for: Camera operating | Documentary | Factual | Environmental | Science | Conservation | Adventure | Production stills | Behind-the-scenes | Drone work
Location: Northland-based; available for work throughout New Zealand.

PROFILE

Experienced camera operator, filmmaker and photographer with more than 15 years' experience across feature-film and television production, documentary, behind-the-scenes filming, environmental storytelling, commercial content and video editing.

I am currently seeking more camera and film work, particularly in factual, documentary, environmental, science, conservation, adventure and location-based production. My screen background includes five years at Wētā Workshop, where I progressed from camera assistant to camera operator, senior photographer and video editor, working on major international productions including *Chappie*, *Ghost in the Shell*, *Spectral*, *Warcraft*, *Power Rangers* and *The Hobbit* films.

Alongside my screen experience, I have continued developing an independent freelance practice, producing films and visual stories for government agencies, conservation organisations, non-profits and community clients. I am comfortable working as part of a camera department, as a self-shooting operator or as a small one-person production unit, and bring strong technical, visual, organisational and location skills.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Camera operation for documentary, factual, television, feature-film and behind-the-scenes production.
- Self-shooting and small-crew production.
- Documentary, environmental, science and conservation storytelling.
- Location camera work, interviews and observational filming.
- Drone photography and video.
- Production stills and behind-the-scenes photography.
- Video editing and short-form documentary production.
- Camera, lighting and digital capture workflows.
- Pre-production, location planning and production logistics.
- Media management, file organisation and post-production delivery.
- Comfortable working independently or within a larger camera and production team.
- Calm, adaptable and solutions-focused in fast-paced and technically demanding environments.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2026

- New Zealand Geographic Photographer of the Year — **Finalist, Society category**
- New Zealand Federated Mountain Club Photography Awards — **Finalist, Below the bushline category**

2006

- Runner-up, Metro Young Photographer of the Year.
- Images published in *Metro*

EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE CAMERA OPERATOR / FILMMAKER / PHOTOGRAPHER

WENDY BOWN FILMS - NORTHLAND 2018 - Present

- Produce photography and video for environmental, science, conservation, government, community and non-profit projects.
- Work across project planning, location logistics, camera operation, photography, interviews, editing and final delivery.
- Create stills, short films, digital content, documentary-style pieces and promotional material.
- Work with clients including Northland Regional Council, Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment.
- Operate as a self-directed one-person production unit or collaborate with wider creative and production teams.
- Manage client communication, scheduling, location requirements, post-production and delivery.
- Translate complex environmental and scientific subjects into clear, engaging visual stories

CAMERA OPERATOR / PHOTOGRAPHER / VIDEO EDITOR

WETA WORKSHOP — WELLINGTON | 2011–2016

Progressed from camera assistant to camera operator, senior photographer and video editor. Worked across camera operation, production stills, behind-the-scenes filming, product imagery, short-form documentary, promotional content and editorial support on major international film and television productions.

Collaborated with production, creative, technical and marketing teams in a fast-paced environment, developing strong skills in technical preparation, visual problem-solving, media workflow, time management and working under pressure.

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER / PHOTO ASSISTANT / DIGITAL OPERATOR

AUCKLAND | 2009–2011

- Worked with advertising and editorial photographers in studio and location environments.
- Assisted with camera preparation, lighting, digital capture, data management and image processing.
- Developed advanced skills in Photoshop, colour management and professional digital workflow.
- Shot selected commercial work while building an independent photography portfolio.

PHOTOGRAPHER / ASSISTANT

CROYDON STUDIO — AUCKLAND | 2005–2007

- Assisted three photographers in a busy commercial studio.
- Worked across automotive, still life, fashion, jewellery, food, editorial and advertising photography.
- Progressed into a photographer role, shooting studio work for commercial and editorial clients.
- Developed extensive lighting knowledge across room interiors, automotive, fashion, beauty, still life and jewellery.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

DECKHAND — Motor Yacht, Caribbean and Mediterranean | 2007–2008
Worked aboard a motor yacht travelling between the Caribbean and Mediterranean. Responsibilities included vessel maintenance, navigation and helming. Developed strong practical problem-solving skills, attention to detail, safety awareness and the ability to work long hours in demanding conditions.

SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTOR
CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO & THE SUMMIT WASHINGTON - USA | 2001–2003
Instructed snowboarders of all ages and abilities across two winter seasons. Developed leadership, communication, risk awareness and group-management skills in a physically demanding mountain environment.

SELECTED SCREEN CREDITS:

Director / Producer / Camera Operator
- *Piroa Conservation Trust* — environmental film, 2026.
- *Streams of Life* — documentary/environmental film, 2025

Camera Operator — Wētā Workshop
- *Ghost in the Shell* — feature film, 2017.
- *Power Rangers* — feature film, 2017.
- *Spectral* — feature film, 2016.
- *Warcraft* — feature film, 2016.
- *Chappie* — feature film, 2015.
- *Building Gallipoli* — television series, 2015.
- *Reggie & Thunderbirds: No Strings Attached* — television documentary, 2015.
- *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* — behind-the-scenes camera operator, feature film, 2014.
- *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* — camera operator, feature film, 2014.
- *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* — behind-the-scenes camera operator, feature film, 2013.

Still Photographer — Wētā Workshop
- *The BFG* — feature film, 2016.
- *Dracula Untold* — feature film, 2014.

Editorial / Production Support
- *Building Gallipoli* — assistant editor, television series, 2015.
- *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* — workshop technician, feature film, 2012.

EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE CURRENTLY:

Camera: Canon C200, Canon 5D, Go pro
Lenses: Canon 24-70mm, Canon 70-200mm, Canon 16-35mm
Drone: DJI Mavic 3 Pro
Support: Small rig freebazer heavy duty carbon fibre tripod
Sound: Seinheisser lavalier mics G4 x 2, On Camera seinheisser shotgun mic
Editing: Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Adobe Camera Raw, Lightroom