

# Holiday Sketching Newsletter

with Leonie Norton



[www.holidaysketching.com.au](http://www.holidaysketching.com.au)

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*My work has always been a joy and never a chore. I find challenges, stimulation and rewards every day.*

*Set yourselves goals with your sketching, as with your life and watch your work improve enormously. This will be not just with technique but with enthusiasm as you begin to "see" more and are able to express your impressions visually.*

*You can sketch the simple things in life, such as a flower a day, food on the table or the changing elements of clouds.*

*My last Newsletter finished with sketches of Tasmania and in particular some of the coastal shoreline to the east of Hobart. This Newsletter explores my sketching travels since then.*

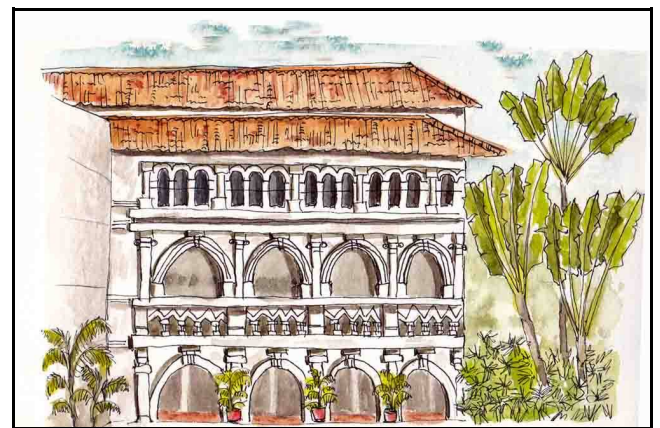
## **MALAYSIA-THAILAND CRUISE APRIL 2011**

*The cruise afforded not only diverse sketching opportunities in various ports of Malaysia and Thailand, but it was the most relaxed holiday (yes – an actual holiday!) I can remember and I returned with my batteries fully charged.*

*I was able to sketch from the ship while in various ports and even found time to sketch on the ship. The weather was glorious, the sights were unique and there was absolutely no pressure at all.*

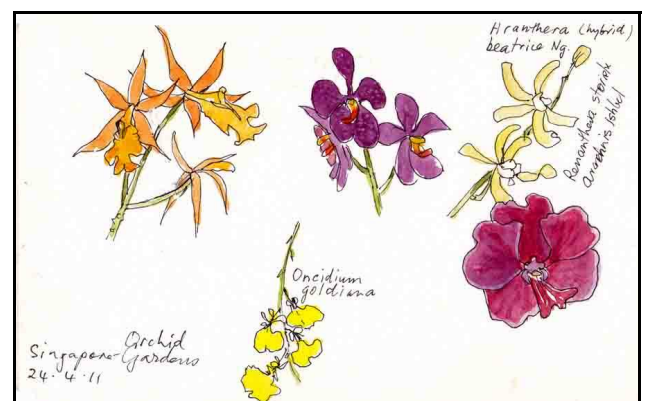


*Prior to the ship's departure, I spent 3 days in Singapore where I sketched at leisure. Every new scene I sketch still excites me. Sharing my impressions of time and place also gives me great enjoyment and evokes some wonderful memories.*



Raffles Hotel Singapore

*While in Singapore I also visited the Singapore Orchid gardens with their amazing array of colours, sizes and shapes of the orchid blooms. If sketching, you do not have to draw scenes, but it can be single elements collected together on a page which can also tell a story.*



Orchids from the Gardens in Singapore

*Some of the places I visited on the cruise were Langkawi with its multitude of tiny islands, Penang and Phuket, where I experienced an elephant ride – and it sure felt pretty high up there!*



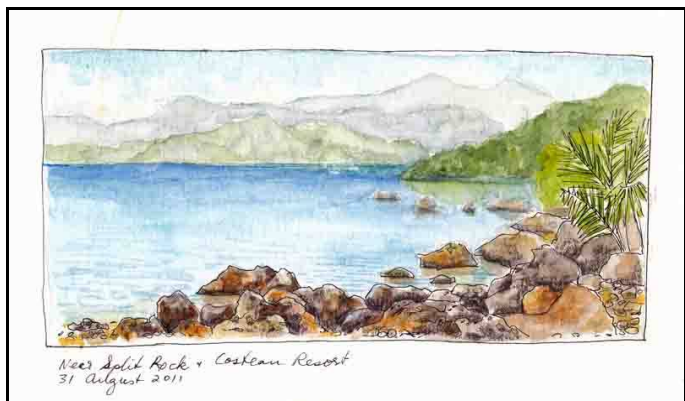
## FIJI

**AUGUST-SEPT 2011**

As the flight from Nadi on the small 16 seater plane glides low across the tops of the swaying palms of Savusavu, I feel I have returned to an amazing place, virtually untouched by tourism, commercialism or materialism.

For the past five years I have been going to Savusavu on the Fijian island of Vanua Levu. Some years I have taught two and three courses of both botanical art and holiday sketching.

When sketching, another concept is to border the page, to contain your sketch and not go out to the edges of the sketchbook. The sketch then retains a freshness and not the appearance of a finished painting, which it is not meant to be. Below are a few examples of this method of bordering.



More than one sketch can be done on a page using this method. Naturally the smaller the border, the quicker the sketch will be. This also allows you to include more sketches of the one area in a shorter amount of time.



Savusavu Bay. Two sketches from the same location

As well as botanical art and sketching, at Daku Resort where the group stays, there are fabulous snorkelling opportunities right on the resort's doorstep – and absolutely achievable for the neophyte. But beware – it can become obsessive.

If you are an early riser, the staff will carry a kayak down to the water, which at around 6.30 or 7am is like a sheet of glass. At high tide you can glide centimetres above the coral reef which is only about 50 metres from shore.

The locals are always on "Fiji time" so don't expect instant responses to anything. Just go with the flow, follow their example – and chill.....

So my feet are firmly planted on terra firma, at least for the next four weeks, when I will be flying to Lismore in northern NSW to do a weekend working on Natural History Drawing and Painting. I believe the group is already collecting frogs, shells, feathers, flora and insects, to name a few. Should be a fun weekend, and am hoping for a very sunny and warm weekend as well....

### **WORKSHOPS FOR 2011**

**PEN & WATERCOLOUR WASH** 29-30 October

Held at WEA Sydney 72 Bathurst Street

**TARONGA PARK ZOO** Saturday 5 Nov

The entry fee is included in the Workshop cost.

### **WHAT'S COMING UP FOR 2012?**

**FIJI** 17-24 March

**SOUTH INDIA** 14-22 April

By popular demand, this unique and amazing Sketching Holiday should not be missed. We will be flying into Cochin and a few of the highlights will be:

- gliding down the backwaters of Kerala on a luxury houseboat, happily sketching
- sunset boat ride at Periyar National Park watching the wild animals drinking at dusk

**BOOK EARLY. SMALL GROUP NUMBERS STRICTLY LIMITED**

**BEECHWORTH VICTORIA** 5-6 May

Weekend Workshop 'Sketching Beechworth'

**BALI** 30 July-6 August

For more information on any of the workshops or sketching holidays, see

[www.holidaysketching.com.au](http://www.holidaysketching.com.au) or

email: [leonienorton@iprimus.com.au](mailto:leonienorton@iprimus.com.au)

*Happy Sketching*  
*Leonie*