

# coastal foliage

12th January 2015  
inspired Artspace, North WYong

## workshop notes:

Those of us who did the previous days' workshop, used the painting we did as our background for our coastal foliage. Those who didn't, madly caught up.

We leapt into the day by discovering that every species of tree has a pattern. We also discovered that the brush does not paint the painting - we do! It's called painting, not dabbing. You have to make the brush work.

Think about the overall shape of a tree - ignore all the colour - is it a triangle? Lollipop? Round? We did an exercise on identifying trees.

Train yourself to look at the "big picture" - and place the details on top.

We talked about paint recipes for trees:

Forest Green/Pthalo Blue/Cadmium Yellow Medium  
Forest Green/Cadmium Yellow Medium  
Forest Green/Dioxazine Purple  
Forest Green/Burnt Umber

We looked at the patterns trees made, and looked at how to make our brushes create those shapes. Banksias for example, have a particular shape. We used a small brush, and changed the angles to create the impression of leaves. We also looked at creating the impression of grasses, and different tree branches using different techniques. This was all done in silhouette.

### Exercise - build a casuarina:

Use a paint recipe of Burnt Umber and French Ultramarine Blue - lean a branch in from the side - lightly roll your brush for branches - use a size 4.

When painting the leaves of casuarinas, you can create depth and dimension - give it a bit of "life". Using a size 8, go to your paint recipe of Forest Green/Dioxazine Purple and Cadmium Yellow Medium. Using a downward flicking kind of motion to create "clumps" of needle-like leaves.



**TIP: Test the mark your brush uses before it goes on your “real” painting.**

Add Cadmium Yellow Medium & White to the previous mix to create highlights. Repeat this process, adding Cadmium Yellow Light and White. Remember to leave dark areas to create the impression of leaves in shadows. This last colour will give you the impression of highlights on the leaves caused by light filtering through the branches. This colour will of course also occur on the leaves that are directly exposed to the sun.

There is loads of light on the East Coast.

The middle of the day - bright sunlight, there tends to be lots of White reflected.

Later in the day Cadmium Yellow Medium becomes more obvious.

As the day transitions from reds through to purples and blues, these colours will affect (and be added to) your daytime colours.

The later in the day, the strength of the highlights diminish.

Armed with all this knowledge, we now grabbed our painting, and prepared to paint casuarinas and banksias. We blocked in our banksia, with Forest Green, Dioxazine Purple and a touch of Cadmium Yellow Medium. We did this quite roughly in the early stages, then came back with a smaller brush, being careful to create patterns that a banksia makes. While that was drying, we moved to the other side of the canvas, and with French Ultramarine Blue and Burnt Umber, brushed in the branches of our casuarinas. We did this in a very “loose” and “light” way, trying to “suggest” at the delicate branches of casuarinas. We then grabbed our Forest Green and Dioxazine Purple mix, added some Cadmium Yellow Medium and brushed in the darker leaves of our casuarina.

We repeated the process of the exercise we did earlier in the day. Of course this time doing a much better job, as we were practised and skilfull.



We mixed French Ultramarine Blue with Dioxazine Purple, a minuscule touch of Cadmium Yellow Medium and White, and with a wispy, dry touch, painted the shadows of the casuarina on the sand.

We then went back to our banksia. This time we added more Cadmium Yellow Medium and a little bit of White to our original colour, and started painting in the highlights. We gradually added more and more Cadmium Yellow Medium and White to this mix, and painted the leaves that were highlighted.

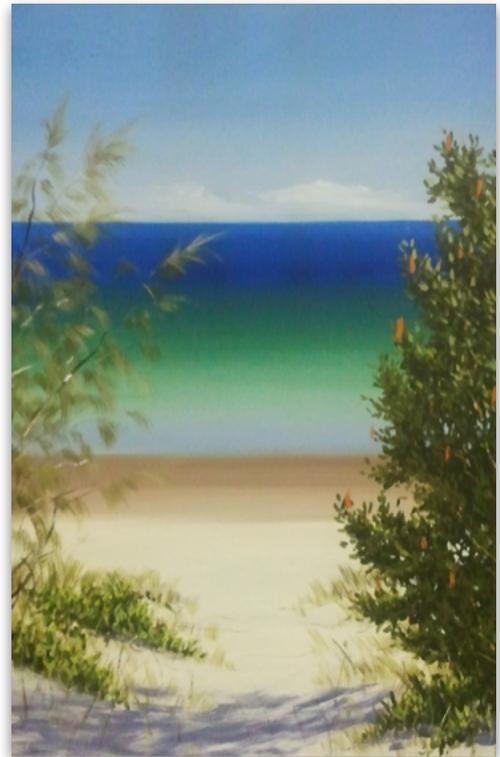
It's important to remember the patterns the leaves made, and while painting the highlights, keep in mind the "shape" of the overall tree in silhouette. Note - most trees are not uniform shape, they often have quite dramatic changes from dark to light. Highlights should **not** be placed evenly, as you will end up with a beautifully manicured tree from a formal garden, and not a tree that occurs naturally.

We left our trees for a moment, and with a small brush and a "rolly" technique, brushed in the tendrils that spinifex grass makes as it grows over the sand dunes. We also, with the tip of our brush, created that lovely "tufty" spinifex grass, and used it to shape the dunes. We used a mix of Dioxazine Purple, Forest Green and Cadmium Yellow Medium and White.

We added a bit of White and Cadmium Yellow Medium to that mix, to create the highlights in the grass.

We go back to our banksia now, and add some final highlights. These will be predominantly White, with a touch of Cadmium Yellow Light and Forest Green. We then mixed up a lovely orange and painted short, vertical strokes towards the ends of the banksia's branches. Voila! Lovely flashes of colour creating the impression of banksia flowers.

There we have it. A lovely coastal path leading towards crystal clear water. Mmmmmm, heaven.



*Many thanks to everyone for another lovely day at Inspired Artspace!*

For support material about what you learnt on the weekend, check out these pages:

[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/ocean-landscapes.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/ocean-landscapes.html)

[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/color-mixing-guide.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/color-mixing-guide.html)

[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/perspective-in-painting.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/perspective-in-painting.html)  
[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-water.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-water.html)  
[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/painting-waves.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/painting-waves.html)  
[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/gradation.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/gradation.html)  
[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/brush-technique.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/brush-technique.html)  
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[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-clouds.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/how-to-paint-clouds.html)  
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[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/skyscapes.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/skyscapes.html)  
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[www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/Acrylics\\_Anonymous-acrylics-anonymous-019.html](http://www.explore-acrylic-painting.com/Acrylics_Anonymous-acrylics-anonymous-019.html)

Please subscribe to [Acrylics Anonymous](#) if you haven't already done so!!!

and check out these video clips! (subscribe to our [Youtube channel](#) for all the latest clips):

How To Paint Tropical Water - Paint Recipes:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vH8xAeu6njY>

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Shadows in Waves:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfIAtF-0UoM>

Painting Waves - Perspective in Whitewash:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDvlwo\\_e9JI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDvlwo_e9JI)

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Reflections in Whitewash:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUDJHY9h9fA>

Brush Technique:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icWYYJHJFVc>

How to Paint Water - Refraction:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzCGPAUXJ0g>

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Glazing:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spJETxwJsdk>

How To Paint Shadows:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Dut2Tma1QU>

Painting Waves - Perspective in Whitewash:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDvlwo\\_e9JI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDvlwo_e9JI)

Acrylic Painting Techniques - Glazing - How to Paint Water:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spJETxwJsdK>

How To Paint Landscapes - Light Effects:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2\\_JSb9iJVY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2_JSb9iJVY)

Sunset Painting:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51fpx0\\_d10Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51fpx0_d10Y)

Sunset Painting - Gradation Warm Through Cools:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNJkgJR0fpQ>

How To Paint Trees - Default Settings:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXbtL9HrgUs>