

# Murris, middens & mangroves

A painting by noted  
Murri artist and  
sculptor, the late  
Ron Hurley

This is a reproduction of a painting by noted Murri artist and sculptor, Ron Hurley. The themes used by Ron in his works at Osprey House are based on his research of local indigenous culture for art work he created for the nearby Boondall Wetlands.

On the rocky point visible to the right of this panel, there is a midden apparently dating back to Pleistocene Time (possibly around 10,000 years ago). It is a testament to the Murri life style and lengthy occupation of the Dohles Rocks area.

Ron was asked by the Pine Rivers Shire Council to create art work that reflected the Murri inhabitation of the Pine River estuary.

In the painting, the mangrove morphs into a black hand, fingers grasping the mud. This symbolises the Murri connection to the land.

On the trunk is a symbol of the seine nets used to catch fish in the area. The explorer, John Oxley, found a seine net 10 metres long at Redcliffe. Such nets were made from the inner bark of the Cotton Tree.

Under the roots are the scraps of a meal of fish and shellfish of which the midden is a record.

