

# Living with the environment

## Osprey House

*Environmental Centre*

# Osprey House

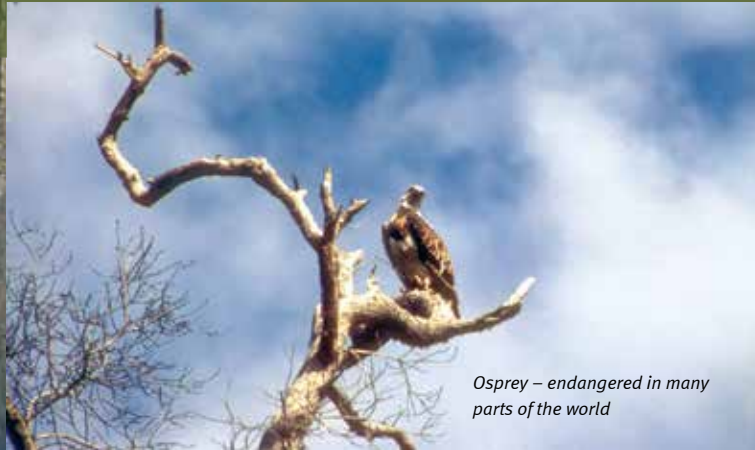
Osprey House Environmental Centre is owned by Moreton Bay Regional Council and operated by trained and enthusiastic volunteers.

It is located on a picturesque site on the Pine River on Dohles Rocks Road, Griffin.



## The Name

Osprey House is situated close to where Ospreys regularly roost and nest in trees on the upstream left bank of the Pine River. These fish-eating hawks may be seen at almost any time in day-light hours, soaring over the river, diving into the water to catch fish, or carrying fish back to feeding sites – usually high dead branches. In some parts of the world Ospreys have become very rare or locally extinct.



*Osprey – endangered in many parts of the world*



# History

The area in the vicinity of Osprey House has a long and colourful history. There is evidence that Aborigines used this region for many thousands of years. Dohles Rocks, on the bend of the river downstream of Osprey House, was a perfect place for Aboriginal groups to camp, fish, gather other seafood, and to use as a lookout across the river. The location of several 'bora' rings, not far from here, suggests that this was close to the boundary between the territories of the Yuggera-speaking people and the Gubbi-speaking people.

The earliest Europeans to come here were probably the three ticket-of-leave convicts, Parsons, Pamphlett and Finnegan. In 1823, their boat was blown northwards from south of Sydney and they were stranded on Moreton Island. They crossed to the mainland and proceeded northwards along the coast past this locality.

When rescued later that year by John Oxley, Finnegan, directing Oxley to a 'large river' (the Brisbane), mistakenly led him to the Pine River. Oxley then named it the 'Deception' River. Oxley noted the 'fine cypresses' (Hoop Pines) at a place further upstream — now John Oxley Reserve.

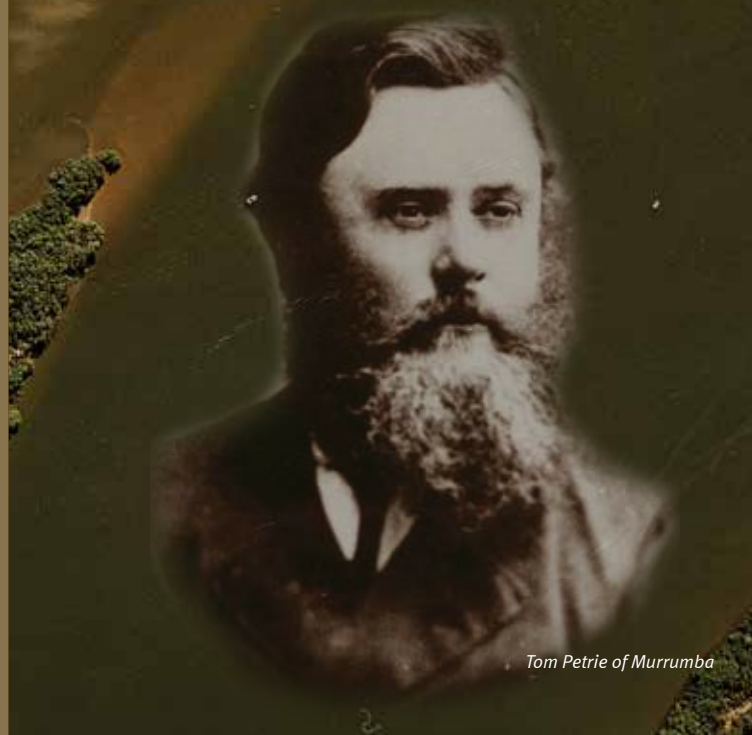


*John Oxley Reserve and Oxley's Inlet*

*Aerial Photo of Osprey House*

The Europeans next to arrive in this area came in search of Red Cedar, a valuable timber. Later pioneers sought other timbers such as White Beech, Deep Yellowwood and Hoop Pine. Hardwoods for posts and poles and building construction were also required. Logs and sawn timber were rafted and ferried down the Pine River, bound for Brisbane.

Local early settlers who came to stay included graziers such as Captain Griffin of Whiteside and Tom Petrie of Murrumba.



*Tom Petrie of Murrumba*

# Facilities

## The Osprey House building

You'll find interesting educational displays, 'touch' tables and information provided in numerous and novel ways.

## Osprey House environs

Natural and created habitats surround the community facilities and are a peaceful sanctuary where visitors may enjoy the abundant wildlife. Facilities include gas barbeques, and tables and seating. There is ample off-road parking.



## Boardwalks

These lead visitors to and through terrestrial habitats and those of the littoral (intertidal) zone, such as:



### MUDFLATS

Depending on the height of tidal waters, a variety of small marine creatures, waders and seabirds may be seen and heard. The animals that may be seen here vary with the seasons.

### MANGROVES

This magical ecosystem of shallow intertidal environments, protected from strong wave action, is home to many species found only in such places. At least three species of mangrove occur here.



### OPEN EUCALYPT FOREST

The dominant trees above the tidal zone are Queensland Blue Gums and Grey Ironbarks – major Koala food species. Look out for the Koala that sometimes visits.





## SALTMARSH FLATS

This habitat of specialised plants ranges from areas covered by the highest high tides to higher zones. Increased salt concentrations in the soil favour certain terrestrial groundcovers, shrubs and trees.



## AMPHITHEATRE

Groups of up to 25 people can gather here for informal talks and presentations. From this peaceful vantage point, much of the nearby riverscape can be seen, including the northern part of Tinchi Tamba Wetlands.

## YALI MOYUM

Along the boardwalks, the unique Yali Moyum art pieces interpret the natural environment from the local Aboriginal point of view. These outstanding creations are the work of Aboriginal artist, the late Ron Hurley, whose art is displayed in major galleries in Australia and overseas. Obtain a copy of the Yali Moyum (Tell the Message) brochure from the volunteers of Osprey House to assist in the understanding and appreciation of the messages.



## Bird watching

A variety of local and migratory waders, sea birds, and bush birds can be heard, seen and studied at Osprey House.

The bird hide, accessible via the boardwalk, allows close, sheltered and quiet observation of many birds, especially with a rising tide.

The following table lists native migratory wading birds that visit mudflats, salt marshes, lake margins and wetlands in the vicinity of Osprey House, between the months of August and May. Some are commonly seen here. Others are more rarely observed.

All Australian migratory wading birds are protected by international agreements: the China Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA), Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA) and the Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran.

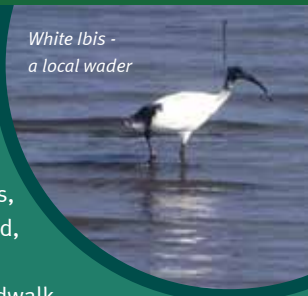
Most migratory wading birds breed in overseas countries, usually in the Northern Hemisphere, during our winter.

## Raptor Pole

A specially built raptor pole and nesting platform has been erected at Osprey House to provide a safe nesting site for raptors of the Pine Rivers' estuary.

A camera installed above the platform captures nesting and perching behaviour. Live video footage can be viewed on a monitor located in Osprey House.

*White Ibis -  
a local wader*



## BIRD HIDE

Birdwatchers may view the waders from within the bird hide. Illustrations within the hide help with the identification of the species most likely to be seen here.



**Photo:**  
Courtesy of  
Ron Byrne

Migratory Wader	Comments
Pacific Golden Plover	Common. Breeds in Siberia and Alaska
Grey Plover	Less common on the east coast. Breeds in Siberia and Alaska
Double-banded Plover	Common. Breeds in New Zealand
Greater Sand Plover	More common in north of Australia. Breeds in Mongolia
Oriental Plover	More common inland. Breeds in eastern Siberia
Ruddy Turnstone	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska
Bar-tailed Godwit	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska
Black-tailed Godwit	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska
Whimbrel	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia
Eastern Curlew	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Manchuria
Asian Dowitcher	Rare. Breeds in Mongolia and Manchuria
Wood Sandpiper	Uncommon. Prefers freshwater. Breeds in Siberia and Manchuria
Greenshank	Common. Breeds in Siberia
Marsh Sandpiper	Uncommon. Salt and freshwater. Breeds in Siberia
Common Sandpiper	Uncommon. Perches on boats, posts, etc. Breeds in eastern Siberia
Grey-tailed Tattler	Common. Perches on branches, posts etc. Breeds in eastern Siberia
Wandering Tattler	Uncommon. Rocky shorelines. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska
Terek Sandpiper	Fairly common. Breeds in eastern Siberia
Red Knot	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska
Great Knot	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia
Pectoral Sandpiper	Uncommon. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Common. Salt and freshwater. Breeds in eastern Siberia
Red-necked Stint	Common. Breeds in eastern Siberia and Alaska
Curlew Sandpiper	Common. Saltwater and flooded areas. Breeds in Siberia
Sanderling	Common on sandy beaches. Breeds in Siberia
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Generally uncommon. Mudflats and swamps. Breeds in Siberia
Ruff	Rare. Mudflats and sedges, salt and freshwater. Breeds in Siberia
Latham's Snipe	Common. Wetland vegetation, salt & freshwater. Breeds in Japan

## How to find us

Osprey House Environmental Centre is located at Dohles Rocks on the Pine River, about 15 minutes from Strathpine.

Heading north from Brisbane on the Bruce Highway, after crossing the Pine River take the Dohles Rocks Road exit left, then turn right and follow Dohles Rocks Road.

Access to and from the Sunshine Coast is via Anzac Avenue and Brays Road.



## Opening Times

Osprey House is open Monday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free. The boardwalks are accessible at any time. For further enquiries please call: (07) 3886 4463

## Become a Volunteer

For enquiries on how to become a volunteer please apply online at [www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Council/Volunteers](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Council/Volunteers).

## Visit our other Centres



Kumbartcho Sanctuary  
15 Bunya Pine Court,  
Eatons Hill



CREEC  
150 Rowley Road,  
Burpengary



This brochure is one in the series, *Living with the Environment*, produced by Moreton Bay Regional Council. These brochures feature the many marvellous plants, animals and other natural features of the region. They are designed to help residents know, understand, love and conserve our unique natural heritage.



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