

# Derek's looking for our biggest trees

Co-ordinator of the National Register of Big Trees, Derek McIntosh, is seeking the help of the public in identifying Australia's largest trees.

As the project is self-funded Mr McIntosh needs the public's help with the register which is an integrated list of Australian native trees, and naturalised (exotics/alien) trees.

"Points are awarded on the basis of a formula that includes, girth, height, and crown spread," Mr McIntosh said.

"The list is constantly changing as people take a good look at trees in their backyards, on pavements, in community parks, and explore wilderness areas.

"You do not have to be an expert on trees, or on how to measure a tree."

By visiting the tree register at [www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au](http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au), those who wish to nominate trees will find these headings: Common Name, Scientific Name, Points, State and Region, Town and Age. Instructions are also available on the website on how to measure the tree's vital statistics.

Mr McIntosh said the register will work closely with all Federal and State Forestry/Environmental Departments and related entities, such as National Parks, that have interests that parallel the objectives of this Register.

"This close co-operation,



*Derek McIntosh measuring a tree at Pemberton planted in 1929.*

and website linking, will extend to all shire, city and town councils, botanical gardens, Greening Australia, and the National Trust of Australia," he said.

"The register is not only about big, big trees, it covers all the wonderful garden, pavement and park trees we have in our communities.

"The creation of this register started in May 2009. We need your help to populate the Register. Please tell all your friends about it."

A number of local trees have already been added to the register including a narrow-leaved ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) in Kerringle State Forest (block 47).

The tree's circumference is 4.23 metres (166 inches) and it is 26 metres (85 feet) high, with a 30-metres (98 feet) crown.

A cork tree sits in the grounds of St Mary's Anglican Church in the east-Melbourne suburb of Caulfield.

It is 106-years-old, 21 metres high and, according to the National Register of Big Trees, just big enough to beat Tenterfield's entrant

for the title of Australia's biggest cork tree.

The sign marking the famous cork tree on Wood Street, Tenterfield, says that the 149-year-old tree is believed to be Australia's largest, but it is a label that may now have to be shared with the Caulfield tree if measurements are correct, said Derek McIntosh.

Further information is available from Derek McIntosh, National Register of Big Trees, 32 Seaview Street, Balgowlah 2093. Phone 9948 0618, email [derek@nrbtrees.com.au](mailto:derek@nrbtrees.com.au)

 NORTH WEST  
**Magazine**

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The North West Magazine is published each Monday for distribution in 13 newspapers with a combined circulation of 44,160: Barraba Gazette, Bingara Advocate, Coonabarabran Times, Coonamble Times, Goondiwindi Argus, Gunnedah Independent, Manilla Express, Moree Champion, Mudgee Guardian, Narrabri Courier, Quirindi Advocate, Tamworth Times, Warralda Standard.

The North West Magazine welcomes contributed articles, photographs and story leads, especially on any issues which help promote the North West region. All letters to the editor must carry the writer's name and address.