

THE COURIER

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Stirling East Primary School acting principal Chris Bennie with students James Cartwright, left, Emma Branum and Lucy Corin at the huge oak tree in the school grounds which is believed to be the State's largest tree.

Mighty oak the top tree ... for now

By Caitlin Carey

The Stirling East Primary school is the home of the State's biggest tree.

The school has registered the massive oak within its grounds on the National Register of Big Trees and, according to the register's formula, it holds the top spot in SA.

The register determines how large a tree is on a points system where girth, height and crown are calculated.

Stirling East's oak has a

circumference of 4.41m, a height of 22.5m and a crown of 30m, making it the State's winner ... until a bigger one is registered.

The school's students measured the tree as a part of their mathematics studies.

Acting principal Chris Bennie said he was not sure of the tree's origin but was positive it has been around "longer than the school has been here".

"It's a central focus of the school – our school logo is the tree," he said.

"... Everyone comments on our oak

tree here as being big."

The list of big trees is constantly changing as more are nominated and measured, but Stirling East hopes to hold on to the honor for longer.

"It's such a focal point of the school, it's fantastic," Mr Bennie said.

"To have such a large tree that people talk about, the kids all talk about the tree and they play under it.

"... Obviously if someone has a bigger one then we'd love to hear about it but we're happy to have that title for a while."