

Huge tree register

Peter Bodkin

THEY surround us every day, but do you know which of your local trees qualify as national champions?

Balgowlah resident and tree-lover Derek McIntosh has started an online, national register of big trees to catalogue the largest and best of each species throughout the country.

Mr McIntosh said he was inspired to start the register after seeing a similar scheme in North America that enabled amateur botanists to compare trees of the same species according to a points-based formula that considered each tree's circumference, height and crown spread.

"It is just amazing, there you have all these people that travel around the country to see these big trees," he said.

"That is what drove me to start the register here.

"I now have more and more people contacting me out of the blue with their nominations."

Mr McIntosh said one beautiful local "champion" was a huge cheese tree in Seaforth, which was the largest nominated so far from any part of the state.

He said nominees could post details of their favoured trees to him and he would then add them to the register if they proved a noteworthy example of their species.

■ Visit the register at www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au.



Derek McIntosh and his son Andrew, pictured in Balgowlah, have started a national register of big trees.

Picture: SIMON CHILLINGWORTH -PP431451



LOCAL LEAFY CHAMPIONS

- Cook pine. White St, Balgowlah. Circumference around 3.7m and height approximately 30m
- Rough-barked apple. Seaview St, Balgowlah. Circumference 3.5m, height 17m
- Yellow bloodwood. Dobroyd Rd, Balgowlah Heights. Circumference 2m, height 15m
- Cheese tree. Burnt Bridge Creek Valley Park, Seaforth. Circumference 2.84m, height 14m