

# Arboreal wonder

staff  
writer

Craig Schneider



ON HIS TRAVELS around the country looking for arboreal giants to place on his national register, Derek McIntosh came upon one humongous Oak here in Armidale.

According to the National Register of Big Trees, the 26-metre Pin Oak is Australia's equal-largest specimen of its kind with another in Bowral, southern NSW.

Never satisfied that he has found the undisputed champion, the creator of the National Register always hopes that somebody somewhere will tell him of a larger specimen.

"That's the fun of it," Derek said. "There just might be one that's bigger somewhere."

The towering Oak near The

Armidale School accompanies three other grand species that extend their limbs over local educational establishments - as they say, healthy minds, healthy... trees?

Derek spotted the 26-metre marvel in its Kennedy St residence while in town enjoying a TAS rugby carnival, where his son competed for Sydney's King's School.

"I was standing on the side of the field watching my son play, and I looked across towards the Pin Oak and thought 'by... that's a big tree that is'," Derek said.

To determine the size of the tree relative to others of its kind, Derek measured its girth at the trunk, its height and the size of its leafy crown.

Residential owners, Guy and Catherine Eadie with their daughter Faith, were surprised and proud to hear the status of their beautiful Oak.

It must be a fertile area of Armidale: according to the National Register, the TAS grounds hold Australia's equal-largest Claret Ash at 21 metres tall



**Faith Eadie , dwarfed by the Oak in her Kennedy St home**

and NSW's largest English Elm at 26 metres. Last year Derek measured the largest known White Gum in NSW at 25 metres tall on the UNE ring road.

To see the National Register or to nominate an arboreal wonder, visit [www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au](http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au).