

Looking up to the giants

By **Roderick Shaw**

WALLACIA officially boasts two of Australia's largest trees.

One Broad-leaved Apple tree, or *Angophora subvelutina* and one Grey Box, or *Eucalyptus molucanna*, stand on the course of Wallacia Golf Club.

The Broad-leaved stands 36 metres tall and has a 6.2 metre circumference and a crown, or roots, spread of 22 metres.

The Grey Box is 21 metres high and has a 4.78 circumference and a 25 metre crown spread.

They were nominated by Roy Clifford.

The Australian National Register of Big Trees lists them both as Champion Trees, until and unless larger ones of their species are found elsewhere in Australia.

The register's organiser, Derek McIntosh, said he has been interested in trees for many years.

"Since I was a kid I've been interested in bird-watching; I then noticed the trees and my interest in them grew," he said.

"I'd wonder what sort of tree it was and what the bigger ones were."

Mr McIntosh lived in the United States for several years and noticed that the country had a national tree register.

"I decided to do the same for Australia two years ago," he said.

"It's a way of sharing knowledge about trees with people who are interested in them."

He has travelled around Australia, visiting everywhere except the Northern Territory.

Mr McIntosh said he liked to judge the trees himself, to see if they were worthy of being called champions.

"The website is widely read and I always get people responding," he said.

"These trees in Wallacia will be the champions, until another one is nominated."

■ Details: nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au



High rise: Derek McIntosh's Laser measures the height of a Broad-leaved Apple tree, nominated as one of two largest of the species, on the course at Wallacia Golf Club.

Picture: Gary Warrick