

COWRA CHIROPRACTIC GROUP

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Elders

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INSIDE	 <p>Power increase expected ■ See page 3</p>	 <p>WIN a Gold Coast Holiday ■ See page 13</p>	 <p>Weather</p> <p>Wednesday May 9 Areas of fog early in the morning. Sunny day. Light winds. Overnight temperatures falling to between 5 and 8 with daytime temperatures reaching the low to mid 20s.</p>
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Land of the giants



Derek McIntosh and Cowra Council construction engineer Kris Beaumont measure the fuzzy box tree on Grenfell Rd, which could be the largest of its kind in the country.

Cowra trees among the biggest in Australia

A fuzzy box tree on Grenfell Rd may attract little notice from most but enthusiast Derek McIntosh says it may be the largest of its kind in Australia after travelling the country to find its biggest trees.

Mr McIntosh has visited every Australian state to compile the online National Register of Big Trees over three years, and says two of Cowra's may storm onto the list after he discovered them while visiting the town last week.

Cowra Council's construction engineer Kris Beaumont directed him to the fuzzy box tree on Grenfell Rd near Hartley St, which he suspects could be the largest of its kind in Australia.

"That's a hell of a tree for that type of tree ... My guess is this tree is over 150 years old," he said.

While usually found in dry country, the tree's proximity to the West Cowra Drainage Channel and a stormwater outlet may have helped it reach its current 24m high stature.

"Everything points to why this is likely to remain [the largest of its kind recorded]. Most of them are found in hostile country."

Cowra Japanese Garden's central white box tree is striking to visitors upon entry but Mr McIntosh discovered that at 19m high and 3.44m in circumference it could be one of the country's largest.

"It's certainly likely to be the biggest one in NSW, that I would put some money on," he said.

"I instantly spotted it because ... it's big and it's stunning."

In compiling the register Mr McIntosh examines large specimens of each species and uses a measurement system accounting for trees' height, circumference and crown spread to find if they are the largest of their type in Australia.

The largest recorded in Australia include an 81m high Mountain Ash in Geeveston, Tasmania, and a 65m high Messmate Stringybark in Cradle Mountain, Tasmania.

Both Cowra trees will be put on a 'new nominations' list on the National Register of Big Trees website <http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au/>



Derek McIntosh measures the white box tree in the Japanese Garden.



The fuzzy box tree on Grenfell Rd near Hartley St.