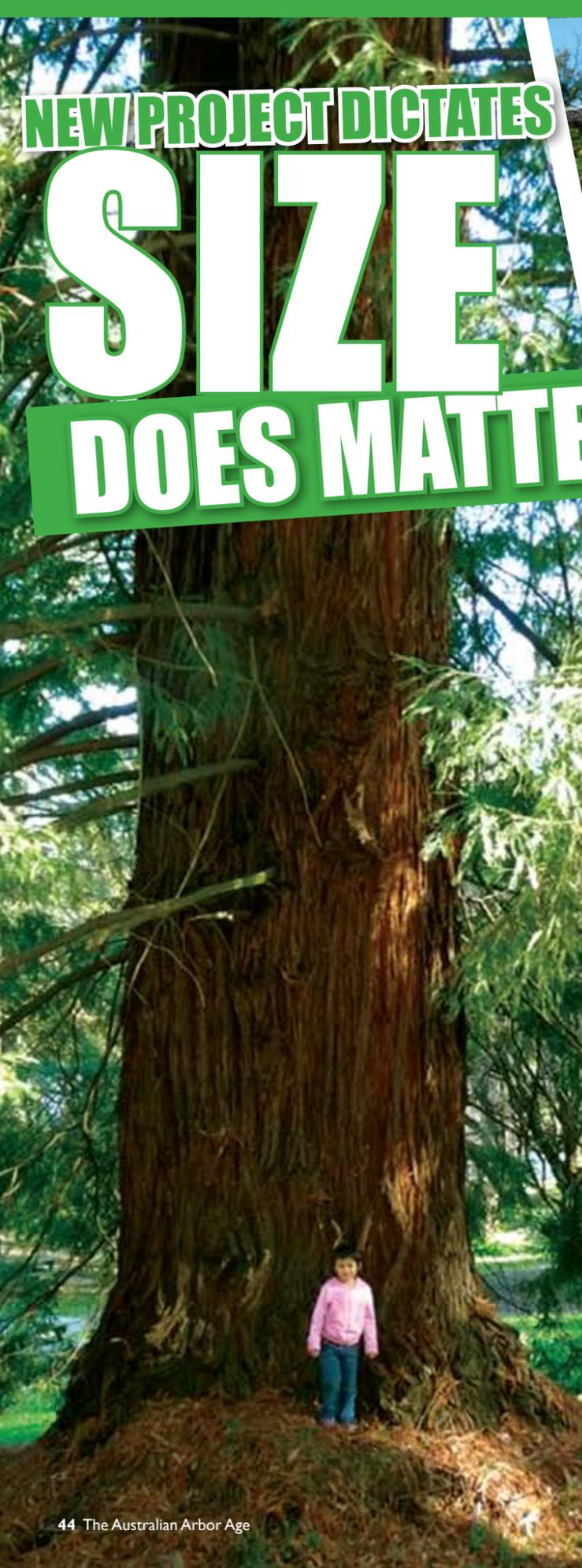


NEW PROJECT DICTATES SIZE DOES MATTER



After years looking at trees and claiming "That's the biggest tree I've ever seen!" Derek McIntosh thought to himself, "How do I know that's the biggest tree I have seen? How do I know it's bigger than the one I saw last year or the one my mate claims he saw the other week?" To measure and keep a record of these so-called 'big' trees, Derek decided to start a National Registry of Big Trees – similar to the US version which has been in operation for more than 70 years with 730 trees listed.

Derek McIntosh is determined to find the champion tree of every species via the help of the Australian public who can nominate their own 'big' tree.

So what constitutes a 'big' tree? Should it be determined by its circumference, height, or spread? Can a formula containing all these components be created – therefore establishing where the biggest tree of each species is located in Australia?

Calling on the expertise and assistance of the American Forests, Derek adopted the formula American Forests developed which scores trees on the basis of the following formula:

$$\text{Trunk Circumference (inches)} + \text{Height (feet)} + \frac{1}{4} \text{ of Average Crown Spread (feet)}$$

The benefits of utilising a comparable formula for the Australian registry include:

- Australians can view the American Forests Register of Big Trees and be able to compare Australian champions with theirs and vice versa.
- It will ensure the register is interesting and relevant for visiting American tree enthusiasts – it could also encourage a significant number of visitors to Australia who might not normally do so.
- For Australian tree enthusiasts visiting the USA, the reciprocal benefits apply.



There are tens of thousands of enthusiastic tree lovers in the USA that find and measure 'big' trees. Being the nominator of the champion tree of a species in the USA is great honour, and it will be the same in Australia.

In May Derek introduced the National Register of Big Trees website - www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au – with more than 210 trees already listed. Most of these are ones Derek has sought out and measured himself – though he admits he needs help if the registry is going to be successful and valuable.

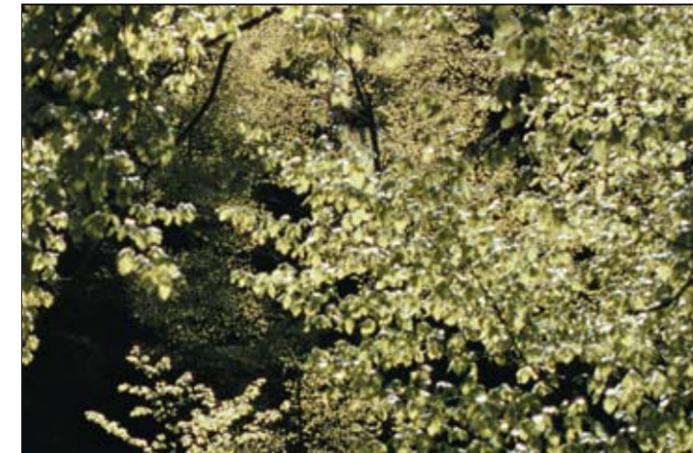
The register will record the national champion, state champion, and regional champion within each state in both metric and imperial measurements. Trees can be added on a daily basis and tree lovers and supporters are invited to witness and be part of the process. A key element of the tree data is to include a photo and interesting facts about the tree. Derek always tries to put the tree in perspective by having a person stand next to the tree.

The register is constantly changing as people take a good look at trees in their backyards, on pavements, in community parks, and explore wilderness areas. [AA](#)



SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS - SEE THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS.

Derek is 68-years-old, married with four children. He was born in South Africa, and has been a lover of trees since his teenage years. In 1981 he immigrated to Australia. He recently retired and is now fulfilling his dream of creating the National Register of Big Trees for Australia. His background is real estate development, and this has given him the business training necessary for managing a project of this nature. He has a supportive group of tree experts that he calls on for tree identification.



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