

Pyalong tree makes a mark

A MAGNIFICENT Yellow Box tree in Pyalong is a close second to the biggest of its kind in Victoria on the National Register of Big Trees.

The 250 year old tree on Racecourse Road weighs in with a circumference of 6.33 metres (249 inches), height of 25 metres (82 feet) and crown of 36 metres (118 feet).

"I spent two days in and around the Kilmore area looking for big trees recently," register coordinator Derek McIntosh said.

"The Victorian champion is up in Upper Lurg, but the Pyalong tree is a very close second."

The National Register of Big Trees is an integrated list of Australian native trees, and naturalised exotic/alien trees. It is constantly changing as people nominate trees they have found.

The national register began in May 2009 and currently has more than 730 trees listed.

The height, circum-

ference and crown spread are measured, and the resultant formula creates a points system of the whole tree for comparison with others.

The Pyalong Yellow Box rivals another Yellow Box in Upper Lurg that measures 5.90 metres (232 inches), height of 33 metres (108 feet) and crown of 29 metres (95 feet).

The Pyalong tree was nominated for the register by local Andrew Ryan.

Mr McIntosh said the register welcomes tips from people about large trees in their area.

"You don't have to be an expert on trees to nominate a tree for the register," he said.

Some of the trees in the local district that could top the register include Red Box, White Box, Long-leaved Peppermint and Yellow Box.

For details about the register visit the website www.national-registerofbigtrees.com.au.



Big impression: Pyalong resident Andrew Ryan measures the Yellow Box for the National Register of Big Trees.

Call of nature

THE Australian Wildlife Sound Recording Group is holding a beginners workshop in Broadford on Saturday September 5, and Sunday, September 6 from 9.30am.

The AWSRG is an enthusiastic group of people of all ages who are passionate about the bush and enjoy recording wildlife sounds including frogs, birds and insects.

Some members listen to their calls for pleasure, while others use them for biological research.

Those involved in the workshop can experience the use of various microphones and digital sound recorders and talks about how to get up close and personal to wildlife.

Andrew Skeoch will also present a talk on listening to the wild on Friday, September 4, at Gavan Hall in Broadford, at 7.30pm.

For more information on the site location, workshop or presentation, contact Bob Tomkins on 5784 2041 or Andrew Skeoch on 0419 091 979.