

WIMMERA MAIL

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Gramps gums in the record books

HALLS Gap can now lay claim to the biggest recorded river redgum in Victoria.

The tree features on the National Register of Big Trees after being discovered last month.

Register creator and co-ordinator Derek McIntosh said he was delighted with the find.

"It's the biggest river redgum in Victoria to my knowledge," he said.

"It's a terrific looking tree."

All trees listed on the register are rated on a points system which factors in circumference, height and crown spread measurement.

The Halls Gap tree is at Halls Gap Log Cabins and measures 9.96 metres in circumference and 35 metres in height.

Its crown measures 25 metres, giving it a combined total of 527 points.

During his visit to Halls Gap, Mr McIntosh also added a large manna gum to the register.

The tree, also known as a ribbon gum, is on Mt Zero Road.

It measured 7.90 metres in girth, 40 metres in height and 23 metres across the crown to received a score of 461.

"They were two stunning trees. Some trees are very big at the base but are lacking in height," Mr McIntosh said.

"This register takes into account circumference, height and crown spread.

"We are trying to find the national champions in every species so we are comparing apples with apples and mangos with mangos."

Mr McIntosh established the National Register for Big Trees last year.

It includes an integrated list of Australian native and exotic species.

The register list is constantly changing as new trees are discovered by Mr McIntosh or nominated by others.

Each tree is photographed with a person in the picture to provide a demonstration of scale.

While Mr McIntosh has no specific botanical knowledge, he has taken an interest in trees since his teenage years.

He also has access to a team of experts who can advise on the botanical aspects of the nominated species.

Mr McIntosh said the public could nominate candidates for the National Register of Big Trees by visiting www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au and clicking on 'tree nomination'.

Stawell Times-News



THAT'S MASSIVE: Andrew McIntosh has his picture taken in front of the giant redgum at Halls Gap. Picture: CONTRIBUTED