

NEARLY A WEEPING END
TO A WEEPING MYALL TREE RECORD

I returned Sunday from a trip to Queensland to find the champions of the smaller outback trees. The quest included areas in northern N.S.W. along my route north.

As the countryside is so, so big I need key people in various communities to help find trees. This was achieved, and I was able to find four champ trees that will also result in good stories in the local newspapers.

I covered 3200kms in the week. One beautiful tree I want on the Register is a Weeping Myall. There are thousands of these trees, along the roadways, a good starting point, but are generally not very big. After 2800 kms I finally found a tree worth measuring north of the town of Moree. The temperature was 41 degrees.



I had a walk around the tree to make an assessment, cleared any scrub or branches to make it easy to measure the trunk and make a good photo. Pulled one piece of bark off the tree, and was set to go. I took a photo and then measured the height and crown spread. The circumference was next. I was about to hook the start of the tape into the bark and walk around the tree to measure it. Within a split second I was standing many metres back and had instantly decided that it was one measurement I was never going to make. Just waiting for me to move in was this brown snake! It is one of the most poisonous in the country.



It must have been in a very agitated and aggressive mood considering my movements around the tree, and the removal of the bark to expose its hiding place. Can you imagine its actions as I wound the tape around the tree and his hiding place – I would have been fatally bitten.

I was 80kms from the nearest hospital and would have had a headstone epitaph of:

RIP Register Man

15th January, 2017

The photo was taken on full zoom!

Derek McIntosh

1. Eastern brown snake

(Pseudonaja textilis)



Also known as: common brown snake

Found: throughout the eastern half of mainland Australia

Fast-moving, aggressive and known for their bad temper, eastern brown snakes, together with other browns are responsible for more deaths every year in Australia than any other group of snakes. Not only is their venom ranked as the second most toxic of any land snake in the world (based on tests on mice), they thrive in populated areas, particularly on farms in rural areas with mice.

If disturbed, the eastern brown raises its body off the ground, winding into an 'S' shape, mouth gaping open and ready to strike. Its venom causes progressive paralysis and stops the blood from clotting, which may take many doses of antivenom to reverse. Victims may collapse within a few minutes.