

NEWS



Springhill resident, Ronda Hall with a nationally recognised Swamp Gum on her property.

'Monster' tree

A tree at a privately owned Springhill property was recently nationally recognised for its size.

A Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*) at the Springhill Road property of Peter and Ronda Hall was added to the National Register of Big Trees earlier this month.

The register's co-ordinator said it is the largest Swamp Gum he has ever seen.

"I've only got one that I've recorded in my register because I've seen a lot, and none of them have quite cut it. They've got to be at least five metres in circumference (to make the register), this one is 5.5," National Register of Big Trees coordinator, Derek McIntosh said.

"I've had no one come in with a swamp

gum even remotely at this size. It's one of the biggest in Australia.

"That's basically a real champion of its species - it is a monster Swamp Gum."

The tree has a circumference of 5.5 metres, is 27 metres high and has a crown measuring 25 metres.

The National Register of Big Trees assesses tree based on a universal points system.

A tree's points are calculated by adding the trunk circumference (inches) with the tree height (feet, plus a quarter of the average crown spread (feet).

This Swamp Gum is 325 points.

Property owners, Peter and Ronda Hall have owned the property since 1994.

Peter said he thinks the tree might be about 100 years old.

The couple are Trentham Landcare members and said they simply found the tree's size interesting.

Peter said experts have previously noted it for its exceptional size and fellow landcare members have admired and appreciated it.

"We knew it was an exceptionally large swamp, and for the time being we can say we've got the biggest one in Australia (registered)," Peter said.

Peter and Ronda are looking to nominate another tree shortly, a *Banksia Marginata* at Springhill Cemetery which Peter said is regarded as exceptionally big for its species.

If you would like to view the register, or nominate a tree for registration, visit www.nationalregisterofbig-trees.com.au



Daisy with handler, Julie Yeend (left) Daisy struts her stuff (right). Picture: Chris Fleming.

Young pup struts her stuff

Four month old toy poodle, Daisy is making a great impact in the show ring after just three shows.

Last Tuesday she won best puppy on the day at the Royal Melbourne Show and advanced to the final of seven on Saturday where she was up against the winners from six other days heading into the final.

Known as 'Crazy Daisy' for speeding around the house and backyard while chewing on the ears of other dogs, she shows under handler,



Julie Yeend who is a member of the Sunbury Canine Club.

The club will hold its annual Melbourne Cup day Show on Tuesday, November 9 at the Clarke Oval in Sunbury which is one of the biggest dog shows in the Southern Hemisphere, with thousands attending from all over the country and featuring leading judges from overseas.

Entries are still open and can be done through the Victoria Canine Association.