



PROJECTS

Seeing the trees for the woods

Taking stock of what we have, a tree enthusiast in Sydney is trying to get an Australian register of big trees up and running.

We may not agree with arguments made by extremists at either end of the spectrum regarding conservation, but I guess that most of us are thankful for the stand taken to retain things that our generation and future generations can admire. Special trees are certainly among them. There is something awesome and spectacular about trees that have lived for numerous human generations, trees that have provided food and shelter and places to play for decades or even centuries.

TREES REGISTER

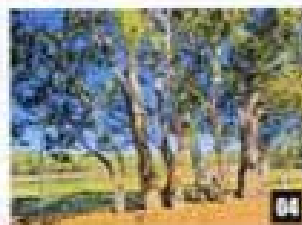
Around Australia there are big trees of many species – spectacular plants that we may all admire if we know where they are and how to access them. The National Register of Big Trees (NRBT) is seeking the help of anyone to identify big trees to be placed on a national register.

Already some big trees will come to mind, I'm sure: the giant curtain fig trees of the Qld coast, the Ada Tree in the Dandenong Ranges, the big historic tree in Swan Hill, the boabs near Derby. Some of these trees are not only big but also historic. Think of the failed date palms plantation near Lake Harry in SA, the battered grevillea beside Poole's grave at Milparinka, the Dig Tree of Burke and Wills fame: these all have significance of some sort.

The register will feature close cooperation with, and website-linking to, all shire, city and town councils, Greening Australia, botanical gardens and the National Trust of Australia, so as it grows it will become a truly national asset.

HOW TO HELP

If you have suggestions concerning trees worthy of being added to the NRBT, send as much information as you can – plus a good photo if possible – to NRBT,



1. The famous Burke and Wills "Dig Tree" in Qld near the SA border. 2. Look at the size of the butt of these magnificent old redgums in the Barmah Forest, NSW. 3. At one time this giant boab tree near Derby, WA, was used as a temporary prison. 4. A corroboree was held here when white men met Aborigines for the first time at what is now the town of Nhill, Vic.

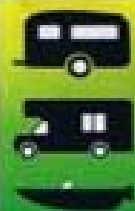
32 Seaview Street, Balgowlah, NSW 2093, or by email to the coordinator of the NRBT, Derek McIntosh, at derek@nrbtrees.com.au

To assist with assessments of trees submitted for consideration, the NRBT needs to know some measurements to help determine the more noteworthy trees. The NRBT uses the American Forests tree-size formula, which consists

of trunk circumference at breast height (in inches) plus height (in feet) plus one-quarter of the average crown spread (in feet).

There's more information about this and the NRBT in general on its website, www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au

It would be great to have the widely-travelled readership of CW contributing to this worthwhile activity. ☺



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