



Our giant tree

White box listed on national register

By Angela Townsend

The Benalla district has a white box eucalyptus that has been listed on the National Register of Big Trees.

The tree, situated in Kennedy Lane near the Kilfeera Rd corner, was spotted by local farmer and Landcare supporter Dick Barber who contacted the register.

Mr Barber said he is passionate about trees and while he doesn't label himself an "expert", knows a bit about them.

He contacted Derek McIntosh, the National Register of Big Trees coordinator, after hearing him speak on ABC Wodonga two years ago about the register.

"I called and left my contact details so he eventually rang me and said he was in the area and he would like to see the tree," Mr Barber said.

"I go past (the tree) frequently and noticed how big it was. They're not a giant tree — there are older trees (than this one) that are smaller.

"There's an underground stream which has made this a vigorously growing tree."

Mr Barber said he has been told the area was once a big white box forest, most of which was cut down and sent to Melbourne.

The Landcare member admits to being "a bit of a greenie", but says he is not over the top about it.

"Most farmers try to make things better," he said.

Mr McIntosh started the Australian National Register

FAST FACTS

Common name:

box — white;

Scientific name:

Eucalyptus albens;

Circumference:

4.80 metres (188 inches);

Height: 25 metres (82 feet);

Crown: 25 metres (82 feet).

ter of Big Trees in 2009 after discovering a similar register in the United States which utilised a points system for tree height, circumference and crown size.

"Seeing the holistic way we look at a tree was a Eureka moment for me," Mr McIntosh said.

Originally from South Africa, Mr McIntosh has travelled extensively, settling in Australia in 1981.

"I've always had a great interest in trees — as a kid I was always looking and wondering, 'which tree's bigger?'," he said.

■ **The Australian National Register of Big Trees has about 520 trees listed and can be viewed online at www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au/listing_view.php?listing_id=698**

Notable tree: Kennedy Lane resident Dick Barber measures the largest white box eucalyptus yet listed on the Australian National Register of Big Trees, situated just down the road from his home.

Picture: Derek McIntosh.



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