

Is there a green giant in your backyard?

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Derek McIntosh admires Gordon's lemon scented gum.

IS THE biggest banksia in Australia in your backyard? How about a giant jacaranda, or a massive mulberry?

Here's your chance to give your favourite big tree the recognition it deserves, and win yourself a ``Champion Nominator'' crown.

The online National Register of Big Trees was set up four months ago by tree-lover Derek McIntosh as a tribute to some of the biggest living things on the planet.

But it's not just about size, beauty or even conservation: Mr McIntosh says the Big Tree Register is about having fun.

"This is something I've wanted to do all my life," the tree buff said.

"Putting the website together has been a labour of love. And now it's starting to grow with people getting involved and getting excited about the idea. People always wonder about which is the biggest tree. But it's not meant to be a scientific site, it's meant to be fun."

To kick things off Mr McIntosh took a four-week tree-measuring trip in Queensland, the north of NSW and Sydney's suburbs. "I measured 100 trees," the retiree said. "But I still want more."

And Mr McIntosh doesn't just want prodigious indigenous species, he's interested in outsize aliens as well.

He's particularly eager to find the biggest banksia, apple, palm tree, mango, jacaranda or mulberry, and reckons North Shore backyards with their "amazing soil" are in with a good chance.

But his Sydney favourite is Gordon's huge lemon scented gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*). It is 26m high with a crown (spread) of 30m and a trunk that is a massive 6.6m around.

"When I first came to Sydney I had a cousin who lived nearby and I always used to see that tree," Mr McIntosh said. "It's just so big and commanding and when you stand there and look up into it, it just makes you feel humble. When I see it I always put my hand on its trunk to connect with it and share some of its strength."

Find out how to measure your Big Tree contender and check out the competition at [the National Register of Big Trees](#)

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