

COOMA-MONARO Express

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THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

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Paige Taylor a long
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Local trees show size does matter

By KIRRILY CARBERRY

GOULBURN has the big merino, Coffs Harbour the big banana and Adaminaby the big trout. Now Cooma is staking its claims on big things - at least in the natural world - with one of the biggest elm trees in NSW.

Measuring 28 metres high, with a circumference of 4.96 metres and a crown spread of 20 metres, the English elm on Bombala Street in front of the Woolworths Caltex petrol station is the equal biggest tree of its kind in the state.

The tree now finds itself on the National Register of Big Trees with some 550 of the biggest trees in Australia.

Register coordinator Derek McIntosh travelled to Cooma on Tuesday and Wednesday to see what big trees the town had to offer - he wasn't disappointed.

He not only measured one of the biggest English elms in NSW, equal with one in Orange, he also discovered the biggest cottonwood poplar in Southern NSW. Amongst a number of big trees in Centennial Park one cottonwood poplar in particular stood out measuring 27 metres high, 4.22 metres in circumference and with a 35 metre crown.

How big, how old

According to tree expert Derek McIntosh there is an interesting gender-based curiosity to news of his tree research. Women, generally, want to know how old the trees are.

Men, on the other hand, ask how big they are.

Mr McIntosh started the register three years ago out of a love for big trees. Self funded, he now travels around Australia following up on nominations for big trees from members of the public.

Cooma-Monaro Shire Council's recreation and property technical officer Jane Kanowski told Mr McIntosh where she thought the biggest trees in Cooma were and he went out to investigate.

The Caldwell family of Smith Street nominated the manna or ribbon gum at their home which measured 26 metres high, 4.53 metres in circumference and a 22 metre crown.

A stone pine on Lambie Street which measured 13.6 metres high, 4.11 metres in circumference and has a crown of 23 metres also made the register as did a Lombardy poplar on Vulcan Street.

If you think you know of a big tree you can nominate it at www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au



National Register of Big Trees coordinator Derek McIntosh sizes up the big cottonwood poplar in Centennial Park. It is the biggest measured in Southern NSW.



Daylight saving ends

Daylight saving ends in NSW this Sunday, April 1st at 3am when clocks should be turned back one hour.

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