

# Big tree fan branches out

By ANTONY DUBBER

YOU may have climbed one when you were a kid and savoured the magnificent view when you reached the top, or just felt a sense of achievement at having tamed 'the beast.'

The humble tree has become a labour of love for Sydney man Derek McIntosh.

In fact his love of trees has become a full grown obsession, so much so that he has set up a website dedicated to the hobby.

Called the National Register of Big Trees, Mr McIntosh has records of the biggest trees in every state of Australia as well as countries such as the U.S, U.K, and Europe.

"The root cause of my interest in trees was my father's love of the trees when I was a sapling in South Africa, and I have retained this love and enjoyment of trees," Mr McIntosh said.

"It took me a few years to wake up to the fact that with the Internet, a small-time operator like me and many others could do amazing projects that you can share with thousands at no real cost. I established the register in May 2009, initially with only 18 trees in the Botanic Gardens in Sydney. There are now more than 703 trees recorded on the Register now."

Mr McIntosh said that a very common tree around the Goulburn and Southern Highlands areas is the Argyle Apple or its Latin name *Eucalyptus cinerea*.

"Due to the beautiful foliage, in the USA it is often called the 'Florist Gum', because it is so widely used," he said.

"I would love to find the National Champion. There are always amazing trees tucked away on farming properties and local backyards that people may not realise are right there in front of them."

Mr McIntosh said the largest tree in the Southern Tablelands is a Scribbly Gum, located near Marulan.



**BIG FELLA:** Sydney tree enthusiast Derek McIntosh measuring the circumference of a large Scribbly Gum located at Marulan, which is believed to be the biggest tree in the Southern Tablelands area, with a circumference of 5.6 metres, a height of 21 metres and a crown (branches, leaves and reproductive structures extending outwards from the main trunk) of 27 metres.

"In fact this tree is Joint National Champion with another Scribbly Gum located at Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains," Mr McIntosh said.

"This particular one though has a circumference of 5.62 metres, a height of 21 metres and a crown (the branches, leaves and reproductive structures which extend outwards from the main trunk) of 27 metres."

Mr McIntosh measures each large tree with a points system, and so the Marulan Scribbly Gum scores 312 points.

"If trees have a score within 5 per cent of each other, they are considered Joint Champs," Mr McIntosh said.

"Determining age of mature native forest trees like this is very difficult, but this one at Marulan has to be over 200 years old, and my guess is it's roughly around 250 years old."

To find out more about the National Register of Big Trees, you can contact Derek McIntosh on 9948 0618, email him at [Derek@nrbtrees.com.au](mailto:Derek@nrbtrees.com.au), or visit [www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au](http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au).

## Service NSW here soon

GOULBURN has been earmarked as part of the next batch of locations set to open a Service NSW centre.

As such, The City's motor registry and a number of other key services will be restructured and brought under the same roof - to provide more than 800 Government transaction services.

"Service NSW helps cut red tape, provides faster service and delivers more convenience to customers," a spokesperson for Service NSW said.

"We are delivering more than 800 transactions including driver licences, Fair Trading permits, fine payments, Seniors Cards, birth certificate applications and more from the one-stop shop

service. More services will be added over time.

"Planning is now underway to finalise an appropriate location for the new service centre in Goulburn with plans to open by midyear."

The Goulburn Service NSW will have extended trading hours Monday to Friday (8:30am to 5:30pm and 8:30am to 12pm on Saturdays) and will give customers the opportunity to "make appointments and conduct multiple government transactions" in the same place.

The streamlined service model claims to cut back waiting times, including that of driving tests.