

Bright tree nation's biggest

By JUSTIN JENVEY

BRIGHT can claim to be home to the biggest pin oak in Australia.

In fact the area has no less than four that top their species list on the national register.

But the pin oak next to the rock wall at the entrance gates to Centenary Park was recently named the national champion.

The National Register for Big Trees records the biggest of every species in the country and lists more than 720 trees.

The tree was nominated by Alan Deumer of Harcourt who is making a name for himself and Bright in the hunt for monster trees.

He has 14 others on the register from around Victoria including another three around Bright.

"I was up there on holidays in January and was eyeing off a big pin oak outside the Riverdeck but I decided the tree at the entry to Centenary Park was bigger," Mr Deumer said.

"I reckon they were very similar in size but that one I went with has a lot bigger spread of branches and looked taller as well."

Mr Deumer said the height, circumference and crown spread of a tree are all measured and the resultant formula creates a points system of the whole tree for comparison with others.

He measured the pin oak's circumference at 3.75 metres, its height at 27 metres and crown 33 metres.

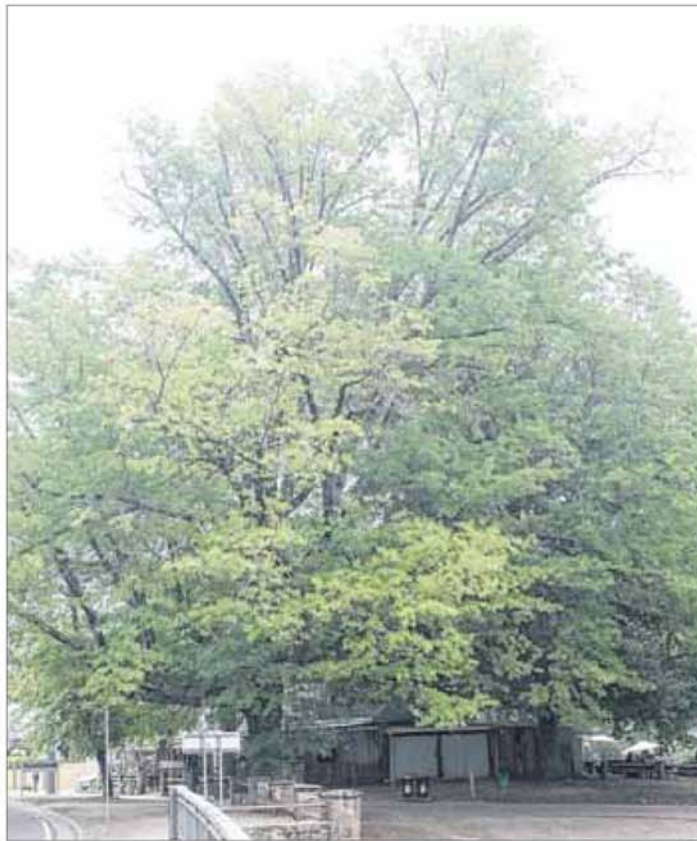
"It was the first pin oak I have nominated, there is an English ash tree near the Bright Hospital that I nominated a couple of years ago that is still on the register as the national champion," Mr Deumer said.

"I also nominated a (redwood) giant sequoia at Wandiligong and it's the national champion and also a big English elm tree at the Wandiligong Maze I think is still on the register.

"I have been coming to Bright since I was a child and there is certainly some lovely old trees around the area."

The apple and pear farmer is also eyeing off another potential champion tree the next time he visits.

"There is a big elm tree at Porepun kah not far from the big roundabout but I haven't had a chance to measure that one yet."



KING PIN: The pin oak tree at Bright's Centenary Park is officially Australia's biggest.



THE EAGLE HAS LANDED: Early dismissal at the end of term saw crowds of primary school children trying out the new play sculpture on the corner of Hollonds and Park Streets in Mt Beauty. The sculpture, in the shape of a giant wedge-tailed eagle, has been installed as part of the Alpine Shire Council's Progressing Place Project. Yackandandah sculptor Xavier Pinard of Steady Chameleon made sure that the sculpture was ready to greet the influx of visitors which hits the Upper Kiewa over the Easter break. Enjoying their first go of the sculpture are Max Ranton, Emma Edwards, Daniel Bell, Hannah Edwards, Nina Keogh, Saskia Mero, Charlotte Bell and Amali Keogh.