



TALL ORDER: Sydney man Derek McIntosh surveys a Bismarck palm, which at 15.8m is the biggest recorded in Australia. Mr McIntosh is the creator and curator of the National Register of Big Trees and is in Cairns to update his listings.

Picture: BRENDAN RADKE

Derek branches out to find best tree

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IF YOU'RE looking for the crowning natural glory of the Far North, one man is sure you won't find it in the sea.

Derek McIntosh has returned to Cairns to track down the biggest trees in Australia.

The Sydney-based dendrologist is the curator of the National Register of Big Trees, collating a database of the largest trees of each species, including native, naturalised and exotic vegetation.

There are 17 trees within the

ARBOREAL TREASURES

- Bismarck palm, Spence St/ Severin St roundabout, Cairns (15m tall)
 - Damson plum, Walsh St, Edge Hill (25m)
 - Blue quandong, Walsh St, Edge Hill (34m)
 - Rain tree, McCormack St, Edge Hill (22m)
 - Teak, Cairns Botanic Gardens, Edge Hill (20m)
 - Cadagi, Douglas Track Rd, Caravonica (28m)
 - Red penda, Kuranda (45m)
 - Paperbark broad-leaved, Williams Esplanade, Palm Cove (28m)
 - Kauri pine, Twin Kauris Walk, Lake Barrine (44m)
- More listings and information at nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au

Far North which Mr McIntosh has classified as "champions" of their species, including a

newly crowned titanic 28m-high beauty leaf at Coconut Beach in the Daintree.

Mr McIntosh was elated to find an earlier champion, a 10.5m Bismarck palm on the Spence St/Severin St roundabout, had grown more than 5m since his last visit to Cairns seven years ago.

"You would expect that in this sort of climate, with the right sort of tree," he said.

"But Cairns, the garden city, really looks after its community trees. That is a really big factor."

Trees are assessed by their circumference, height and crown spread, and the database is constantly changing.