



The Murray pine tree located at Yamba is approximately 400 years old.

Australian champion's local roots

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YAMBA is the new crown jewel for tree lovers in Australia, now boasting the national champion according to the National Register of Big Trees.

Over 700 trees are recorded in the Register from across the country, with the current Murray pine champion located at Yamba along the Sturt Highway.

The tree measures 2.64m in circumference, 14m in height and 17m in its crown.

Co-ordinator of the National Register of Big Trees, Derek McIntosh, believes

the tree is one of a kind.

"The Murray pine tree is exceptional. This entry into the register was well received and is estimated to be approximately 400 years old," he said.

"The title of national champion is not solely based on which tree is the largest. Many trees may be greater in height, for example, but may not be as large in terms of circumference or crown.

"That's what makes the Yamba tree so special. It's the champion because it has the largest combined circumference,

height and crown in its species."

Professional forester Ian Bevege nominated the tree for the register and said it is in surprisingly good health.

"The tree is located along the highway and we're very lucky it never got chopped down," he said.

"I have driven past and stopped many times to measure it and estimate the age.

"The term of 'national champion' is quite poetic, but I am sure somewhere there is an even bigger Murray pine tree just waiting to be discovered."