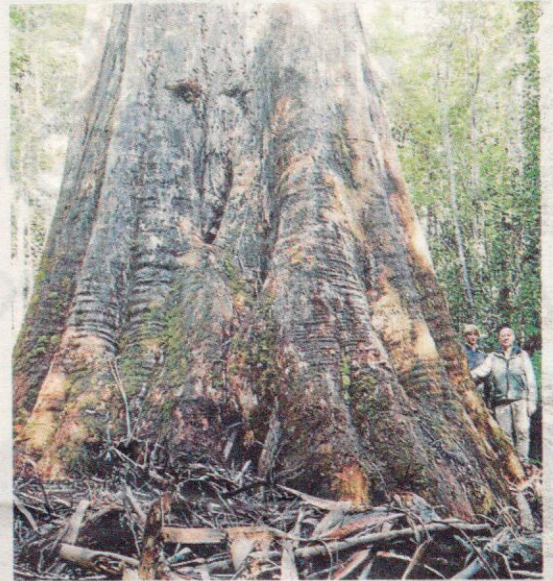


TIM THE YOWIE MAN



38 – PANORAMA – THE CANBERRA TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014



Derek McIntosh and his son, Andrew, beside Australia's tallest tree.

Photo: nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au

MAILBAG

Kermandie Queen

Charlene Reynolds recently stumbled upon this column's expose on the "Kermandie Queen", Australia's tallest tree, growing near Geeveston in southern Tasmania ("Timeless trees", May 17, 2013).

Charlene reports that reading the story reminded her of her dad, a former logging contractor in Tasmania, who had often told her about a giant tree he could not bring himself to cut down. "He used to tell a story that when about to chop it down, he thought 'no I think we will leave this one' and also made some sort of comment about hoping it would still be there in future years for his children to see."

On the off-chance the Kermandie Queen might have been the same tree her father saved so many years ago, after reading the article, Charlene promptly followed up with Geeveston foresters, who after some cross-referencing were able to confirm it was, in fact, the same tree.

"My dad apparently left many trees that he was supposed to have cut down ... he was a softy and just felt some trees were just too majestic to fall," explains Charlene, who reflects, "I'm so glad that he felt that way, for I can now tell my grandchildren stories about how their great-grandfather saved Australia's tallest tree."