

Register of big trees compiled online

TEAGAN MCMANUS

Geurie is currently home to Australia's largest Fuzzy Box tree, until a bigger one is found.

The National Register of Big Trees is a website which was created by tree enthusiast Derrick McIntosh in May last year.

Australia's largest trees of a particular species are recorded in this register which is an integrated list of Australian native and naturalised trees.

Points are awarded on the basis of a formula that includes girth, height, and crown spread.

"The list is constantly changing as people take a good look at trees in their backyards, on pavements, in community parks and explore wilderness areas," Mr McIntosh said.

The Fuzzy Box (scientific name *Eucalyptus Conica*) was nominated by Keith and Heidi Holmes and was measured last year with a circumference of 6.2

metres, 15.5 metres high with a 26 metre crown.

It is 300 years old.

The register works closely with all Federal and state forestry and environmental departments and related entities, such as National Parks, which have work towards the same objectives as the website.

"This close co-operation, and website linking, will extend to all shire, city and town councils, Botanical Gardens, Greening

Australia, and the National Trust of Australia," Mr McIntosh said.

"The Register is not only about big trees, it covers all the wonderful garden, pavement and park trees we have in our communities.

"It is also fun to get the kids involved and measure trees and it teaches them about measurement and nature."

Always having a 'thing' for trees, Mr McIntosh found the

internet was his best way of getting the word out about the register.

"I have always loved trees," he said.

"I am a keen bird watcher and I always wondered what's bigger. I have travelled a lot with this and I want to spread the word and encourage people to nominate trees."

To look at other big trees, or to nominate one, visit www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au