

Caulfield's giant cork pops up as biggest

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Victorian National Trust member Andrew Blackman believes this cork tree near St Mary's Anglican Church in Caulfield is the largest of its type in Australia. PIC: JASON SAMMON. N18CK305

A GIANT tree uncovered in Glen Eira is an absolute corker.

Tree experts believe the cork tree, measuring 22.5m high and 4.91m in circumference, is the biggest of its kind in Australia.

The 108-year-old *Quercus suber*, which stands at St Mary's Anglican Church in Glen Eira Rd, has been added to the National Register of Big Trees, which records native and exotic trees.

It was nominated by Williamstown resident Andrew Blackman, a member of Victorian National Trust's significant tree committee, who came across it while photographing trees to update the Trust's database.

"This tree is on the register as being significant because of its size and shape," Mr Blackman said.

"It's the biggest cork in Victoria that we know of ... it turns out to be the biggest in Australia now.

"It's a magnificent looking tree, it's in very good condition."

The cork narrowly beats its Tenterfield, NSW, counterpart previously thought to be Australia's largest.

The tree register was started last year.