

Ancient giant stands up to the wind

By GILLIAN LETT

THE recent windy weather has seen many trees left battered and branchless however one of Australia's biggest trees, located in Nowra, remains standing.

The Eucalyptus Pilularis, more commonly known as a blackbutt, has only recently been added to the National Register of Big Trees following its nomination by Nowra local Bill Hancock.

Located in the park near the corner of Shoalhaven and North streets, it scored 442 points on the national register of big trees.

Referring to the recent winds, Mr Hancock said that the tree had taken a beating but was still standing.

"There are a few leaves and branches around the bottom of it however it hasn't lost any of the big branches," he said.

The tree, estimated to be around 125 years old, stands 30 metres tall with a circumference of 7.8 metres and a crown of 45 metres.

The points allocated to a tree are based on the formula used by American Forests. Total points are the addition of the trunk circumference and height with a quarter of the average crown spread. All measurements are in inches and feet.

Named the Tree of Significance, the tree is also featured on the Nowra Historical Walk at number 37.

The Shoalhaven has had a recent increase in the recording of big trees after a Norfolk pine was identified in Gerringong as the largest in Australia with 402 points.

The Nowra tree joins another large blackbutt in Jervis Bay, which also made the register.

Register coordinator Derek McIntosh from the National



BOUGH WOW: Nowra's Tree of Significance, a 125-year-old blackbutt, has made a national register of big trees.

Register of Big Trees said the blackbutt was quite prevalent around the Shoalhaven.

"It is a very common tree as there are some great forests in that area," he said.

Mr McIntosh encourages anyone to nominate a tree if they think it might make the register. He is specifically looking for a coral tree and a red cedar, both common in the Shoalhaven, however admitted

to loving all trees.

"The internet has made it possible to share my love of trees with other people. You may even save a tree by publishing it and bringing it to people's attention," he said.