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McIntosh visits Giant Tree Arboretum

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BARTON Park Giant Trees Arboretum played host to a very welcome visitor — founder and coordinator of Australia's National Register of Big Trees Derek McIntosh.

The register, created in 2009, aims to list the greatest tree of each species in the country.

Along with government bodies and councils, members of the public can nominate trees for inclusion on the register.

Two of Lithgow grandest trees were nominated and measured by Derek, his son Andrew and members of the arboretum on the day.

The impressive deodar at Brown's Cemetery at Lithgow's west end and a nearby pine (thought to be a sugar pine) will be included on the web site nomination list while final identification and measurement is completed and may be listed as the biggest in the zone.

Derek also took samples of two of the oldest trees at the arboretum at Wallerawang for identification.

These beautiful specimens are thought to have been planted in the days of the Bartons 90 to 100 years ago.

Arboretum members look forward to a second visit by the register later in the year when several other Lithgow area trees will be nominated — notably the wonderful eucalypt at Glanmire Oval.

"We recommend that anyone interested in great trees, visit the site www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au.

"Here they can offer other trees for nomination or they can send nominations (tree species and location) to 58 Tank Street, Lithgow," president Bruce Ryan said.

"Having such an important visitor is a real plus for the arboretum.

"It shows that the hard work of our members is being recognised at a national level," he said.

The arboretum is due to open to the public in 2014-15 and is supported by Delta Electricity from who the land is leased.

