

Forest red gum makes it on big tree register



• Derek McIntosh... compiling a register of Australia's big trees.

Two trees in Dungog Shire have made it on the National Register of Big Trees.

The register is the brainchild of Derek McIntosh who established the website to record champion trees in NSW and Queensland.

On the website, the register will present the National Champion, the State Champion, and the Regional Champion (within New South Wales and Queensland).

The two trees in the Dungog Shire are located in Fosterton Road – a forest red gum and a broad leaved ironbark. They were discovered by Don Cruickshanks, of Greta.

Don grew up in the Singleton area and has family scattered throughout the district.

For many years Don has been interested in big trees and gone around all the Lower Hunter, and forest areas near Dungog, Gloucester and Wauchope, finding and measuring the girths of these trees.

He has become the register's most enthusiastic contributor in NSW.

"I was amazed at his knowledge of where so many big trees are in this area, Mr McIntosh said.

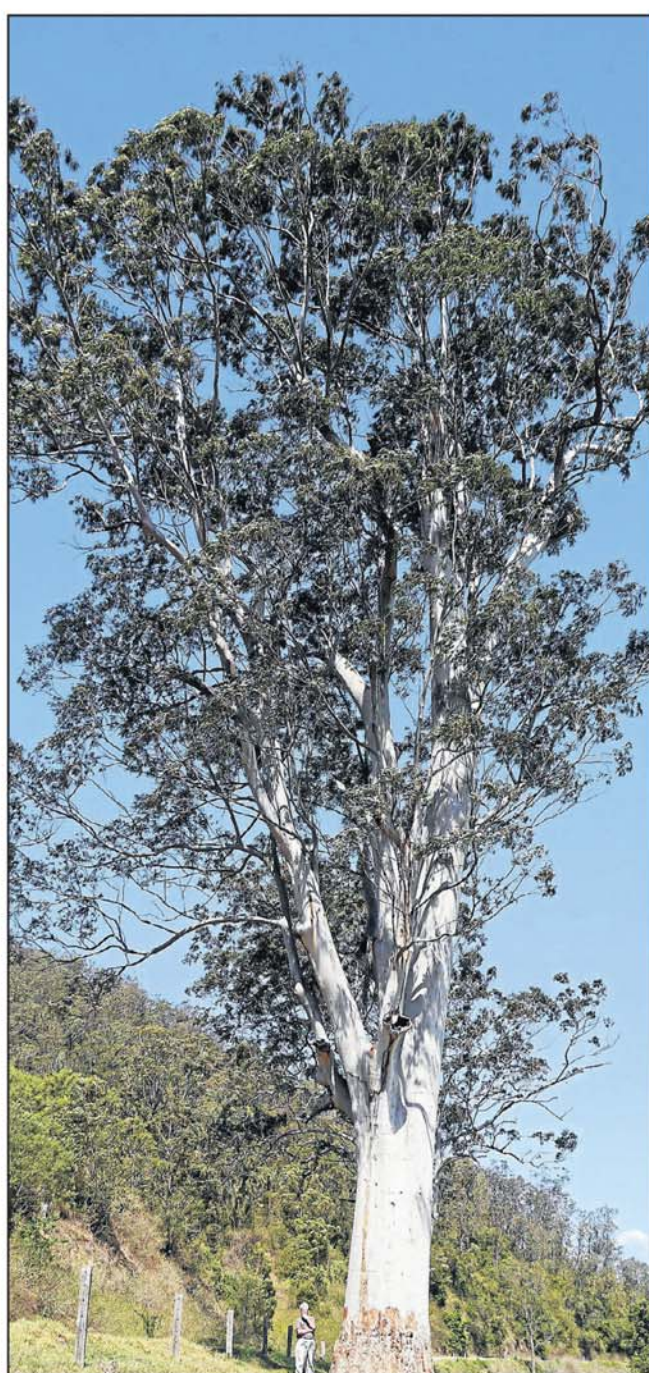
"Don has found the Australian Champion Sydney Blue Gum and Australian Champion Sheoak tree.

The register aims to archive the records of the two largest specimens of each tree species in the Queensland and New South Wales regions; and to archive the records of the three largest specimens of each tree species in the other states.

"It aims to promote the preservation of big trees as impressive examples of tree growth, natural beauty, valuable genetic resources, and inspiring symbols of conservation," Mr McIntosh said.

"Many of our big trees are situated on privately-owned land. Recognition of big tree preservation is a significant contribution to conservation on the part of the landowners, and is an intrinsic element of the project."

Trees are selected through a points system. The points allocated to a tree are based on the formula used by American Forests: Total points = trunk circumference in inches + height in feet + ¼ average crown spread in feet.



• Don Cruickshank is pictured with one of the two trees nominated for the National Register of Big Trees – a forest red gum. The second tree nominated is a broad leaved ironbark.

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Gathering valuable information about Gloucester's gas and groundwater.

At AGL, we share the community's desire to protect Gloucester's environment. We know you want more research and investigation into the Gloucester Basin, especially its water resources. So do we. Our Waukivory Pilot Program will add to our knowledge about Gloucester's gas and groundwater resources.

What do we know about Gloucester's water?

We know that Gloucester has a large volume of groundwater stored underground. It is low yield, salty and not used by the community. There is little interaction between surface water resources and the underlying groundwater.

Our six years of studies show that shallow groundwater aquifers are not connected naturally to the deep coal seam water bearing zones. Layers of rock act as barriers between shallow groundwater and deep groundwater.

Why are we proposing to conduct the Waukivory Pilot Program?

The Waukivory Pilot Program will give us valuable information about potential gas reserves, rock formations and the water cycle. It will also help us build knowledge about the likelihood of underground water movement across the region.

As part of the Waukivory Pilot Program, the next step is to fracture stimulate the existing wells (the drilling of which has been previously approved and carried out) in order to flow gas. Internationally renowned hydrogeologist, Dr Rick Evans, who was selected by the Gloucester Community Consultative Committee, reviewed AGL's surface and groundwater studies in 2012. He said that the Waukivory Pilot Program should proceed as soon as possible to gather this important information.

Community Information Sessions.

Please join us at our November Community Information Sessions to hear more about Gloucester's geology and hydrogeology and how AGL proposes to carry out the Waukivory Pilot Program.

20 and 21 November 2013
2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm
Gloucester Country Club
Bucketts Way
Gloucester

For more information join AGL's online community - YourSayAGL.com.au or contact the Gloucester Gas Project information line on **1300 886 170**.



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