

Narrandera Argus

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TREES A TREASURE

St Joseph's Primary School is home to the second largest lemon-scented gum in NSW, National Register of Big Trees Coordinator Derek McIntosh declared last week.

The lemon-scented gum (scientific name *Corymbia citriodora*) stands 32 metres tall and boasts a circumference of 5.17 metres.

Mr McIntosh said that Narrandera Shire Council records indicated the tree was aged 110 years.

"This tree is the largest of its type in rural NSW," he said.

"It's not just a big tree but it's also magnificently shaped."

The tree was nominated by Temora resident Jason Goode, Mr McIntosh said.

"Mr Goode suggested I visit Narrandera as it has many beautiful trees," Mr McIntosh said.

"I came to Narrandera on a Sunday, thinking I would just pass through, but once I saw the town I was amazed at the number of trees.

"I decided to spend the night and I drove around looking for other trees."

There are currently three local trees listed on the register - the lemon-scented gum, a sugar gum and a yellow bloodwood.

The sugar gum is located on the pavement outside of 32 Midgeon Street and has a height of 22 metres and a circumference of 4.73 metres.

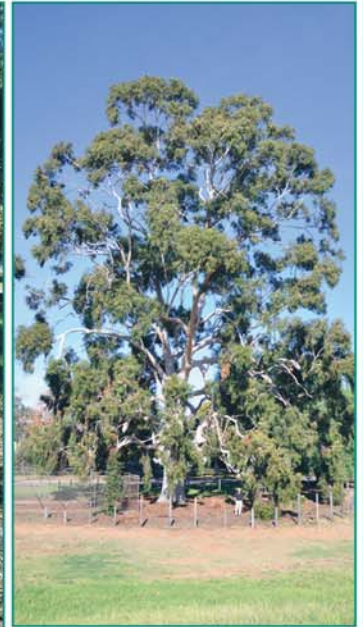
The yellow bloodwood is located on the Pine Hill Road side of Henry Mathieson Oval. It has a height of 18 metres and a circumference of 3.57. It is listed as the largest of its type in southern NSW.

There are a number of large yellow, grey and black box gums in Narrandera, Mr McIntosh said.

"I challenge people to nominate other big trees in the area. If we find one larger we may be able to find the Australian champion in the Riverina." Nominations can be submitted at www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au.



National Register of Big Trees Coordinator Derek McIntosh measuring the lemon scented gum.



The lemon scented gum dwarfing National Register of Big Trees Coordinator Derek McIntosh.