

Cobar region's giant trees added to national register

One of Cobar's Coolibah trees has made it into the National Register of Big Trees and researcher Derek McIntosh reckons there could be more "giants" in our area that could also be added to the list.

Mr McIntosh is the National Big Tree Register coordinator and was in the Cobar area earlier this month measuring our trees.

"This is the tree I found," Mr McIntosh said of the Coolibah—Gum-barked tree (pictured opposite) which is located 15.5kms from town on the Cobar to Bourke Road.

Cobar misses out on significant rain

While many other parts of the western region copped a drenching over the long weekend Cobar largely missed out on any significant rainfall totals.

Cobar Meteorological Office recorded just 1.8mm in the 24 hours up to 9am Sunday, the entire amount recorded for the week.

Cobar Airport's automatic weather station recorded 5mm for the week.

Temperatures were generally below average for the start of the week with 31 degrees recorded last Monday and Wednesday and 33 degrees on Tuesday and Thursday, slightly below the average expected for January of 34.2 degrees.

Friday was warmer with a top of 35 degrees, while Saturday was the warmest day of the week reaching 36.3 degrees.

Australia Day Monday was a mild 30 degrees.

The forecast for this week is for similar conditions with a mostly sunny day and a top of 30 degrees predicted today.

A sunny day with a top of 31 degrees is expected tomorrow while Saturday is expected to have light winds with a top of 31 degrees.

Sunday is expected to be mostly sunny reaching a top of 34 degrees after a low of 17.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a possible late shower on Monday with a top of 34 degrees after a low of 20.

"Coincidentally I found champions within spitting distance of each other.

"They are worthy trees to list on the register as I stopped and looked at tens of Eucalyptus intertextas, and they were the biggest.

"However, I know there are bigger ones hiding somewhere.

"Maybe your readers can find one," Mr McIntosh told *The Cobar Weekly*.

The listed Cobar specimen has a circumference of 3.25 metres (127 inches) and is 20 metres (65 feet) tall with a crown of 24 metres (78 feet).

Another nearby tree of interest is 3.55 metres round and 16 metres tall.

"They are such a beautiful feature of the Cobar area – the darker green bushland is in stark contrast to the lovely white limbs that tower above," Mr McIntosh said.

"Other lovely trees in your area that are not on the register are: Mulga, Leopard Wood, Rosewood, Belah and Myall."

Mr McIntosh hopes local landholders who may have big trees growing on their properties will contact the national register website (www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au) with information.

"Let's see what comes out of the woodwork," Mr McIntosh quipped.



Researcher Derek McIntosh with Cobar's entry in the National Register of Big Trees, a 20m high Coolibah tree 15.5km from town on the Cobar to Bourke Road. ■ Photo contributed