

Nominating a tree to the Significant Tree Register

The Tasmanian Branch has formed a committee to develop a Significant Tree Register. Committee member and arboriculturist Andrew Robert-Tissot explains how the Register developed and how to nominate a tree.

In 2014 The National Trusts of Australia started collaborating to create a National Register of Significant Trees. National Trust Tasmania began a Tasmanian register in the early 1990s but this work ended with the collapse of the National Trust Tasmanian branch. However this work was not lost and these trees were added to the National Register in 2014. But, without a local committee, no new Tasmanian trees have been listed since.

AGHS Tasmania and National Trust Tasmania have now come together to hunt out the significant trees of Tasmania. An agreement between the two organisations has been signed that states that AHGS Tas will act as the National Trust Significant Trees Committee for Tasmania.

To kickstart this search AGHS and NT members are asked to nominate potentially significant trees. These can be public trees; members' trees or private trees (with the caveat, at this stage, that owners are happy to have their tree listed).



A pair of giant redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) at St David's Park in Hobart that are listed on the National Significant Tree Register. The trees were planted in 1937 to commemorate the coronation of King George VI. Photo Andrew Robert-Tissot.

How to nominate a tree

Listing of a tree requires the nominator to collect data about the tree in the field and then to enter the information online. Start by visiting the Trust Trees website ('National Trusts of Australia Register of Significant Trees') at <https://trusttrees.org.au/>.



The landing page for the National Trusts of Australia Register of Significant Trees. Tasmanian AGHS members are urged to nominate significant trees.

It is worth reading the information under the 'ABOUT' button on the top line of the page, which explains 'Who we are'. It lists useful resources, nomination tips, practical stewardship of trees, tree protection in Australia, and tree measurements.

The 'AROUND ME' button has links to significant trees in your area with a map view and a list of trees. Clicking on the map teardrop or listed trees photograph reveals information about each individual tree.

The 'NOMINATE' button takes you to a page that gives of advice before starting a nomination. Once you start a listing you can save it as you go, allowing you to collect any extra information you might have missed earlier. **WARNING:** this form can appear to be overwhelming, but fill in what you can, press send, and if you've missed a mandatory field it will tell you (by turning pink).

I recommend reading the nomination tips before going into the field to collect a tree's data. Nominators are asked to supply photographs of the tree as a whole (to explain its context) and in detail (to enable the assessors to identify the tree). Advice is provided about how to go about taking a photograph of a tree and also about how to measure a tree's dimensions.

To be listed, trees can be in one or more of four main categories of significance: scientific; social; historic; aesthetic. Within each category are many different criteria. Bear in mind that you need to explain why you are suggesting each category of significance. However to qualify, a tree only needs to fulfil one category.



Plaques adjacent to the giant redwoods (shown on page 1) in St David's Park, which outline the historic significance of the trees. Photo Andrew Robert-Tissot.

I am available to help and advise you with a nomination. Please email me at Andrew Robert-Tissot with your phone number (roberttissot@ozemail.com.au).

The best way to get recognition for a significant tree in Australia is to nominate it to the National Trusts' Register of Significant Trees. The Tasmanian list needs new listings as it has been quiet for 30 years so please step up to list your favourite heritage trees.