

2020 VICTORIAN TREE OF THE YEAR

Media Kit
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Media Release

Which leafy Victorian beauty has captured your heart?

Have your say in the 2020 Victorian Tree of the Year competition

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is excited to announce voting is officially open for the 2020 Victorian Tree of the Year, with nine significant trees shortlisted for the coveted title.

The Victorian Tree of the Year contest aims to raise awareness of the conservation of the state's natural heritage, and the benefits trees provide to our culture and way of life. As Victoria begins to recover from the devastating impact of the summer bushfires and learns to navigate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's competition holds special significance in celebration of nature's giants that adorn local communities today.

2020 marks the first year in which all nine shortlisted trees are based in Regional Victoria.

The nominees vying for the desirable 2020 Victorian Tree of the Year title have been selected for a wide range of reasons from having an impressive canopy or unique history, to being the biggest or oldest of its kind in Victoria.

The shortlist also features several trees from bushfire-affected regions, including the Spotted Gums in Buchan South. These are the only known natural occurrence of the species in Victoria, and despite being badly burnt in the summer bushfires, are already showing encouraging signs of regeneration.

Simon Ambrose, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), said the Victorian Tree of the Year provides an opportunity for the community to celebrate the great natural wonders that enrich our lives.

"During this time of uncertainty and self-isolation, the contest is a chance for people to stay connected to the environment and have some fun by celebrating our state's significant trees."

"The 2019 Victorian Tree of the Year was the River Red Gum in Bulleen, a magnificent tree with a 300 year history that received 1045 out of a total 3,669 votes. We look forward to seeing which 2020 nominee captures the heart of Victorians." said Mr Ambrose.

The National Trust is the state's leading advocate for the protection of trees, celebrating the positive impact they have on our lives. To date, the National Trust has classified more than 20,000 trees in 1,200 places across the state in the Significant Tree Register.

Voting for the 2020 Victorian Tree of the Year will take place from Tuesday 14 April to Sunday 10 May with the winner announced at the end of May.

To view the shortlist visit www.nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear. Votes can be cast via the National Trust Victoria Facebook [page](#). Join in on the conversation using **#VictorianTreeOfTheYear**.

View images of the shortlisted trees [here](#).

Finalists



Chestnut Leaved Oak
Mossvale Park, Leongatha

The largest example of several Chestnut Leaved Oak trees located within this former nursery site, established by Francis Moss in 1853. This Oak has a height of 34m and is of State significance as an outstanding example of the species, its outstanding size, and contribution to a historic park.



Canary Island Pine
Ballarat Synagogue

The tree was planted by Jacob Bernstein in 1867. It is now a fine specimen, dominating the front of the Ballarat Synagogue and Barkly Street intersection. With a height of 26m, this tree is of Regional significance for its contribution to landscape and historic associations.



Mallacoota Gums

Mallacoota Sportsground and Camping Park, Mallacoota

The Mallacoota Gum is an extremely rare hybrid species with a height of 27m. These are the only known hybrids between two parent trees (*Eucalyptus globulus* and *Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*), and are a most attractive looking tree. They are of State significance for rarity, localised distribution, and aesthetic value.



Spotted Gums
Mottle Range Reserve, Buchan South

Located in the severely bushfire-impacted Buchan area, this rare and localised collection of approximately 400 Spotted Gum trees is the only natural occurrence of this species in Victoria. Unfortunately the entire grove was impacted by the 2020 East Gippsland bushfires however it has shown some encouraging and early signs of regeneration and is of State significance for rarity and localised distribution.

Finalists



Irish Yew

Former Aradale Psychiatric Hospital, Heath Street, Ararat

A fine well-shaped specimen displaying its typical narrow, compact crown. The tree is an important feature in the landscape even with a height of just 9m. This tree is of State significance for contribution to landscape, historic association, and as an outstanding example of the species.



Lemon-scented Gum

Cnr South Gippsland Highway and Smith Street, Leongatha

This Lemon-scented gum is a magnificent example of its species, with a height of 23 metres and canopy spread of 24 metres. It has excellent scaffold branch structure and has not been subject to excessive pruning. It is an impressive landmark tree, and is of State significance for size, contribution to landscape, and as an outstanding example of the species.



Digger Pine

Hamilton Botanic Gardens, Hamilton

This spectacular tree is the oldest and tallest tree in Hamilton Botanic Gardens with a height of 35m. It has been planted at the highest point in the gardens and dominates the skyline of the area. The tree is of Regional significance for size, contribution to landscape, and association with a historic garden.



Himalayan Oak

Bright Cemetery

This tree has a particularly attractive form with a dense domed crown. The Himalayan Oak is native to the Himalayas and this example is 18 metres tall. The tree is of State significance for rarity, contribution to landscape and social/historic context.



Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour

Bacchus Marsh

The Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour was established in August 1918 as a living memorial to community members who had fought in World War I, and is listed in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Avenue is of State significance for historic associations, contribution to landscape, aesthetic and scientific reasons and has faced numerous threats due to road development, including a current potential bypass proposed by Regional Roads Victoria.

Assets



Shortlist



Voting



Photos

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