

Comments by Dean Nicolle the world's leading Eucalypt expert

No easy answers on how to measure mallees and other multi-trunked trees. I'm not even sure if the narrowest point where the stems join the lignotuber, or the fattest part of the lignotuber, is more representative for comparing mallees. The American Register was never set up to deal with such trees.

The problem with mallees, is that as the lignotuber gets bigger, it eventually fragments, meaning that the separate sections are no longer physically joined (even though they were part of one original plant). I have seen mallee 'circles' almost 20 metres in diameter (i.e. 50+ metre circumference) that have originated from a single individual but which the lignotuber itself is so fragmented that there is no longer a physical connection between the many stems of the mallee circle. They must be thousands of years old.

The measurement of this tree's circumference is acceptable, and I agree it is at the narrowest point. Maybe a separate category on the Register - 'Big mallees and other multi-stemmed trees' - with attractive images and no point calculations? This is the way to go to showcase such plants.

Dean Nicolle: Arboriculture - Botany - Ecology - Eucalypt Research

T: 0413 214 303 E: dn@dn.com.au www.dn.com.au