

Wandoo, (*Eucalyptus wandoo*, Blakely also known as white gum, is a widespread and ecologically valuable species endemic to south-western Australia. Wandoo trees and country are tremendously valuable; providing a vital resource for wildlife, a source of high-quality honey and first-class structural timber, whilst maintaining biodiversity, watershed protection and amenity.

Wandoo can be a truly magnificent tree; tall and stately with strong limbs, a spreading crown and great variety in the form of individual trees, with trunks and crowns full of unusual twists, and gnarls. Its mottled bark changes colour in the light through shades of white, silver, cream and pink, accentuating the trees' appearance, marking it a characteristic feature across much of Western Australia's agricultural region. Wandoo's are slow growing trees and may live up to 400 years or more. As they age their growth rate slows further making it difficult to accurately estimate their age.

Unfortunately, many important native tree species including wandoo are suffering decline. Although the cause is unclear, climate change, altered land use management and insect pests appear to be relevant factors. This decline is widespread and a cause for significant concern.

Bruce and Pat McGregor have farmed near York for over 40 years, and have many large and beautiful wandoo trees growing on their property. They first noticed decline starting in their wandoo trees in the mid 1990s. Their concern along with that of Roger Underwood and Liz Manning, ultimately led to the formation of the State Government's Wandoo Recovery Group in 2003. Supported by the Department of Environment and Conservation, the group works to better understand the factors affecting wandoo's health and its growth habits and to communicate this knowledge to the general public.

Wandoo Recovery Group Executive Officer, Liz Manning, is on the lookout for big wandoo trees to add to a national register of big trees. The register aims to locate and record the largest tree of

every species and name a National, State and regional champion tree. Anybody can nominate and measure a tree! Liz wants to raise appreciation and awareness of wandoo by encouraging people to get involved in measuring large trees growing on their property or in their local area, and to register these big trees.

Liz and Bruce have been busy searching out giant wandoo trees to add to the register. They have also discovered a magnificent jarrah tree, to include in their nomination.

To get involved contact Liz Manning on Elizabeth.Manning@dec.wa.gov.au or visit the national register of big trees website on www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au.