**THE SIGNIFICANT TREES OF TOOWOOMBA**

**Part of an ongoing study of the trees of Toowoomba**

**J T Swarbrick**

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**Significant Trees in Toowoomba**

The National Trust in each state has and continues to develop registers of the significant trees of their own states. These registers will be widely available and will help to draw attention to the interesting and magnificent trees to be found in each city, town and area. Trees have become of increasingly important interest to both local communities and to domestic and international tourists, and Toowoomba has many magnificent and interesting trees to offer. Our trees could and should become a major part of Toowoomba's tourist appeal.

The National Trust's Significant Tree Register has (in early July 2013) only six listings for Toowoomba (see the attached list), three trees in the city and three listings between Toowoomba and Cabarlah. We have a great many beautiful and interesting trees throughout our city and surrounding areas, and many of these should be on the register. Registration confers no legal protection to the trees listed, but does draw attention to them and reinforces the pride that their owners (including ourselves as citizens of Toowoomba) have in them. Listed trees can be on both public ands private property, and listing privately owned trees does not confer any right of visitation by the public. The Register includes individual trees and also discrete groups of trees of the same and of different species.

The National Trust defines significance broadly. Trees may be scientifically significant (of horticultural or genetic value, resistant to disease or exposure, rare or of localised distribution, remnant vegetation, or of outstanding height, girth or spread), socially significant (landscape value, Aboriginal association, a landmark, spiritually or religiously significant or of contemporary community significance), historically significant (part of a historic park etc., commemorative, or associated with an important event, person or group), or aesthetically significant (really great looking, of curious natural or artificial growth or form, or better than average).

Anyone can nominate significant trees to the National Trust on a form provided. In Queensland the contact is Margaret Munro (mfmunro@hotmail.com). I would like to nominate many of our trees in Toowoomba for the state and national registers, and am asking for your help in selecting the best trees to nominate. If you are interested in this project would you please check the attached list of registered and potential significant trees, advise me of any that are on the list that you think are not worth nominating for registration, and suggest as many as you like to expand the list?