

Photographing one of the world's tallest trees in Tasmania's Styx Valley

ABC Radio Hobart By Carol Rääbus
Updated January 24, 2017 17:43:37

It took 67 days, 12,000 images and a climb to stomach-churning heights, but photographer Steven Pearce finally got the image he was after of the world's tallest flowering plant, Tasmania's eucalyptus regnans.

The Styx Valley, past the township of Maydena, about 100 kilometres north-west from Hobart, is often damp, cold and foggy.

It is also home to the world's tallest flowering plant and one of the world's tallest trees — the eucalyptus regnans, often called mountain ash or swamp gum.

These towering gums are thought to grow to 100 metres or more, with the tallest living tree on record being Centurion in Tasmania at a confirmed 99.6 metres.

Potential to be a 'world leader'

Photographing these trees to show their entire length is extremely difficult, but this was what Pearce was determined to do.

"It's a very arduous process involving a lot of tree climbing, getting right up to the crown of these trees," he told Louise Saunders on [ABC Radio Hobart](#).

Pearce and a team were hired by Australian Geographic to get a full-length shot of one of these giants as part of The Tree Projects, which aims to showcase some of the world's biggest, tallest and unusual trees.

Pearce said he saw taking part in the project as a way to refocus the conversation around the trees in the Styx Valley.

"I want to start a new chapter for Tasmanian tall trees," he said.

"Tall trees in Tasmania for too long have been divided between greenies and the loggers and the politics.

"Each one of these eucalyptus regnans has the potential to grow into a world leader.

"The other tallest tree in the world, the California redwood, takes thousands of years to grow this high whereas our eucalypts can grow that high in 300."

To get the full-length photo, Pearce and the team suspended between two trees a camera rig which could travel up and down to photograph the entire tree.

It took a lot of patience to get the photos needed and the team spent 67 days in the valley.

"Half an hour of weather in the Styx Valley — well, nothing really stays the same for very long out there," Pearce said.

"We had all up 12,000 photos from over 12 mornings and there were only four days which are represented in the final photograph.

"It was worth it just to be out in the Styx Valley for that long, for me."

The final photograph is a composite of 87 images and is on display at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery until March 19.

MAP: TAS



INFOGRAPHIC: The final photograph is a composite of 87 images. (Supplied: Steven Pearce, The Tree Projects)

ABC RADIO HOBART

- Photographing one of the world's tallest trees
- Where to see little penguins in Tasmania
- Could historic dig unearth link to Napoleonic-era regiment?
- What volunteering is like at the West Moonah Community House
- Doctor's tree change rooted in Tasmanian olive grove
- Exhibition examines treasured items saved as 1967 Tasmanian bushfires approached
- Migrant women learn the ropes sailing on the Derwent

Radio SYDNEY

Stories, people, conversations and news from where you live.

Listen Now

TOP STORIES

- Champion for stem cell use named Australian of the Year
- Australia Day critics should 'crawl under a rock': Joyce
- Trump moves ahead on Mexico border wall
- Turnbull 'confident' US refugee deal will go ahead under Trump
- Australia Day: A time of celebrations, mourning and new beginnings
- Youths go on crime spree after breaking out of detention centre
- Triple j's Hottest 100 kicks off for another Australia Day
- Australia Day honours list recipients on what it means to be recognised
- Sydney live music institution 'The Sando' to shut for good
- Usain Bolt loses gold medal as relay team-mate tests positive
- Dow Jones breaks through 20,000 for first time
- Dash-cam captures train smashing into FedEx semi-trailer
- Pioneering TV actress Mary Tyler Moore dies
- Giant sinkhole swallows two front yards in US

ABC News on Messenger

Get started

CONNECT WITH ABC NEWS

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Snapchat, Messenger

News Podcasts

Catch up with ABC News programs.

GOT A NEWS TIP?

If you have inside knowledge of a topic in the news, contact the ABC.

NEWS IN YOUR INBOX

Top headlines, analysis, breaking news

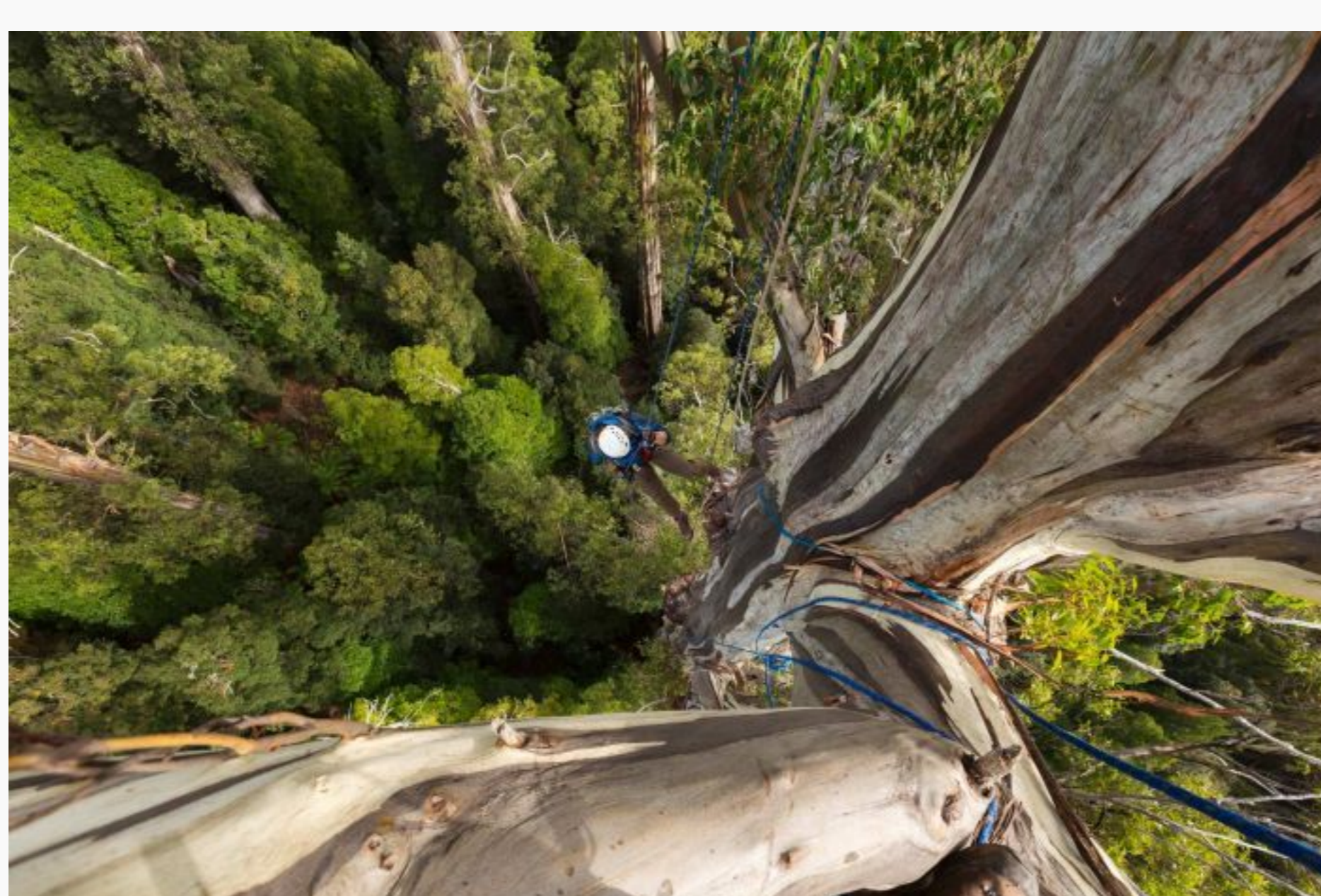


PHOTO: Climbing some of the world's tallest trees is not for the faint-hearted. (Supplied: Steven Pearce, The Tree Projects)

External Link: The Tree Projects video on Facebook



PHOTO: Steven Pearce and his team spent more than two months in the Styx Valley to get the final image. (Supplied: Steven Pearce, The Tree Projects)

Topics: photography, environment, tree, human-interest, tas, maydena-7140, hobart-7000

First posted January 24, 2017 13:58:03

More stories from Tasmania

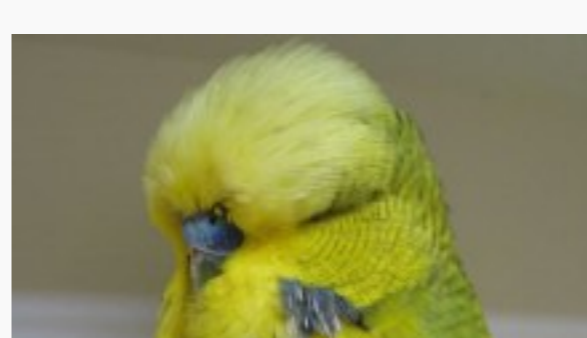
FEATURES



The work of Alan Mackay-Sim
For thousands of years it was thought impossible to regenerate the spinal cord. Now we know it's both possible and safe, thanks to the pioneering work of Professor Alan Mackay-Sim.



Hottest 100: Everything you need to know
How do you tune in to triple j's Hottest 100? And what's so special about this year's poll? Find out about all the ins and outs of Australia's favourite music ballot.



Australian slang quiz
Test your knowledge of Australian slang.



7 better dates for Australia Day
Australian history is full of great moments, which could serve as alternative dates for Australia Day, including April 7, when the most Australian movie ever made — The Castle — was released, writes Ben Pobje.

TOP STORIES

- Champion for stem cell use named Australian of the Year
- Australia Day critics should 'crawl under a rock': Joyce
- Trump moves ahead on Mexico border wall
- Turnbull 'confident' US refugee deal will go ahead under Trump
- Australia Day: A time of celebrations, mourning and new beginnings
- Youths go on crime spree after breaking out of detention centre
- Triple j's Hottest 100 kicks off for another Australia Day
- Australia Day honours list recipients on what it means to be recognised
- Sydney live music institution 'The Sando' to shut for good
- Usain Bolt loses gold medal as relay team-mate tests positive
- Dow Jones breaks through 20,000 for first time
- Dash-cam captures train smashing into FedEx semi-trailer
- Pioneering TV actress Mary Tyler Moore dies
- Giant sinkhole swallows two front yards in US

JUST IN

- Violence erupts at Sydney Invasion Day march
- The amazing work of Professor Alan Mackay-Sim
- Triple j's Hottest 100 kicks off for another Australia Day
- Turnbull 'confident' US refugee deal will go ahead under Trump
- Australia Day: A time of celebrations, mourning and new beginnings
- Dash-cam captures train smashing into FedEx semi-trailer
- Jimmy Barnes, Ebola nurse and Rio gold medallist among NSW's Australia Day winners
- Opinion: Changing Australia Day pointless — and there is much to celebrate
- Sydney live music institution 'The Sando' to shut for good
- Giant sinkhole swallows two front yards in US

MOST POPULAR

- 10-year-old has close call with great white shark
- Meet our Australian of the Year
- Mass escape after riot at youth correction facility in Malmesbury
- Champion for stem cell use named Australian of the Year
- 'Bomb it': Canberra theatre threatened after displaying Australia Day billboard
- China tells Trump to stay out of South China Sea dispute
- Trump moves ahead on Mexico border wall
- Shorten tests Joyce's 'go west' edict on home ownership
- Is it a budgie smuggler or a bushman's clock? Take our Aussie slang quiz
- General David Morrison's torrid 12 months

ANALYSIS & OPINION

- Opinion: Changing Australia Day pointless — and there is much to celebrate
- Castle Day and 6 other dates for Australia Day
- Opinion: Australian, Indian celebrations ring hollow until women's rights respected
- Jihadism on the move in Mali - why it matters
- UK Supreme Court's ruling may put the brakes on Brexit, but won't prevent it
- Tensions between US and China could stretch Australia as Trump dumps TPP
- There's no time like the present to improve your financial health
- Police pursuits: financial health does the end justify the means?
- How Trump has become the single biggest global market influence
- Can Gladys Berejiklian stare down the glass cliff and win?

SITE MAP

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Sections ABC News Just In Australia World Business Entertainment Sport Analysis & Opinion Weather Blogs Topics Archive Corrections & Clarifications | Local Weather Sydney Weather Melbourne Weather Adelaide Weather Brisbane Weather Perth Weather Hobart Weather Darwin Weather Canberra Weather | Local News Sydney News Melbourne News Adelaide News Brisbane News Perth News Hobart News Darwin News Canberra News | Media Video Audio Photos | Subscribe Podcasts RSS Feeds NewsMail | Connect Upload Contact Us Suggest a Contributor |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|

Change to mobile view

This service may include material from Agence France-Presse (AFP), APTN, Reuters, AAP, CNN and the BBC World Service which is copyright and cannot be reproduced.

AEDT = Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time which is 11 hours ahead of UTC (Greenwich Mean Time)