

Big Things near St Helens, Tasmania

by Andrew P.

If you have been lying awake at night wondering where you can find Australia's widest living tree, then you will sleep like a baby tonight, for I have the answer for you! And if you are itching to see it, you can easily combine it with a wonderful stay at one of API's holiday homes.

You will have to head to approximately 38km from St Helens, to a place which is 7km before the town of Welborough. Welborough is roughly half-way between Scottsdale and St Helens, along the Tasman Highway. Just a thought-pop into the pub for lunch or dinner while you are in the area for deliciously simple, but freshly prepared produce.

If your kids ever named their black cat 'Blackie', you will understand why the biggest tree in Australia has been given the name 'Big Tree'! It's a Giant Ash which is sometimes called a Swamp Gum. Giant Ash trees are the tallest flowering trees in the world and happen to grow well in Tasmania on the Blue Tier plateau.



The widest living tree in the world

This one is also sometimes called the Blue Tier Giant. It's a Giant alright. It is around 60 metres high, but the most impressive statistic is that it is 19.4 metres in girth at about chest height. Take 14 friends with you as you will need 15 tree huggers to reach all the way around this one.



API's St Helens Holiday Home - what a view!

There are some good walks in the area, both short and long. One of the walks takes you to the tree. Now if you thought the name 'Big Tree' was a little subdued for the widest living tree in the world, you may not be surprised to learn the road on which the walk commences does not have a name at all! So how do you find it and is it worth the walk? It's actually quite easy to find and the walk takes you through magnificent, huge eucalypts, myrtle, ferns and musk, as well as, across an amazing hand-built stone bridge near an old tin mine water-race. Yes, it is well worth the walk.

API's holiday home at St Helens is a delightful holiday destination for members, and the obvious place to stay when you decide to visit this Big Tree. From the main bedroom, lounge, dining room and outdoor deck, the expansive views over the bay are fabulous. It is a comfortable three-bedroom home with everything you need, so bring the kids (but not Blackie).

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Welborough Hotel

“ From the bedroom, lounge, dining room and outdoor deck, the views over the bay are fabulous. ”

St Helens has a laidback feel although it is the largest town in the north east of Tasmania. There is no shortage of very good restaurants to choose from, if you are not dining at home. Tasmania has a lot of great produce and the restaurants at St Helens make good use of it. With all the fishing boats around it's no wonder there is an abundance of really fresh seafood.

While it is a lovely experience to treat yourself to the cafes and restaurants, also plan your holiday so that on at least one afternoon you can sit on the deck at the St Helens holiday house, shucking an oyster or two, armed with a large glass of cool climate Pinot Noir and drink in the view. It will provide even more wonderful memories than hugging the Big Tree.



The only thing better would be to scramble down the goat-track path at the end of the garden to cast a line from the white sandy beach and return with a glistening salmon. **API**

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