

## MEET THE GIANTS

### Big Daddy by the Entrance by Tiago Miranda

Having lunch under this massive tree on a sunny day can be a bit of a cliché. Who would've thought that I would be up in the crown gazing at Hazelwood Park and the Adelaide Hills the next half-hour? People on the street always wonder around our ropes, pondering how it got there in the first place. It seems like the unknown throw-line is the most appreciated and mind-boggling tool out of the tool kit after all. I was more concerned about how I managed to swing around this monster with three tie-in points as it was like three different trees without any hassle. That's when two capable climbers make the difference on timeframe and companionship.



Lunch area / Source: T. Miranda 2020



Aerial shot / Source: T. Miranda 2020

This *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* had substantial limb failures in the past. But the council still loves it, cogitating that it would probably be over 100 years-old. Here we go, another ancient tree situated in one of the oldest parks of Eastern Adelaide. An area subdivided by a rich family that donated the lots to allocate one of the most expensive suburbs in town nowadays. The canopy cover of this area is approximately 20% amid the rest of the city. It's essential in not just keeping heritage trees alone but also to guarantee that history doesn't get blown over by ignorance and modern property development. Land clearing and dreary modern architecture have been taking place in the last few years or so.

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The contrast is clear: the trees on this side of the park are next to heritage houses with their original façade. It invites the curious ones to walk back in the past of Victorian-style brickwork with delicate details that nowadays is too hard to reproduce. Or maybe too expensive. Any climbing arborist keen on veteran large trees cannot miss this monster. It is standing by itself, firm on the ground, within a few metres of another monster, this time an *Araucaria cunninghamii* – stupendous!

With a branch structure not like any other, tie-in point options are limitless. Also overwhelming to the eye when arriving at the top. You feel like amongst many different trees right next to each other. Movement with one tie-in point is limited. Redirects are a requirement to move through the crown. Efficiency comes down to the ones keen to experiment. What a climb!



Zac and Clement / Source: T. Miranda 2020