

Environmentalism devastated by 'bonfire and massacre'



A council burn-off in Duggan Park has angered biologist and environmentalist John Swarbrick.

PICTURE: DEBBIE DRUCE

Park burn-off sparks angry cry of protest

By ELIZABETH PULLEN

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NO children will want to do bushcapes or beetle drives in Duggan Park as it's burnt.

Former biologist of Gatton Agricultural College and former president of Friends of the Escarpment Parks, John Swarbrick, is devastated the park, gateway to popular bushwalks like the Lockyer Valley lookout trail, is ruined.

"Many hundreds of hours of voluntary work by school children, scouts, guides, church groups, the Duggan Park Care Group, Friends of Escarpment Parks and other community members ... have been swept away in one day of bonfire and chain-saw massacre," Mr Swarbrick said.

"It's a community asset that's been destroyed for an unobtainable objective, to rejuvenate eucalypts.

"I believe this would have killed a great deal of eucalypts."

Along with the eucalypts, John believes many hibernating reptiles and animals like echidnas, bats, blue-tongued lizards and snakes were killed.

"It hasn't been burnt in the 27 years I've been here and it shouldn't have been burnt.

"They've basically treated it as a forest park which it's not. They've (council) have treated us with contempt which is not a good move if they want volunteers to help them," Mr Swarbrick said.

Toowoomba City Council chose not to respond to this complaint.

“It hasn't been burnt in the 27 years I've been here and it shouldn't have been burnt.”

— John Swarbrick