

# Senseless vandalism mystifies



Rapid Creek Landcare Group's Peter O'Hagan stands near the trees chopped down by vandals at Rapid Creek

Picture: KATRINA BRIDGEFORD

## PHILLIPPA BUTT

MORE than 40 trees and palms have been chopped down in what has been branded as "senseless vandalism" at Rapid Creek.

Rapid Creek Landcare Group members found the damaged trees and palms in April.

Public officer Peter O'Hagan said he couldn't understand why anyone had done it.

"That's the whole thing, why are people coming in and

chopping down trees?" he said.

"It mystifies us. If you chop down trees, you're going to damage the creek bank."

The damage to the trees was done in a section of the creek that runs between Henry Wrigley Dr and Charles Eaton Dr.

While the palms will never grow back, some of the trees have begun to return, with fresh green offshoots.

"Yes, some of these will regrow, but the problem is they'll

grow like shrubs, not like the trees they're meant to be," Mr O'Hagan said.

"So there will be no shade." Rather than using a chainsaw, Mr O'Hagan said the trees had been damaged in a way that indicated a hacksaw or machete had been used.

"It's been a pretty concerted effort," he said.

"And it just doesn't make sense. They haven't been taking it for firewood, because they've left it all there.

"It does look like they've

tried to dam the creek a little, maybe to create more of a swimming hole."

The group contacted Darwin Council about the damage, but council said there was little it could do, given they didn't know who the vandals were.

Alderman Justine Glover was also contacted and said she was doing everything she could to make sure it didn't happen again.

She said there would be consequences for anyone caught.

**"If you chop down trees, you're going to damage the creek bank"**

LANDCARE GROUP'S  
PETER O'HAGAN