

# Helidon Hills project co-ordinator 'unties cord'

GATTON Shire councillors took time off from their recent ordinary meeting to commend outgoing Helidon Hills project co-ordinator, Bruce Boyes.

Mr Boyes, who has been involved with the project since its inception, has recently stepped down saying he felt it was time to cut the "umbilical cord".

The Sustainable Management of the Helidon Hills Project has been carried out by the Gatton Shire Council under the auspices of WESROC and with funding from the Natural Heritage Trust.

Now in its second year, the project has been undertaken to formulate a comprehensive plan for the sustainable future management of the Helidon Hills, with an emphasis on giving primary responsibility for land management to landholders in the area.

"This process has always been about setting up processes to let the actual landholders take over the running of the show, so that sustainable management of the area carries on long after the project team has completed its work," Mr Boyes said.

Chairman of council's planning and development committee, Cr Dave Mayo, described Mr Boyes' effort as project co-ordinator as a "wonderful job", highlighting his commitment to a high degree of consultation and involvement from all parties.

"The manner in which he has undertaken the Helidon Hills project is as important as what he has done," Cr Mayo said.

The project has incorporated the whole spectrum of issues relevant to sustainable management, including landholders' rights, nature conservation, cultural heritage, timber harvesting, farming, environmental tourism, sandstone, extractive and explosive industries, fire, water and property management as well as infrastructure and planning schemes. A final report is to be completed in about two months.

RIGHT: OUTGOING CO-ORDINATOR of the Helidon Hills project, Bruce Boyes (left), with Gatton Shire manager of planning and development, Dyan Currie and mayor Bernie Sutton during his farewell at council's ordinary meeting.

