

"PRESS RELEASE"

The Long Jetty Steering Committee hosted another well attended meeting last Tuesday.

Trevor Buck and Ben Scullin from VRFish were accompanied by Sharee Marris who has worked in marine education and was extremely enthusiastic about the Underwater Observatory – and she was amazed at the breadth and depth of the support it has attracted. Sharee is now working to develop a calendar for the coming year to both promote the Long Jetty's reopening and raise funds for the campaign.

WDAG announced the completion of the Business Plan funded by DPCD. The plan will be forwarded to Marine & Civil Engineering and at a later date in the development of the project, will be available for public presentation. Meanwhile, a copy of the feasibility study for the Underwater Observatory is available on the website at www.welshpool.vic.au.

Lyn Lucas and Glen Frazer from the Port Welshpool Working Group, a body that has fought for the reopening of the Long Jetty since 2003, have together with Councilor Jeanette Harding have established an account for a Fighting Fund.

Kerry Pinzone provided an update on the Face Book page which now has attracted 634 'Friends of the Long Jetty' and pointed out that people could also become a 'friend' by emailing the Welshpool and District Advisory Group from its website.

Historic photos of the Long Jetty are now on a continuous display in the Welshpool Rural Transaction Centre shop window with a TV provided by **Yarram Retravison**.

Sponsors will also be sort from the development of a Long Jetty Underwater Observatory website with Joe Dundon having developed graphics that enable visitors to view Long Jetty marine life 'swimming past' Observatory windows.

Closer links will also be developed through the Gippsland Trades and Labor Council with cross promotion of community activities and presentations/discussions in the Latrobe Valley in the coming week.

A key to the future success of the Underwater Observatory and its contribution to local communities will be the investment in local farmers/landowners management of streamside vegetation, wetlands and native vegetation remnants to enhance water clarity and marine life along the Corner inlet shoreline – and around the Observatory.

Farm and Agribusiness groups will be informed of these plans and their feedback regarding such a scheme sought through a series of meetings.

The meeting closed with everyone feeling excited and positive about the future and the increasing breadth and depth of support for the reopening of the Long Jetty