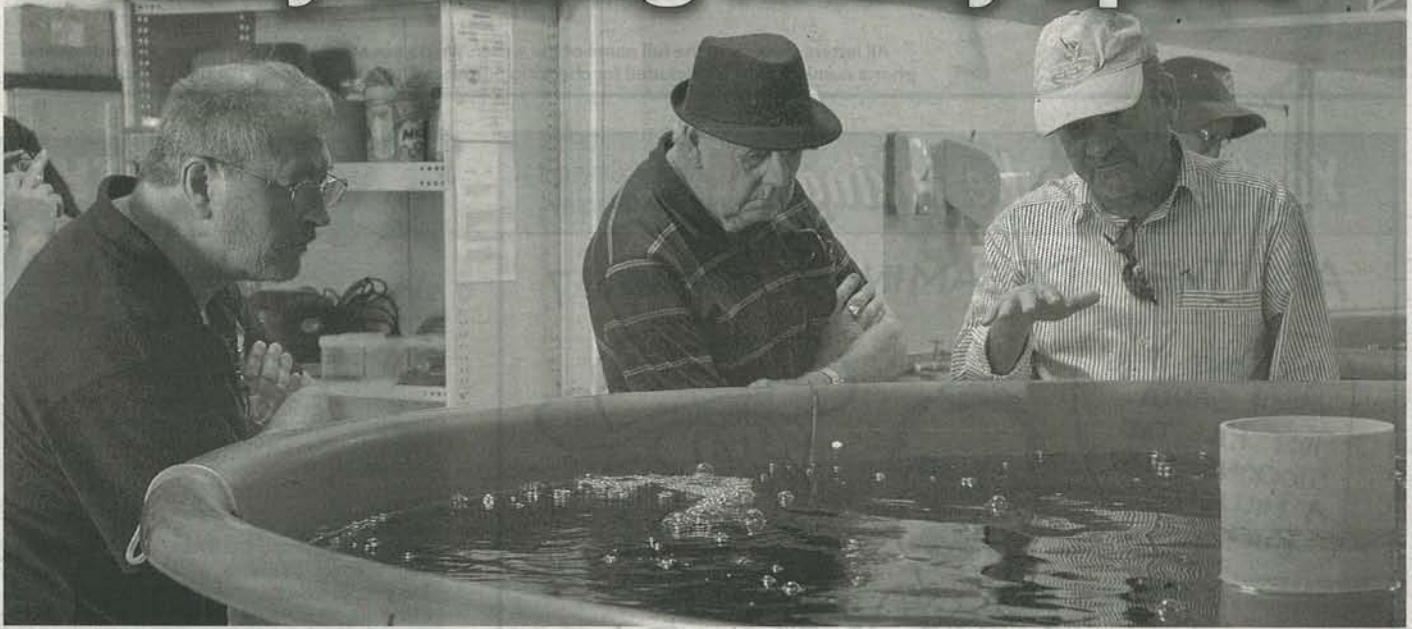


# Fishy training facility opens



Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning (LAP) Committee project manager Craig Ferber explaining the working of the aquaculture set-up at the Loxton North facility during last Thursday's open day tour.

By **PAMELA PERRE**

The first Australian aquaponics training facility of its kind was unveiled in Loxton North last week.

The facility, which teaches people how to grow their own fish and vegetables using minimal water, aims to create another option for local industry.

Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning (LAP) Committee project manager Craig Ferber said the program was funded by the Federal Government, the Natural Resources Management Board, the

landholder involved and the LAP itself.

"It's there to deliver some hands-on training to people," he said.

"We had a lot of interest for aquaponics as an option, so that encouraged us to chase some funding to run a couple of aquaponics projects."

Mr Ferber said the facility would initially grow native fish, but might expand in the colder months.

"The native fish tend not to do so well in winter, because they don't eat and therefore don't grow," he said.

"It's possible that we might even have a

go at trout over winter."

While the project will be completed in June next year, Mr Ferber said it would likely continue as a private enterprise.

"It's been set up on private land and there's been a significant financial cost to landholders," he said.

"The landholders are keen to see it continue as a training facility after that, and we have some local schools that are already interested.

"So, eventually the project will be the landholders' and they will run the training facility."