

Passion for Fremantle aired

By **JOHN MURPHY**

THE two-day Fremantle 2020 conference at the Esplanade Hotel was a great success, Fremantle Chamber of Commerce chief executive John Longley said.

Twenty-five speakers, 18 on the first day, covered subjects ranging from "Fremantle 20 years on" to Fremantle's role in the state tourism industry and "A Youth View" by a young Fremantle resident and four students from a primary school and three high schools.

"To me, the whole conference was just terrific," said Mr Longley, whose chamber organised the conference.

Among the speakers over the two days were former Fremantle MHR John Dawkins (Fremantle 20 years on), Fremantle Mayor Peter Tagliaferri (Fremantle 2020 through the eyes of local government), Fremantle Chamber of Commerce president Marylyn New (It's All About Business – or is it?), Fremantle Ports general manager of strategic and commercial development Chris Leatt-Hayter (Fremantle Ports – a dynamic working port), Notre Dame University vice-chancellor Peter Tannock (Notre Dame and Australian education in 2020) and

Tourism WA chief executive Richard Muirhead (Fremantle's role in the state tourism industry).

Cockburn Mayor Steven Lee spoke on Cockburn's view of the future and architect Ralph Hoare on the importance of heritage.

Mr Longley said that while there were many baby boomers in the big audience, A Youth View presented by 22-year-old lifelong Fremantle resident Leah Trigwell and students Harriet Burnham (12), of North Fremantle Primary School, Jade Castle (South Fremantle Senior High School), Ryan Bulluss (Hamilton Hill SHS) and Candelle Nestov (Lakeside SHS) had been particularly impressive with their views and suggestions on the city's future.

Mr Longley said the speakers had given passionate descriptions of why they loved living in Fremantle.

"When we started this conference, we knew it was the start of a journey," said Mr Longley, who was the opening speaker on the first day with the subject Setting the Scene.

"We knew we'd get somewhere. And what happened was that out of all the discussion, we found that a collective view just doesn't exist.

"But Fremantle is filled with groups and organisations all driven by this passion for Fremantle."



John Longley and Marylyn New with (back from left) Harriet Burnham, Jade Castle, Ryan Bulluss, Candelle Nestor and Leah Trigwell. Picture: Martin Kennealey