



Michael Zappia from Harvey Bulls, David Marshall of the Harvey Recreation Centre, South West Academy of Sport chairman Don Punch, academy CEO Bernice Butlion, Leschenault Leisure Centre manager Dave Goodwin, Harvey shire's Paul Beech and Craig Maughan, Harvey Cricket Club.

Sports academy gets lay of land

By **KEN UTTING**

REPRESENTATIVES from five major sporting organisations in Harvey met with South West Academy of Sport board members and senior staff in Harvey last Thursday.

The board had just held its normal meeting in the council chambers and chairman Don Punch said it was important the academy was seen as a part of the region.

"We currently have 14 elite athletes from the Harvey shire benefiting from our programs," he said.

"So it is good for the board to get out into the local communities, catch up with local sporting groups and see the local facilities to get a better understanding of

the area in which these athletes are developing.

"It also enables us to get some feedback regarding the services we provide."

Mr Punch said the academy focussed on young athletes in the region who had the potential to rise to the highest levels in their chosen sport.

"We provide them with local access to coaching, life skills, dieticians, sports psychologists and strength and fitness experts.

"Our aim is to make it easier for families to help their kids achieve without having to travel to Perth three times each week."

The academy has programs set up for four major sports — AFL, hockey, soccer and basketball — and provides individual scholarships to help athletes in all sports.