

Rugby great impressed at how couple tackles life



By **JOANNE MARSH**
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JOHN Eales is used to tackling challenges on the football field. The former Wallaby captain has seen plenty of hard-hitting play in his time but it was one young Toowoomba man who has tackled his own challenges in life that has particularly impressed Mr Eales. Meeting Corey Gravestain and his wife Jacinda and hearing about their struggles to overcome life-controlling problems was a highlight for Mr Eales during his visit to Toowoomba this week. Mr Eales addressed 165 guests at the inaugural McConachie Stedman gala dinner, in support of Teen Challenge, held on stage at the Empire Theatre. A witty speaker, Mr Eales talked about the importance of being "agitated" in the right way towards achieving your goals in life. He related this to the work that Teen Challenge was undertaking to assist young people to overcome their life-controlling problems. Bill Barrett from McConachie

Stedman said the business was pleased to be supporting an organisation such as Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge already operates a local facility for young men and now has full approval to build a young women's centre. Alan Le May, executive director of Teen Challenge, introduced Corey Gravestain and his wife Jacinda, who bravely shared their story. Guests' hearts were touched by Mr Gravestain's story and they honoured him with a standing ovation. "Mr Le May said he was very appreciative of the Toowoomba business community and its commitment to helping young people and of Mr Eales' support. "John Eales is a great ambassador for his sport and also a great ambassador for Teen Challenge," he said. McConachie Stedman and their dinner guests appreciated the need for such programs and were delighted that the amount of \$38,000 raised on the night will assist the Teen Challenge fund-raising campaign "See her live free".



Enjoying the gala night out are (from left) Stephanie Towner, Joel Viktors, Justin and Kylie Reisinger and Abbey Crawford.

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Judi Murphy (left) chats with John and Jean Spall at the McConachie Stedman dinner.



Glen and Sandy McCracken (left) join Louise Barrett at the gala dinner.



Angela Scott and Scott Maroske look forward to hearing guest speaker John Eales.



Enjoying the gala event at the Empire are (from left) McConachie Stedman partners Jane Heidrich, Scott Cutmore, Allan Rother, Bill Barrett, Teen Challenge executive director Alan Le May, guest speaker John Eales, Myles Smith and Steve Kirkman.

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Courtney (left) and Hannah Le May attend the gala dinner at the Empire Theatre.



Margot and Murray Leonard (left) join Reagan Wilson at the McConachie Stedman gala dinner in support of Teen Challenge.



Supporting Teen Challenge are (from left) Jess Gibbs, Nicole Barnett and Jacinda and Corey Gravestein.