




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

---

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**John Eales Rugby Scholarship**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.34 pm): It is an honour for me to inform the House of the launch of the inaugural John Eales Rugby Scholarship at Bond University last week. This is a unique scholarship worth approximately \$55,000 per year for one of the most prestigious and world recognised tertiary facilities in Australia. Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Brailsford announced this innovative award at a special function at Bond University which I attended as the local member for Mermaid Beach. It was also attended by the great man himself, Mr John Eales, along with many other rugby luminaries. It was covered nationally by Fox Sports Television Group. For those non-rugby informed members of this House, John Eales is one of this nation's most celebrated leaders in the world of rugby. His outstanding leadership qualities earned him the nickname 'Nobody', because nobody's perfect.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a rugby-playing student to enjoy the benefits of an outstanding university education whilst savouring the personal leadership mentoring skills of one of the greats of the game that they play in heaven: rugby union. John Eales has given his significant endorsement to the program and is utilising his sporting, business and public leadership skills to further the interests and careers of young up-and-coming rugby players from anywhere in the world.

This fantastic opportunity has been made possible by the philanthropic benevolence of long-time rugby tragic—and, I am told, fifth grade Gregory Terrace rugby legend—and good personal friend of mine, Mr Terry Jackman. Terry has been instrumental in the launch of the Premier Rugby Competition team the Gold Coast Breakers, and he has been a long-term supporter of Australian rugby union. He is a successful Gold Coast businessman who is associated with Village Roadshow Cinemas and Sea World and a former chairman of Tourism Queensland. Terry has generously provided funding, along with Bond University, to make this amazing sporting scholarship become a reality. I cannot wait to see the first young winners of this scholarship flourish under the incomparable mentoring of the great John Eales.

I offer my sincere and appreciative congratulations to Vice-Chancellor Tim Brailsford, rugby tragic Mr Terry Jackman and the legend himself, Mr John Eales, for collaborating on this unique and groundbreaking educational and sporting trophy of excellence, and I wish all the future beneficiaries of this visionary project every success in their careers.