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No shame in jail time

► WAGGA

By Alex McConachie

RUNDLES Auctions have taken out the inaugural Joe Howard Shield after raising the most money for the PCYC's annual Time 4 Kids fund-raiser yesterday.

The shield was established to honour the memory of Mr Howard – a tireless servant of the Wagga community who died in a waterskiing accident on February 22.

Mr Howard was a popular figure at Rundles Auctions, where he worked for 14 years, making yesterday's victory particularly poignant.

The final sums were still being tallied last night, but overall the day raised upwards of \$18,000 – an end result that has thrilled PCYC president Michael Doyle.

"I'm stoked – it's been a won-

derful day," he said.

"We've had very generous support from the business community in Wagga and we're very appreciative of their efforts."

Time 4 Kids day is a major event for the PCYC and is a key fund-raiser for the organisation's activities throughout the year.

But yesterday wasn't just about the sums, with a lot of fun had on the day.

Bemused onlookers at the Marketplace saw a variety of business and community leaders don jumpsuits and spend time behind bars during the course of the day, and Mr Doyle said the day had been an absolute ball.

"We've had many people joking – seeing your mayor or local member in jail brings smiles to

a lot of faces," he said.

"But ultimately we've raised a lot of money and it goes to a very good cause."

Samantha Ainsworth and Ali Alam from GEO Group, the operators of the Junee Correctional Centre, were among those doing time behind bars at the Marketplace yesterday.

It's the second year the pair has volunteered to be locked up and Ms Ainsworth said it was a worthy cause to get behind, with the PCYC proving invaluable in keeping generations of kids out of trouble.

"A lot of people who end up in jail are quite isolated," she said.

"A lot of those community bonds can keep them social."



LOCKED UP: Samantha Ainsworth and Ali Alam from the GEO Group were among the business and community representatives to spend time behind bars at the Marketplace yesterday for the PCYC's annual Time 4 Kids day.
Picture: Les Smith