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BOOK LAUNCH: RUGBY LEGEND'S STORY IS FINALLY TOLD

Life with the Claw: wife Anna tells all

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"IT'S all there. There's no bulls***. What is in it is facts," is how Peter Clohessy describes *A Life With Claw*.

Over 350 gathered in the Thomond Suite on Thursday night for the launch of the book penned by his wife Anna Gibson-Steel.

Peter says he was approached many times about a doing a book after he retired from playing with Young Munsters, Munster and Ireland.

"I had no interest because if I was to do it I would have done it properly and I would have fell out with too many people. I had loads of friendships over the years playing rugby so I didn't want to sacrifice any of that. So I said I would keep it as memories,"



Peter Clohessy, Anna Gibson-Steel, their son Harry and Keith Wood at the launch of *A Life with Claw*

said Peter. However, as the years passed this book was inspired by their youngest son Harry, 8, seeing a clip of Peter scoring a try.

"He never got to see dad-

dy play," said Anna. The couple have two other children - Jane, 15, and Luke, 21.

"The idea of doing it was to record it for them so that's why it made it so much fun.

It was really just for the kids," she adds.

The book tells the story of their life together after meeting at just 14, and his long rugby career including the infamous stamp on French lock Olivier Roumat, when he was labelled "the most dangerous man in Irish sport".

"There are some sad stories in it and some very funny stories in it," said Peter. The warmest round of applause came after Anna spoke about the closure of Clohessy's pub in recent weeks. "Limerick and all of our friends have been absolutely phenomenal in their support over the last few weeks. It is overwhelming. I think that is what makes Limerick and Munster such a special place to live," said Anna. See the Limerick Leader weekend editions for more including great tales from Keith Wood, guest speaker, and Peter on their playing days.

PICTURE: DAVE GAYNOR