Charity poker tournament. Erica and James Packer play poker with Shane Warne and Joe Hachem. Picture: Fiona Hamilton

Source: Herald Sun

Charity poker tournament. Shane Warne and James Packer. Picture: Fiona Hamilton *Source:* Herald Sun

HIS father Kerry had a reputation as a "whale", a high-rolling gambler who loved to bet thousands at the casino.

But James Packer has been more likely to be spotted on the other side of the tables - as a casino owner - until now.

The younger Packer turned up for a hand of poker at Crown casino in Melbourne yesterday to help out good mate Shane Warne at his celebrity poker tournament.

Now in it's fourth year, the event attracted a swag of business leaders, sporting identities and celebrities including comedian Glen Robbins and AFL bad-boy Jason Akermanis.

Looking dapper in light grey suit and black tie, former spin-king Warne joined international poker champ Joe Hachem in hosting the gathering.

Organised by the Shane Warne Foundation, the event aims to raise more than $500,000 for seriously ill and underprivileged young people.

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End of sidebar. Return to start of sidebar.

Warne said it was also an excuse to come along, relax and play a few hands of his favourite game - in the name of a good cause.

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