

# The West Australian

SPONSORED CONTENT

CORY HILL, OCEAN SURF SKI WORLD CHAMPION



## Excitement builds for Shaw and Partners WA Race Week

This year marks the inaugural launch of the Shaw and Partners WA Race Week in Perth, a highlight of the Australian Ocean Racing Series.

The event, held from November 16-23, is set to become the biggest week in the Australian ocean paddling calendar, with five events spread over seven days, and a prize pool of \$100,000.

The five events will run over various distances to find the best surf ski ocean paddler globally, and will include:

- Saturday November 16: Fenn West Coast Downwind.
- Tuesday November 19: The Ben Hewitt Sunset Surf Ski Series Race.
- Thursday November 21: The Ben Hewitt Sunset Surf Ski Series Race.

- Friday November 22: The Shaw and Partners Dash for Cash – prize money: \$15,000.
- Saturday November 23: The Shaw and Partners 'The Doctor' – prize money: \$50,000

Shaw and Partners sponsors the Australian Ocean Racing Series, being Australian-owned and encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle and, adding to the already attractive prize money from The Doctor and Dash for Cash events, has contributed an additional cash incentive of \$35,000 to attract the very best paddlers from all over the world.

Points across all events will count towards the \$35,000 in bonus cash and prizes.

"We are looking forward to continuing to play a very active part in a sport that continues to grow in popularity both across Australia and

By offering an equal prize pool for men and women alike, Shaw and Partners aims to create a dynamic and supportive network within the Australian Ocean Racing Series through engagement, empowerment and support.

Shaw and Partners Co-CEO Earl Evans

internationally," Shaw and Partners Co-CEO Earl Evans said.

"For the second year running, an equal cash incentive has been announced for the winner of the men's and women's open across both the Doctor and Dash for Cash races.

"By offering an equal prize pool for men and women alike, Shaw and Partners aims to create a dynamic and supportive network within the Australian Ocean Racing Series through engagement, empowerment and support."

The series is set to attract paddlers from all over Australia, including Shaw and Partners Race Team members Cory Hill, Rachel Clarke, Michael Booth and Mackenzie Hynard, and contenders from all corners of the globe, with Olympic gold medallist Clint Robinson, current Molokai Champion Hank McGregor, Sean

Rice, Teneale Hatton and Hayley Nixon, just to name a few.

The Australian Ocean Racing Series is the brainchild of Western Australian Dean Gardiner.

After several years of surf lifesaving competition and a lack of appetite for traditional canoeing events, Mr Gardiner wanted to create a series that focused purely on paddling in the ocean.

Following the lead of events like Molokai in Hawaii and some of the longer open-water races held in South Africa, Mr Gardiner's philosophy was simple, "start at one place and finish at another and use all that nature can throw at you to get there as fast as you can."

The series has flourished from its modest beginnings in 2001, to where there are now events in most states and, with the financial support of companies like Shaw and

Partners, substantial prize money for the elite in the field.

"We are one of the few sports that can allow a relative newcomer to start on the same line as the very best in the world," Mr Gardiner said.

Mr Gardiner said many who took on paddling found they were constantly learning new things, as varying conditions meant no one day was the same as another.

"Ocean paddling also draws the very best from surf lifesaving, canoeing and other paddle-based sports, with the ocean being the leveller," he said.

For Mr Gardiner, being able to come back and put on an event in his home state was what he loved most, with WA offering some of the best ocean paddling conditions on the planet.

For more information on the race event, visit [www.oceanpaddler.com](http://www.oceanpaddler.com).



Shaw and Partners  
proudly supporting

Ride the wave of financial success

Shaw and Partners offers the intimacy of a boutique investment firm, with the resources and scale of a major financial group.

Arrange an obligation free, initial consultation today.

Call 1800 198 003



JORDAN MERCER, 2019 MOLOKAI CHAMPION