



THE 20TH ANNUAL
WILLIAM
BUCKLEY
GOLF CLASSIC
OCTOBER 10-12, 2025

Greetings all, and welcome to the
20th William Buckley Classic

The Bellarine Peninsula, October 10-12, 2025

ITINERARY

Friday Evening: From 6:30pm.

Team Meeting at The Range @ Curlewis

Saturday: Round One ("The Ambush")

From 12:36 pm, Queenscliff GC (Swan Island).

Sunday: Round Two ("The Assault")

From 8:30 am, Curlewis GC.

Presentation will be held at Curlewis after golf on Sunday.

Golf Genius Portal (for all event info)

sga-2025williambuckleyclassic.golfgenius.com



EVENT CONTACTS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank:

Sally Pitt, without whom there would be no Bushranger Golf.

SGA sponsors **Srixon-Cleveland Australia, Heathcote Winery, MGI, Garmin, Drummond Golf, and The Card Network.**

The teams at **Curlewis Golf Club, Portarlington GC and Queenscliff GC.**

Mick David & Richard Fellner for all their efforts with SGA. Thanks to **Dean Miller** for his efforts in planning this weekend for your enjoyment.

Roger Brown from Focal Point Garden Design for creating the mighty Perpetual Trophy.

All past and future Members of **Bushranger Golf and SGA.**

Who was William Buckley?

*"William Buckley was a tall, ungainly man ... and **altogether his looks were not in his favour**; he had a bushy head of black hair, a low forehead with overhanging eyebrows nearly concealing his small eyes, a short snub nose, a face very much marked by smallpox, and was just such a man as one would suppose fit to commit burglary or murder."*

-- George Russell, 1836

Born in Cheshire, England in 1780, William Buckley fought as one of the King's Own Regiment against Napoleon's forces in the Netherlands. He was convicted of receiving stolen cloth in 1802 and was sentenced to transportation to Australia for 14 years. He was among 300 prisoners sent out in 1803 to establish the first settlement on Victoria's Port Phillip near what is now Sorrento.

Buckley and two others escaped in December 1803 with the aim of getting to Sydney. Alas, they went the wrong way and circled Port Phillip Bay. Due to the harsh terrain and lack of food, Buckley's companions decided to return to the settlement and give themselves up. But not the determined Buckley. It was the last time any white man would see of him for 32 years.

A powerful man standing over 6'6", Buckley pressed on along the coast to Breamlea, Torquay, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and beyond. His first permanent resting place was near Mount Defiance where he found an abundance of shellfish, edible vegetation and natural cover. In the winter, Buckley was close to death but was rescued by an Aboriginal tribe.

Fortunately for Buckley, the locals believed that white people were Aborigines who had come back from the dead. They named him Murrangurk and took him in as one of their own. For the next three decades, Buckley travelled extensively throughout the region, mostly around Geelong, Barwon Heads, and the Otway Ranges. On July 7 1835, Buckley wandered into a camp of John Batman's party and reacquainted himself with European society.

He was the first European to walk the bush on both sides of Port Phillip Bay, living off the land and on the run from the law. Given that our determined Bushrangers regularly ingratiate themselves with the locals on our trips and that this tournament is played on courses on both sides of the bay, we think it is fitting that this event is known as The William Buckley Classic.

The Golf

Tee Times: Will be sent by SMS from Golf Genius, and published on the Portal. Please be at the golf course at least half an hour before your tee time.

Carts: Keys will be available from your event host(s), or via the pro shop.

The Format: 36 holes of 2-ball Ambrose over two days for Stableford points.

The Rules: Since slow play is a potential problem for our gangs, these rules are designed to encourage play in the right spirit and at the right pace.

- Ambrose: Each team member tees off, and the team chooses the best tee shot. Teams continue to play their chosen best ball on each shot, and play preferred lies – you may place your ball half a club length (about 50cms) from where the chosen ball lies, no nearer the hole.
- Balls must be placed in the same cut as the chosen ball.
- You are NOT required to mark your spot with a tee from tee to green. Once on the green, however, players should mark their chosen ball so each team member plays from near enough to the exact same position.

Handicapping: Team handicaps for the Ambrose groupings are calculated from the individual marks, and are relative to the field.

Ties: In the event of a tie, there will be no playoff. Instead, a countback (following the standard Australian Countback Method) will determine the winners.

Nearest-the-Pin & Longest Drive: Will be contested on both days and, in the interests of team gloating solidarity, any player who wins a LD or NTP wins prizes and glory for his/her entire team.

Rodeo Rule: Each player will be required to use THREE drives per nine holes, daily.

Scoring with the Golf Genius (GG) App

- Search for Golf Genius in your App Store and download the app prior to play.
- Prior to tee off, open the GG app and enter the GGID sent via text.
- One player from each pair will record the stroke scores of the other pair into the App after each hole.
- Scorers please take care to enter the correct stroke scores!
- Please use a paper scorecard as backup.
- The Golf Genius live leaderboard scores will be hidden after the 14th hole to protect the event and preserve suspense for presentation.
- After golf, please check GG App scores with the scorecard.

2025 WBC TEAM FORM GUIDE

The Sullivan Bay Ginger Bread Men: *Buckley and two other convicts escaped from the camp at Sullivan Bay near Sorrento on December 27, 1803. The others turned back after a few days, but Buckley pressed ahead and stayed on the run for the next 32 years.*

Cam Dunn (Sparkie) & Atholl Johnstone (Ya'but)

Peanut Butter & pickles. Toothpaste and OJ. Coriander and... anything. History is rife with pairings that are, in a word, yecch. Yet once in a generation, the unlikeliest of pairs emerge that is so magical...so in-sync...so *mano-y-mano* that the world screeches to a halt and stares, awestruck. This is NOT one of those times. Instead, this Nuts & Gum of a pair are so out of their depth that they'll get lost between the carpark's disabled space and the ramp. That said, golf is just a side dish of their main course: pre-assembling a Saturday hangover. Top blokes? In every way. Competitive? You betcha. Likely to win? Nup.

The Corio Bay Fugitives: *Buckley and his two fellow escapees reached the waterfront on Corio Bay at what is now Geelong a few days after escaping. He came to know this area well over the next 32 years and formed a close friendship with a young Bobby Davis.*

Dean Connell (Honeymoon) and Matty Thomas (T-Bag)

The Schrödinger's cat in a Pandora's Box of golf balls, these oddities are in a permanent state of being somehow in both first and last place at the same time, seemingly before and after the event will be, or has and/or has not, or had, been run. Or ran. Regardless, within each of these sleek golfing cats is solid *potential*: They can either flush it like Tiger... or like Caroma. Or both at the same time. They are quality gents, with heaps of Bushranger history in their respective boxes, so if one and/or both manage to avoid an anticlockwise swirl on Sunday, it will be a miracle. But miracles do (and don't) happen.

The Swan Island Hackers: *Buckley and his two fellow escapees reached Swan Island at Queenscliff on New Year's Day 1804. It was here that the other two returned to Sorrento, but Buckley refused to give up and made the momentous decision to press on alone.*

Dean Baldry (Dash) & Gavin Morris (Minor)

A pair of first-timers for this event, this sophisticated combo somewhat diverge philosophically, with one of them reportedly committing to an obsessive practice regime, while the other believes that golfing brilliance comes from within, and has staunchly adhered to a tried & tested pre-event routine of keeping all golfing time to an absolute minimum. Despite this conflict of paradigms within the team, they remain a massive chance here this week – just not at golf. Short odds to miss the cut in an event with no cut.

The Point Lonsdale Caveman: *After parting ways with his companions, Buckley moved on to Pt. Lonsdale where he is thought to have sheltered in a cave for a short time. Buckley's Cave is still a popular destination for local history buffs and Bushrangers on the lam.*

Fraser Gough (Dr Dunning F-Tard) and Rob Lugton (Luggo-Kruger)

On paper, this the absolute PERFECT pairing: One is a psych, the other is a psycho. They will fancy themselves here BIG TIME, likely due to being afflicted by the Dunning-Kruger effect: a psychological phenomenon where people with limited knowledge or skill greatly overestimate their competence. Expect these over-estimating and clueless nutjobs to burst out of the gates on Saturday, before realising what they have done (bless their cotton socks), then collapsing into a puddle of Sunday mediocrity while they resort to discussing the merits of the refrigeration of imported condiments and smoked meats.

The Barwon Heads Sir Robins: *On his first day marching alone, Buckley happened upon a group of Wathaurong people camped peacefully by the Barwon River. Fearing for his life, he silently crossed the river at the heads and bravely ran away.*

Peter Lange (P1) & Peter Loft (P2)

First start for this combination in a field of this class, and they come in with a focussed "Play the Ball, not the Man" mentality. Alas, once the gravitas of this event hits them, they'll likely abandon the ball itself, and resort to playing head games with each other. These novices likely will not have a clue what has hit them. Or what to hit. Or where to hit whatever it is they're meant to hit. Once they can remember each other's name, they'll come out swinging. But expect to find them gasping for air by Saturday arvo...wondering what the heck has happened by Saturday night...and requiring serious medical and mental attention on Sunday, having been overwhelmed by the majesty of the WBC. Long odds.

The Bream Creek Freaks: *Buckley cruised past 13th Beach and crossed Bream Creek the next day. Later he returned and it was here he built a substantial hut and lived for many years on the abundant supplies of food, including the fish he trapped in the creek.*

Mick David (The Dutch Master) and Jimmy Lantides (The Cypriot Scramble)

The Klink and Schultz of the WBC; they will be so utterly discombobulated by their inability to communicate—and unaware of the chaos surrounding them (or that there is even a golf event happening)—that they will likely be DISSSS-missed from contention before roll call on Saturday. That said, there is certainly golfing ability and plenty of historical WBC success (from one of them), so if they can find a way to understand each other (and avoid "The Cooler"), then they may – MAY – be in with a chance. The reality is, however, that they will resort the "escape tunnel" of shenaniganry, chicanery, trickery, circumlocution, subterfuge and general skulduggery. And air drums. Worth adding to your quaddie.

The Port Jackson Labourers: *As Buckley and his convict mates made a not-so-direct route towards Port Jackson in Sydney, they made it to the Yawong Hills (Bendigo) before running out of food. Dehydrated, ill and likely “hangry”, Buckley retreated in a not-so-straight line towards Melbourne, via Corio Bay, before settling in a cave near Airey’s Inlet.*

Glenn Burton (Frey) & Phil French (Toast)

This rampaging combination are making their first start at this event but have plenty of form to recommend their chances. They probably won’t have too much trouble handling the step-up in class here and they allegedly know the way to the finishing post. They’re both known to enjoy the challenges of a wet track and will be certain to be carrying sufficient liquid self-medications in their cart to see out the journey. They may well have the attributes required to vault into contention, but history is against them as debutantes have traditionally struggled to make a big impression in a star-studded field of this scale.

The Aireys Inlet Slicers: *As his situation became more wretched as he trekked alone, Buckley found clear water at Aireys Inlet and much-needed food. He built his first dwelling near here, a primitive hut of which Maslow would have been proud.*

Shane Weedon (Slasher) & Troy Steneker (Brandt)

This pair may well bring new meaning to the term well-oiled machine. One is certainly a golfing machine, and both present a very strong case for being well-oiled. Are more than likely to combine their talents here this weekend into some sort of outrageous exhibition of world-class machine-oiling with a little bit of golf served on the side. Both are rumoured to be thoroughly under-golfed and over-oiled of late but don’t be surprised if they bob up at the finish – and then seize up just before crossing the line. Trifecta-worthy.

The Torquay Hookers: *Buckley camped on the banks of Spring Creek during his coastal march in 1804. It was here he picked up the spear from the grave of Murrangurk that later would be his saviour.*

Kathy Ridley (Owen) & Zane Ridley (Owen-Two)

History is littered with formidable mother-son duos: Norma and Norman Bates, The Virgin Mary and Jesus, June and Beaver Cleaver, Jocasta and Oedipus. So this pair will be looking to make an equally famous (or infamous) name for themselves this weekend. Alas, while they most certainly have the skill, willpower, knowledge and liver power to contend here, it is unclear if they have the requisite level of “pull-it-all-together-iveness” to salute. We expect that, halfway through this event, there will be shouts of “Mumma, I made a boom boom” before both mother and son retreat to a corner with a pudding cup and a juice box.

The Mount Defiance Alliance: *At Mount Defiance, just past Lorne, Buckley found a cave with fresh water and food nearby and made it his first permanent home, living there through the autumn of 1804.*

Mark Mazzarol (The Cheese) and Michael Oldfield (Tubular)

Another pair of newbies to this field, this bag of mixed nuts is like the humble postmen – neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays them from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. Unfortunately, like all postmen, this pair also doesn't deliver on Sundays, which is a real problem here. They will need to pace themselves to ensure that they have enough in the tank at the business end of the weekend, both on and off the golf course. They may look the goods on Saturday, but they are short odds to "Go Postal" down the stretch on day two. Will be sure to go out with guns blazing.

The Indented Heads: *It was at Indented Head in 1835 that Buckley, after 32 years in the wilderness, walked into the camp of John Batman's exploration party. Standing 6' 6", dressed in possum skins and carrying a spear, a 5-iron and a putter, he made quite an impression.*

Anthony Moscato (Top Cat) & Michelle Jarvis (Skippy)

The "Bonnie and Clyde" pairing of the weekend...If you're referring to the Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler, and Clint Eastwood's sidekick Clyde the Orangutan. This team is like Bitcoin. Nobody understands what it is, how it works, why it works or, really anything else. But work it does...and the entire world just watches it rise. But as the late philosopher Ron Jeremy once surmised, everything that goes up will eventually come down. So while this team may see glory in the morning on Saturday, it will be gone by Sunday afternoon. One thing is for certain: they will have a helluva good time all weekend. Short (ahem) odds.

The Point Addis Bashers: *During his life among the Wathaurong tribe, Buckley travelled along much of the Surf Coast, moving with the seasons for meetings and ceremonies with other tribes. Point Addis was a regular haunt.*

Grant Nuttall (G-Nutz) & Shaun Eldridge (Sheep)

Crafty. Determined. Skilled. Talented. Sly. Strategic. Brilliant. Witty. Entertaining. These are words that can be found in the Macquarie English Dictionary. Unfortunately, they have no relevance here. Fortunately, the same dictionary contains many other words, like: scruffy, futile, odd, unpredictable, three-putt, uncoordinated, unremarkable and discombobulated. Given their significant lack of serious preparation, team-balance and liver power, they will need to produce something very special to contend here this week.

The Otway Rangers: *During his 32 years roaming around the Surf Coast, Buckley rambled and ranged for 1000s of miles including crossing the Otway ranges many times and travelling as far west as Lake Corangamite and as far north as Ballark.*

Ian Steer (Steery) & Cameron Thompson (Thommo)

The John Glenn and Buzz Aldrin of the William Buckley Classic. These boys excel at being Almost First. If they were the only team in the field, they'd still finish runner-up, having lost a playoff to themselves. These two have proven, over many events, to be the place where good golf scores go to die. That said, these quality gents come into the weekend as the HEAVY favourites for the après-golf form, and we expect these two fine specimens to be the life of the party – if it was a six-year-old's birthday party at the local library on a Tuesday arvo after school when you'd rather be at home watching The Goodies.

The Pointless Impossibles: *Buckley roamed all around the west coast of Victoria including the aptly named Point Impossible between Breamlea & Torquay where he made camp and took shelter as he pondered how to survive in this completely foreign and harsh land that seemed so unforgiving to him.*

Dunamis Lui (D-Powa) and Kalala Meni (K-Pop)

They say to succeed in golf, you must make great decisions. And to make great decisions, you must have the capacity to clearly discern the probability of manifold outcomes from a diverse range of often uncontrollable variables. Given that these two are the biggest pair of uncontrollable variables in the field here, this team has close to bugged-all chance of success. Both of them have somehow managed to make an equally rash choice of teammate for this event. Before any shots have been fired, they are both already off to a pretty average start before even arriving at the course. Could implode.

The Cascades Gatekeepers: *In 1842, after having returned to western culture, and moving to Hobart, Buckley landed a primo gig as the gatekeeper for the Cascades Female Factory, a workhouse for women convicts. Yeah, baby! Many gates, doors, cells, flaps, traps, entrances and exits were allegedly gatekept (er..ungatekept) that year.*

Geoffrey Steer (Bleary) & Rita Petrovs (Ruby)

One of the most travelled golfing pairs in the field, these two have the all the flying power and success of John Denver and Amelia Earhart. They will soar above the clouds early, enjoying the in-flight service to the maximum, before realising that neither of them is actually piloting their aircraft, at which point they'll quickly experience a Rapid Unscheduled Disassembly. With an entire planet of golfing experience in their passports, they'll be brimming with confidence here. But expect them to bail out early, and manically try to swap Frequent Flyer points for handicap shots. If they can manage to figure out which of the seven continents they're on, they may contend. But not likely.

Cheshire Militia Pivotmen: *At 19, Buckley enlisted in the Cheshire Militia, where he became “pivot man” of his company--the strategically vital (i.e. tall) person in the centre of a manoeuvring rank. During a battle with Napoleon’s army, Buckley’s right hand was severely wounded. This injury may have led him, later in life, to assume the, uh, more modern definition (i.e. Urban Dictionary) role of “Pivot man”. Ahem.*

Peter Weedon (Roundup) & Harley Voelmle (Vowel-me)

As famed US Post Office delivery-boy-turned-PED-spokesperson Lance Armstrong once (probably) said, “if you stop moving forward, you fall off the bike”. As first-timers here, with no idea of the grandeur of the *Tour De Buckley*, this pair of golfing-mad, bike-riding, testicululating circus-monkeys are at VERY short odds to not only fall off the bike long before Sunday arvo (if they can even mount it in the first place), but will likely lose the chain, basket, banana seat and training wheels, then come to a resonant “blpblpthmthp” as the tyres go flat, before being forced to “Do a Lance” and take their ball home.

The Wild White Men: *With his wild beard, garb, face, language, golf swing, and his towering height—not to mention his 32 years living “as a savage”— Buckley/Murrangurk was the very definition of a wild man. Buckley died in a not-so-wild manner in 1856, at the age of 76, from wounds suffered by unceremoniously falling off his one-horse cart.*

Rob Robinson (Robbo) & Shaun Condron (Johnny B Goode)

When life gives you lemons, you pair them up and hand them golf clubs. For these two *Citrus Limonum*, expect to see little zest, and heaps of curd. And while electricity from a lemon IS possible, it’s far short of the voltage required to jump-start this pair’s golfing game (The wheel may be spinning, but the hamster has long perished.) For these blokes, a golf club is about as useful as a left-handed screwdriver – which may or may not be apt here. If the two of them can agree on which side of the ball from which to hit, and THEN figure out which way to the hole (hint: away from the beverage cart), they may surprise.

The Wallarranga Tribe - *While Buckley lived with the Wallarranga Tribe, they taught him their language, customs, bush skills, how to catch fish and eels, skin possums and kangaroo. They soon gave him a wife, at which point he is rumoured to have immediately hightailed it back to the nearest English camp and begged to be thrown back into prison.*

Richard Fellner (Quigley) and Matthew Pitt (Pw Jones)

While these two have not received medical clearance (or ANY clearance) to play golf this weekend, that won’t stop them from attempting to sabotage every other team in a Hail Mary, Bradbury-esque attempt to be the last ones standing (or at least crouching uncomfortably) at the podium. Watch your backs (and fronts, and tops) as these sneaky moles (er...molls) endeavour to disrupt you from the ground (and the air). Mwahahaha.

Don't miss these upcoming SGA events & trips:

	2025 SGA Queenstown Golf Week Queenstown, New Zealand Oct 26-31
	2026 SGA Trans-Murray Matchplay Canberra, ACT Feb 5-7, 2026
	2026 SGA Vietnam Golf Week Da Nang, Vietnam March 1-7, 2026 (FULL: Waitlist Active)
	2026 Mission Hills Masters Shenzhen March 8-14, 2026 (FILLING FAST: Over 50 booked)
	2026 SGA Tasman Classic Barnbougle, Tasmania May 1-3, 2026
	2026 Autumn Classic Bright & Myrtleford May 22-24, 2026
	2026 Kelly Gang Shootout Cobram-Barooga GC June 19-21, 2026
	2026 SGA Championship Gold Coast August 2-7, 2026

More events at: www.socialgolfaustralia.com.au

THE CRIMINAL RECORD

2024

The Mount Defiance Alliance
Michael Holt
Simon Alston

2017

The Point Lonsdale Cavemen
Paul Benson
John Coleman

2010

The Torquay Hookers
Rob Lugton
Matthew Thomas

2023

The Indented Heads
Andrew Murray
Brett Murray

2016

The Mount Defiance Alliance
Richard Fellner
Michael Van Raay

2009

The Sullivan Bay Ginger Bread Men
Michael Mileo
Michael Van Raay

2022

The Cascades Gatekeepers
Michael O'Sullivan
Rob Fuleky

2015

The Indented Heads
Adam McCaw
Steven Humphries

2008

The Murrangurk Masters
Roger Brown
Michael David

2021

The Point Addis Bashers
Kirk Hayward
Travis Graham

2014

The Bream Creek Freaks
Nick Mouhtaropoulos
Paul Himarios

2007

The Bream Creek Freaks
Roger Brown
Michael David

2020

The Barwon Heads Sir Robins
Ian Steer
Geoffrey Steer

2013

The Sullivan Bay Ginger Bread Men
Neil Hocking
Gavan Doran

2006

The Murrangurk Masters
Michael Mileo
Michael Van Raay

2019

The Coonewarre Revivors
Joe Amenta
Jason Pratt

2012

The Murrangurk Masters
David Warwick
Matthew Pitt

2018

The Swan Island Hackers
Andrew Grant
Yvonne Grant

2011

The Swan Island Hackers
David Warwick
Phil Peacock



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