

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 December 2025

Bigger Stakes, Bigger Thrills: The Willinga Park Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship 2026 Returns With Expanded Prize Money and a Major National Title Debut

Willinga Park is thrilled to announce the return of the Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship, set to take place from 13 to 16 May 2026. Riders from across Australia, from Far North Queensland to Victoria are expected to converge on the NSW South Coast for four exhilarating days of elite campdrafting competition.

Now with more than \$450,000 in cash and prizes on offer - including increased prize pools across key competitions - the Championship continues to affirm its reputation as one of Australia's premier campdrafting events.

Fresh off an exceptional 2025 program, which saw Hugh Miles and Vintage Whiskey claim the Gold Buckle Champion title, the 2026 event promises to elevate the standard once again. Following the success of the Shootout Finals and the Terry Snow Memorial Restricted Open Draft, both features will return in 2026, providing riders with even more opportunities to compete and earn significant prize money.

In a milestone first, Willinga Park is proud to announce that it will host the Pryde's EasiFeed National Champion Rider event for the very first time. This prestigious championship brings together the top competitors from Australia's four Campdrafting Associations - the Australian Campdrafting Association (ACA), the Australian Bushmen's Campdraft and Rodeo Association (ABCRA), the Southern Campdrafting Association (SCA), and the Gippsland Campdrafting Association (GCA). The title will be contested across three rounds, with the rider achieving the highest aggregate score crowned the 2026 Pryde's EasiFeed National Champion Rider. Each association will be represented by its top five riders and Champion Lady Rider, setting the stage for a truly elite national showdown.

"The Pryde's EasiFeed National Champion Rider title is the pinnacle of our sport, and we are thrilled to bring it to Willinga Park for the first time in 2026. The facilities, atmosphere and professionalism of the event make it the ideal home for a championship of this calibre," said Ron Berkley, National Campdraft Council Australia. "We look forward to showcasing the very best riders from across the country on Australia's finest campdraft stage."

Competitors nominating for the Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship will again have the opportunity to qualify for the Shootout Finals. The top fifteen Maiden horses from Open Round 1 and Open Round 2 will advance to the Maiden Horse Shootout Clean Slate Final, while the top fifteen Novice horses from the same rounds will progress to the Novice Horse Shootout Clean Slate Final. The Terry Snow Memorial Restricted Open Draft, open exclusively to Open Horses, provides yet another exciting chance for riders to chase both prestige and prize money.

The 2026 program will also continue to showcase crowd favourites including the Junior and Juvenile Drafts, and the Ladies Dash for Cash, offering a diverse and entertaining schedule for riders and spectators alike.

Since 2012, the Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship program has grown in strength, talent and excitement. Hosting the Pryde's EasiFeed National Champion Rider title for the first time underscores the strength and reputation of the program we're building here at Willinga Park. Terry Snow dreamt of creating a venue that would bring the best of the best in equestrian together and that is exactly what the Willinga Park team continues to deliver," said Nick McDonald Crowley, Managing Director of Willinga Park.

Willinga Park wishes to acknowledge and thank Ringers Western, the outgoing naming-rights sponsor, for their invaluable contribution to the growth of the Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship. Their commitment has elevated the profile of the sport, supported riders nationwide and helped foster the strong community culture that surrounds the event.

Beyond the arena, attendees can look forward to a vibrant festival-style atmosphere featuring live music and entertainment, shopping and hospitality experiences, making the event a highlight for both the campdrafting community and visitors to the region.

Willinga Park looks forward to welcoming competitors, spectators and the wider community to what is shaping up to be one of the signature events of the 2026 campdrafting and community calendar.

Further announcements on program additions, trade village exhibitors, and more event details will be released in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for updates at www.willingapark.com.au or follow @willingapark on social media.

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ABOUT WILLINGA PARK

The South Coast's Most Remarkable Destination.

Willinga Park is more than just a venue; it's an experience. Nestled on 2,600 acres in Bawley Point on the stunning South Coast of New South Wales, Willinga Park is a premier destination for conferences, events, holidays, and a multi-disciplined world-class equestrian park.

Renowned for its award-winning architecture, striking public art sculptures, and beautifully curated botanical gardens, Willinga Park offers a unique blend of luxury accommodation, bespoke conference and personalised experiences. Whether you're planning a corporate retreat, a relaxing getaway, or attending a major equestrian event, Willinga Park delivers excellence at every turn.

The Willinga Park Equine Vet Hospital provides a 7 day a week, 24/7 emergency equine care and after care service for clients and referring veterinarians. The hospital includes advanced imaging suites featuring Australia's only G-scan MRI system, multiple examination rooms, two large surgical theatres, and a fully equipped intensive care unit supported by rapid in-house diagnostics. The extensive rehabilitation facilities complement our medical and surgical services, offering a seamless path from diagnosis and treatment through to full recovery.

EVENT DETAILS

Willinga Park Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship, 2026
13 to 16 May 2026

EVENT IMAGES/ VIDEO

Hugh Miles & Vintage Whiskey – winner of the 2025 Willinga Park Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship
Credit: Jo Thieme

Pete Cominsky and Raunchy Dad at the Willinga Park Gold Buckle Campdraft Championship
Credit: Jo Thieme

Matt Moffat & She B A Cat – winner of the 2025 Pryde's EasiFeed National Champion Rider

2025 Pryde's EasiFeed National Champion Rider lineup

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MEDIA RELEASE



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