

Herald Sun

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**McGuire's shock exit
as Magpies president
amid racism storm**

**“I try my best. I don't
always get it right but
I don't stop trying”**

EDDIE QUITS

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& POLARISING LEADER**

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FANS, GREATS REACT**

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& SPORT**

Two more Covid cases

KIERAN ROONEY, GRANT MCARTHUR

TWO new cases of coronavirus have been found at the Holiday Inn quarantine hotel, prompting a probe into whether three infections in the building are linked to a single outbreak.

The cases were announced hours

after Danial Andrews said Victoria's hotel quarantine was of a "higher standard" than other states. It comes as Victorian chief health officer Brett Sutton flagged a review would ask how the country's quarantine programs could deal with more transmissible COVID-19 variants.

MORE REPORTS, PAGES 12-13

**NEW
BOOK
TODAY**
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TOKEN P9

Packer's thorny Crown

JOHN DAGGE, KIERAN ROONEY

JAMES Packer's Crown Resorts is facing the prospect of a powerful judicial inquiry into whether it should be able to operate the Melbourne casino following the damning findings of a separate New South Wales probe.

Calls for a more rigorous interrogation of Crown's Melbourne facility came after a NSW government inquiry concluded the gaming giant was not a "suitable person" to operate a casino in its new \$2.2bn tower at Barangaroo, Sydney.

FULL REPORT, PAGE 3



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END OF AN ERA

PRIDE
AFTER
FALLEd chokes back tears, saying
he's a 'lightning rod for vitriol'

To my old mate Joffa Corfe and my beloved Magpie Army, I'm with you all side-by-side, black and white forever. Good luck to all. Floreat Pica, may the magpie flourish and go Pies

EDDIE MCGUIRE



Collingwood coach Nathan Buckley after yesterday's bombshell: (left) Eddie McGuire arrives to front the media with wife Carla and their two sons; and (top) making his announcement. Pictures: ALEX COPPEL

COLLINGWOOD president Eddie McGuire choked back tears yesterday as he quit the club he has led for 22 seasons, saying he had become "a lightning rod for vitriol".

McGuire, 56, admitted he had become a negative distraction amid a racism storm, and staying on would undermine the club's ability to move forward on and off the field.

"I try my best and I don't always get it right, but I don't stop trying," McGuire said.

"When I came to Collingwood, it was a club riven with rivalries, enemies and division. It has not been the case in my time. So I do not want any of this to cause rancour or factions. It is better to fast-track my leaving of the club from the end of the year to now."

McGuire also flagged that he would take a break from his media commitments, though Channel 9 said he would continue to host Millionaire Hot Seat and Triple M said he would appear during the AFL season as a special guest.

McGuire's resignation came eight days after the Herald Sun revealed the damning contents of a 35-page report commissioned by the Pies that found there was "systemic racism within the Collingwood Football Club".

On Monday, the Herald Sun further revealed an open letter had been circulated among community leaders, calling for McGuire's "immediate" resignation following his controversial claim in a disastrous press conference that the emergence of the report was "a day of pride for the club".

Among the 100 signatories were federal Labor MPs Peter Khalil and Anne Aly, former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda, Greens senators Lidia Thorpe and Mehreen Faruqi, and St Kilda



MICHAEL WARNER

welfare officer Nathan Lovett-Murray. The letter said the club's response to the leaked Do Better racism report had been "unacceptable and insulting" and "a dangerous example of how victims of racism should be treated".

McGuire, who took on the Collingwood presidency on his 34th birthday in October 1998, said on Tuesday: "People have latched on to my opening line last week, and as a result I have become a lightning rod for vitriol — but worse, have placed the club in a position where it is hard to move forward with our plans."

"I don't think that (continuing as president) is now either fair or tenable for the club or the community."

He defended his legacy, adding: "We are not a racist club, far from it. It is why I'm so proud of our club and the people every day and every week who benefit and who are inspired by the very purpose of the being of Collingwood and that is to be a beacon of hope for all people, particularly those at their lowest ebb or who have been socially isolated and left behind."

Of the damning racism report, McGuire said: "(It) is an acknowledgment that our club, our game and our country have not always got it right."

"For our part we have always sought to do our best but that hasn't always been good enough. For that we are sorry."

McGuire's greatest achievements included the club's historic shift from Victoria Park to the Holden Centre, the poaching of master coach Mick Malthouse in 1999, major commercial partnerships and the team's 2010 premiership.

"From the moment I became president ... my sole

motivation was to heal, unite, inspire and drive a new social conscience not just into this club, but sport and the community in general and build an organisation that would be a place of opportunity for all people," he said. "I committed myself to making Collingwood the best place it could be."

McGuire's reign was marred by a series of self-inflicted lows, including his 2013 "King Kong" comment in reference to Sydney Swans champion Adam Goodes.

McGuire declined to take questions as he announced his resignation, exiting the stage flanked by wife Carla and his two adult sons.

Hours earlier, Premier Daniel Andrews threw his support behind McGuire, declaring: "I made it pretty clear last week that you don't run from challenges. You do everything you can to be equal to them. The Eddie McGuire I know is up to that task."

Heritier Lumumba, whose claims of racism during his time at the club sparked the Do Better report, said of those remarks: "With so many leaders from First Nations and communities of colour calling for McGuire to step down, Daniel Andrews has shown us the boys' club on full display."

"The pain and trauma of communities who suffer racism is more important than the powerful white men and their friendships."

Tony Shaw, Collingwood's 1990 premiership captain, said it was "a sad day for the footy club and the AFL ... they (his critics) probably wore him down in the end ... but I think the time was probably right".

AFL Commission chairman Richard Goyder said: "Eddie's actions today showed his commitment to put the Collingwood Football Club first and to ensure the focus for the club was on moving to implement the 18 recommendations of the "Do Better" report."

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him badly. His supporters will call it bullshit, but he had to go. The club needed clear air and with McGuire still there, it was unavailable.

His devotion to his football club, I'd argue, would run deeper than any other president in football history.

He fuelled rivalry and he gathered the tribe.

He'd make himself to known to everyone associated with Collingwood — "you're part of the Collingwood family" was a catch cry.

He harnessed loyalty and togetherness. He saved Collingwood at the start and then rebuilt faith in the gang of two million diehards.

He loved the players. And

he helped the players. Last week, former Pie Chris Egan criticised the club with a social media post about the review and McGuire's response.

Twelve years earlier, McGuire helped pay Egan's \$25,000 fine for unpaid toll bills.

How many of those stories haven't or can't be told? The ones about drunken escapades, or repaid gambling debts, or life issues. McGuire was a giver.

The conundrum that is Eddie, however, prevailed, especially in recent years.

He'd speak about humanity and justice and respect and his list yesterday of Collingwood's

achievements in those areas cannot be denied, even though self-congratulations can be hollow.

But he'd also put his foot in it.

Like the night he made a comment about the coin tosser in Sydney.

Yes, he was a conundrum.

In the end, the king of spin spun himself into a mess and he couldn't spin himself out of it.

Was Eddie good for Collingwood? No doubt he was. Was he good for the game? Yes, but not always.

A man with a big heart and love for the game was toppled yesterday, which many would find a conundrum in itself.