

# Herald Sun



# DREAM TEAM

**MICHAEL** Malthouse and **Nathan Buckley** will be back in tandem at Collingwood next year.

The reunion is believed to have been ratified at a club board meeting last night and announcements are expected in the next few days.

Malthouse's contract extension is likely to become public today, accompanied by a strong pointer to Buckley's imminent return.



**MIKE SHEAHAN**

Buckley, who turned 37 at the weekend, cleared the way for his return to Collingwood when he advised North Melbourne yesterday he wouldn't be filling the coaching vacancy at Arden St.

The expectation is the former champion will take over from the veteran coach at Lexus Centre after the 2011 season, but it is unclear whether that's guaranteed.

The agreement in principle is the result of months of planning and manoeuvring by Eddie McGuire's administration intended to keep Malthouse and to keep Buckley out of the clutches of other clubs.

As awkward as the arrangement

could prove to be, that's what McGuire and others have been engineering since early this year.

It has just taken a lot longer than expected to deliver.

While Malthouse has been frustrated and angry with the long delay, he is believed to have accepted the notion of working with his former captain.

McGuire has been almost obsessive about his preferred succession plan, stoutly resisting pres-

sure to reappoint Malthouse before securing Buckley.

Despite the widespread expectation of a Malthouse-Buckley reunion, Buckley and Richmond continue to talk as if he will participate in its coaching process.

He confirmed a meeting last night and said: "You go through the first step first and then you worry about the next step after that."

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SECOND

**CHAMP'S WIFE SLAMS JUDGE**



**BLIND FURY**

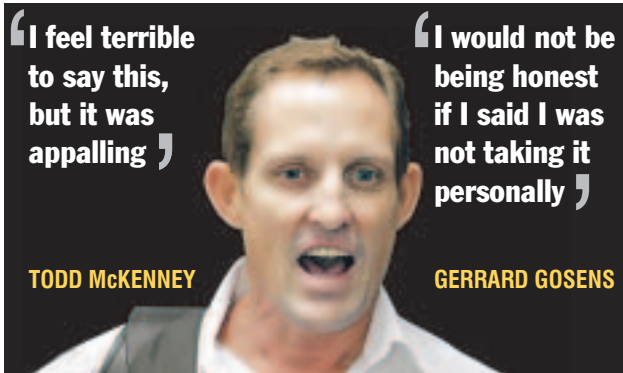
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**JET WHEEL SCARE**



**'SECONDS FROM DEATH'**

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# Wife slams judge over blind dancer

## Todd's tongue lashing

**DANCING with the Stars'** nasty judge Todd McKenney has been slammed for sending a "terrible" message to the vision-impaired after savaging blind Paralympian Gerrard Gosens' performance.

Gosens' wife, Heather, yesterday hit out at McKenney after the sharp-tongued judge labelled the adventurer's salsa routine, which earned him eight points on Sunday's show, as "appalling".

"To be honest with you, and I will be frank, you are not a great dancer. It was awkward," McKenney said.

"I feel terrible to say this, but it was appalling."

Heather Gosens said McKenney's comments were negative and unhelpful.

"Gerrard is trying to show other impaired people that it is appropriate for them to be involved in mainstream activities, saying to these people that things like dancing can be part of their world too," Heather said.

"But Todd, who has a wonderful knowledge, offered nothing constructive when he could have been more encouraging."

Gosens approached the three judges, Helen Richey,

**Fiona Byrne**

Mark Wilson and McKenney, after the show.

The *Dancing with the Stars* website was inundated with feedback from viewers.

"It is sickening to think that there are people like Todd and Helen that would be so nasty, rude and hurtful to another," wrote one fan.

"Shame on Seven. They should never have included a vision-impaired person if they were going to make him the butt of Todd's sarcastic comments," wrote another.

Gosens said he remained positive. "I know I make a lot of mistakes as a dancer, and I'm happy for Todd and the judges to give me low scores — but offer me and those I'm trying to inspire some hope and guidance as well," he said.

"I would not be being honest if I said I was not taking it personally. I am feeling sensational. The main goal was just to survive the solo, and I did. I did everything right."

Gosens said he wanted to be judged as a competitor, not as a blind dancer, but the low score was a shock. "With that sort of score there is only one way to go and that is definitely up," he said.

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**Floored:** Gerrard Gosens with Jessica Raffa on Sunday night. Picture: CHANNEL 7

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**Succession plan:** Eddie McGuire last night.

## Magpies move on Buckley

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Buckley said he had been excited by what he saw from the Tigers in their win over Essendon on Sunday.

Richmond's head of football, Craig Cameron, said last night: "As far as I'm aware, we're still meeting with Nathan later in the week."

"We're expecting to have a chat with him to see if that's the path he wants to go down."

"There's no tokenism on our side."

Asked on radio if he had signed with Collingwood, Buckley said: "Obviously it's a consideration, it's an on-going process."

In a statement released last night, a Kangaroos spokesman said: "The North Melbourne Football Club has been advised Nathan Buckley will not be pursuing the role of senior coach."

"North Melbourne wishes Nathan all the best with whatever career path he chooses to take. The club will continue its search for a senior coach for 2010 and beyond."

Sportingbet Australia has installed former North Melbourne star and current Sydney assistant John Longmire as the \$3 favourite to take the top job at Arden St.

Caretaker coach Darren Crocker is the second favourite at \$3.50 ahead of David King and Damien Hardwick (both \$5).

**Trevor Grant, Page 76**

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