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Years of training come together for RACQ Capricorn helicopter rescue crew

BY: MIKE BRUCE

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CAPRICORN heroes: (From left) Garth Snaidero, Matthew Brandon and Scott Salisbury. *Source:* Supplied

THEY were two days of the most heroic and miraculous chopper rescues Queensland has seen - a time the crew of Matthew Brandon, Scott Salisbury and Garth Snaidero will likely never see again.

In the Queensland floods in January, the trio flew in heavy rain, poor visibility and strong winds, often at treetop height, to pull off a series of incredible rescues on the Capricorn Highway near Rockhampton.

One rescue, in particular, went viral around the globe, when 14-month-old toddler Luke Collie was hauled to safety in a dive bag from a ute.

The crew's incredible work won them the 2013 Pride of Australia Heroism Medal, presented in Brisbane last month.

Now only one of the crew, Mr Snaidero, is still in helicopter rescue. Mr Salisbury is flying crews to gas rigs in Western Australia, while Mr Brandon, 42, has struck out on his own.

"To not only do those rescues but see them get such great exposure and win an award or two topped off my flying career," Mr Brandon said.

The win makes them eligible for the People's Choice Medal, including \$10,000 for themselves and \$10,000 for their nominated charity.

• Readers can vote for their favourite medallist until October 28, with the winner announced at the National Pride of Australia Ceremony on November 15. Vote at prideofaustralia.com.au