For the humble three-man crew aboard the RACQ Capricorn rescue helicopter, the title of heroes isn’t one that sits comfortably. But for Robin Collie, her 14-month-old son Luke, and her friend Donna, who were rescued from raging flood waters near Biloela in Central Queensland on the Australia Day weekend, there’s no better way to describe them.

“When we flew over, we could see fast moving water almost covering the bonnet of the 4WD ute. It was lodged up against a tree, which made it incredibly dangerous for our crew to be lowered down the line, because it would have been so easy for them to smash into the trunk in the wind and down draught.”

Baby Luke was the first priority for the helicopter crew. Carrying a large equipment bag, Garth Snaidero landed precariously on the tray of the ute. Robin and Donna were asked to assist to zip the toddler inside the large bag.

“Once inside the bag, Garth used all his strength to lift him, holding on for dear life, as I carefully brought him back up the line,” Matt said.

Vision taken from the helmets of the crew was broadcast across the world. Newspaper and magazine headlines read ‘Baby in bag saved by flood heroes’. “For us, because it’s what we are trained to do, it was just another task on a weekend that involved many rescues because of the floods,” Matt said.

Since the rescue, and the publicity surrounding it, the community helicopter has received donations from across the country. The funds have been earmarked to buy state-of-the-art harnesses, designed especially for young children.
MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FROM RACQ
GROUP CEO, IAN GILLESPIE

As a Queensland mutual organisation, RACQ has always been about helping people. Among the many areas of support the Club provides to the community is our sponsorship of helicopter rescue services which between them cover most of the state.

The RACQ-sponsored rescue services last year flew 1200 life-saving missions. They’ve been prominent in the extensive rescue operations following natural disasters in Queensland, as well as helping to save the lives of motorists involved in serious road crashes.

RACQ is proud of its role as a sponsor of these aeromedical and rescue services that provide a safety mantle for more than three million people across Queensland.

I encourage RACQ members to help the rescue network’s life-saving efforts by donating either through the insert in this magazine, or via the RACQ website, at racq.com/helicopter.

**RACQ RESCUE HELICOPTER NETWORK**

**TASKINGS PERFORMED BY OUR RESCUE HELICOPTER NETWORK**

**HOSPITAL TRANSFER**
- CareFlight ... 60%
- Capricorn ... 60%
- CQ ... 47%
- NQ ... 8%

**SEARCH AND RESCUE**
- CareFlight ... 5%
- Capricorn ... 4%
- CQ ... 10%
- NQ ... 16%

**CAR CRASH**
- CareFlight ... 25%
- Capricorn ... 10%
- CQ ... 13%
- NQ ... 40%

**PATIENTS UNDER 10 YEARS**
- CareFlight ... 10%
- Capricorn ... 7%
- CQ ... 8%
- NQ ... nil in 2012

**MAJORITY OF TRAUMA INJURIES**
- CareFlight ... Head and chest
- Capricorn ... Chest/spinal/
  fractures
- CQ ... Spinal/compound
- NQ ... Spinal and head

**TOTAL:** $290,600

**LINE 2**
- a. Red rescue strop ... $400
- b. Switlik (blue jacket) ... $700
- c. Gath helmet x 2 ... $200
- d. Patient harness ... $1100
- e. Float rope ... $300

**LINE 3**
- a. Winch stretcher ... $2500
- b. Tagline (yellow/red bag) ... $300

**LINE 4**
- Ferno scoop stretcher ... $1800

**LINE 5**
- a. 1 Patient stretcher
  ........................................... $40,000
- b. Equipment tray and legs
  ........................................... $32,000
- c. Propac MD monitor
  ........................................... $45,000

**LINE 6**
- a. 1 Patient stretcher
  ........................................... $40,000
- b. Oxylog 3000+ ventilator
  ........................................... $30,000

**LINE 7**
- a. Medical equipment
  ........................................... $6800
- b. Four crew helmets
  ........................................... $12,000
3 x Night vision goggles
  ........................................... $75,000

**LINE 1**
- Neann vacuum mattress
  ........................................... $2500

**LINE 8**
- Neann vacuum mattress
  ........................................... $2500

**LINE 9**
- Neann vacuum mattress
  ........................................... $2500

**LINE 10**
- Neann vacuum mattress
  ........................................... $2500

**MAIN IMAGES:** MARK BUCHANAN.

**QUEENSLAND’S LARGEST CLUB**

**APR/MAY 2013 THE ROAD AHEAD** 11
NQ Rescue just as long to fly. “It’s sometimes very difficult for us to locate crash sites in rural Queensland. There are long stretches of road with very few landmarks as reference points,” Mr Dorr said. “But I’ll never forget this crash. You could clearly see from kilometres away … a massive ...
RACQ CQ RESCUE

Truck driver Gino Feltrin wakes up every morning, thankful for the day he had a horrific motorcycle crash, because it not only saved his life, but that of another Australian as well.

The 52-year-old Coffs Harbour adventurer was on a group motorbike journey to the Gulf of Carpentaria in September last year. Travelling along a remote dirt road, outside of Clermont in Central Queensland, a kangaroo jumped across the road, forcing him to swerve. A truck smashed into pieces and there were skid marks that criss-crossed for almost 100m down the road.

“Truck smashed into pieces and there were skid marks that criss-crossed for almost 100m down the road. The patient had been lying on the hot road for almost two hours before we reached him. He had suspected spinal injuries and internal injuries. The truck driver was taken to the town of Gregory where the Royal Flying Doctors’ Service fixed wing plane awaited to transport him to Mount Isa base hospital.”

Our paramedic had to work quickly and carefully before we could move him.”

“It wasn’t until we got to hospital that I realised I had two broken ribs, five cracked ribs, three fractured discs in my spine, and a partially collapsed lung. But they also found a strange shadow on my kidneys. Further scans revealed I had stage four kidney cancer. I’d had no idea before then that I was seriously ill.”

Returning to New South Wales, doctors offered him a rare treatment opportunity that would not only cure his cancer, but also save the life of another person. They would remove his kidney, cut out the cancer, and then transplant the partial kidney to another patient waiting for an organ donation.

“The doctors told me you only need 25 per cent of one kidney to stay alive. So I was said ‘yep, sign me up’,” Mr Feltrin said. “About three weeks ago, I got a letter from the transplant team and the person who received my kidney is now off dialysis, out of hospital and living a relatively normal life.

“It’s a story I tell with pride. I tell a lot of people how important the helicopter service is. I’m more than grateful for the service that they provide. I wouldn’t be here without them.”

On February, 12, 2013, Gino was given the all clear by his oncology specialists – he is officially cancer-free.