



## Two brave miners. A croc-infested river. **What's the connection?**

When two Tasmanian tourists became trapped on top of their vehicle in the flooded McArthur River, John Waerea from McArthur River Mine and Matthew Irving from North Australian Helicopters came to the rescue.

Winching down from a helicopter into the swirling waters below, the pair plucked the tourists from almost certain death and earned themselves Australian Bravery medals from the Governor-General.

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 [McArthur River Mine](#)



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The lifesaving actions of McArthur River Mine's (MRM) John Waerea and North Australian Helicopters pilot Matthew Irving have been recognised by the highest order, with the duo named recipients of the Governor-General's Bravery Medal for a complex rescue they performed at the McArthur River.

John and Matthew received the accolade after rescuing two men who had become stranded in the river on the roof of their car near Cape Crawford for over 24-hours on Australia Day in 2018.

John, who is a long-standing employee at MRM and Captain of the Emergency Response Team, and North Australia Helicopter's pilot Matthew, had to use their judgement under pressure on how to best rescue the men after receiving the call up from Borroloola Police.

The men, who had been trying to cross the swollen and crocodile infested river in their hire car, thought their time was up, later telling MRM staff he had been prepared for the worst.

Following a quick practice run on the side of the highway, it was decided that Matthew would position the helicopter one-metre above the vehicle with John retrieving the men one by one, something neither John nor Matthew had attempted before.

The quick judgement call and practice run paid off with the pair being successfully and safely rescued by John and Matthew before nightfall.

MRM General Manager Steven Rooney praised the duo for their courageous act, staying calm and following safety procedures during the difficult rescue.

"I couldn't be prouder that the quick-thinking and courageous actions of John and Matthew have been formally recognised outside MRM," he said.

"The pair are the perfect example of the high standard of people we employ and engage at MRM; the type of people that demonstrate bravery and put the needs of others above their own."