

## THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY MEDAL (N.Z.B.M.)

### Mark Charles SMITH

Date of action: 13 July 2001

Date of award: 23 October 2005

#### *Citation*

On 13 July 2001, Mr Smith was travelling to Christchurch on Highway 73 near Kirwee, when the vehicle in front, driven by a woman, hit a patch of ice and collided with a fully laden concrete truck. The truck crushed the car and the woman was trapped inside it under the truck, with flames beginning to spread along the underside of the wreckage. Mr Smith immediately stopped his car and went to her aid. After some considerable difficulty, he was able to force open the door of the woman's car and free her from her seat belt. All the time flames were licking around them. The driver of the concrete truck then managed to back his vehicle off the wreckage of the car, at which time its petrol tank exploded and the vehicle was incinerated.