

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

Caine Francis SPICK

Date of action: 18 April 2003

Date of award: 23 October 2005

Citation

On 18 April 2003, Mr Spick aged 15, his twin brother and a friend were fishing from the Tinopai Wharf in the Kaipara Harbour. At about 2.00 p.m. that afternoon a young boy approached them and told them his friend, a 7 year old boy, had fallen off the wharf and was drowning as he didn't know how to swim. Mr Spick immediately jumped into the fast flowing out-going tide and managed to reach and hold on to the boy. Mr Spick didn't let go, despite swallowing large quantities of water and being dragged under several times. The two were washed some 300 metres downstream towards the Kaipara Heads and the Tasman Sea. Meanwhile, Mr Spick's twin brother and friend raced from the wharf to alert a fisherman they had seen earlier. The fisherman went to the aid of Mr Spick and the boy, successfully recovering them from the water in his boat.