

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

Ryan William LILLEBY **Sergeant, New Zealand Police**

Date of action: 27 July 2014

Date of award: 1 August 2016

Citation

On 27 July 2014 Sergeant Ryan Lilleby attended a family violence callout to a house in the Auckland suburb of Papatoetoe along with two other Police officers.

A woman met the Police officers outside the property and stated that her husband was inside armed with a knife and was threatening self-harm, having earlier threatened to kill her with the knife. Sergeant Lilleby observed the man through an open window and told him to drop his knives, to which the man responded by beginning to cut his wrist with a large kitchen knife. The Police officers bypassed the locked front door and entered the house, finding the man sitting on a couch with two knives. Lilleby and another officer aimed their tasers at the man and instructed him to drop the knives. When this was ignored the other officer fired his taser, which had no effect in subduing the man. The man then stood and charged at the Police officers with both knives outstretched. Sergeant Lilleby fired his taser, again to no effect, before the Police officers became separated as they attempted to back out of the room. One Police officer was cornered by the man in the kitchen, and was stabbed in the stomach with the larger knife, which was stopped by stab resistant body armour. As the man tried to stab the officer in the neck with the smaller knife, Sergeant Lilleby grabbed the man from behind while he still had both knives and wrestled him to the floor. Sergeant Lilleby struck the man in the head to momentarily stun him, allowing Lilleby to restrain him further until he was handcuffed by the third Police officer.