

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

Pamela Ruth THOMPSON

Date of action: 10 May 2021

Date of award: 6 December 2024

Citation

Mid-afternoon on 10 May 2021, a man with a short kitchen knife in each hand attacked a staff member at a supermarket in central Dunedin, causing multiple wounds as she tried to defend herself. Several shoppers and staff in the busy supermarket attempted to restrain the offender during his frenzied attack, which occurred in little over a minute, with four people in total sustaining stab wounds.

A supermarket employee Ms Pam Thompson was working at the time and heard screaming. She made her way to the pharmacy aisle and saw her colleague Mr Dallas Wilson get stabbed while attempting to restrain the offender. Ms Thompson grabbed a plastic chair from the pharmacy waiting area. As she entered the aisle, the offender stabbed another man who had intervened. Ms Thompson threw the plastic chair at the offender, which was then picked up by an off-duty Police officer and used to push the offender to the ground.

Ms Thompson joined the off-duty Police officer in pinning the offender, kneeling on the offender's back. The offender continued to struggle on the ground with knives in his hands. Ms Thompson grabbed the offender's right hand to try to control the knife. The offender eventually let go of the knife allowing Ms Thompson to remove it, while another person was able to remove the second knife. The offender was restrained until uniformed Police arrived to arrest him.

Ms Thompson moved to assist her wounded colleague without hesitation, confronting the offender and making a key contribution to restraining and disarming him, demonstrating bravery.