

18 August 2014

For immediate release

AMP calls for Auckland PhD students to pitch their research and win \$5k

AMP is calling for Auckland PhD students who have an innovative quest to change the world to enter its inaugural AMP IGNITE competition to pitch their research project to a live audience and be in to win up to \$5,000 to help further their research.

AMP IGNITE entries open on 18 August, closing on 7 September, and finalists have just 150 seconds (2.5 minutes) to pitch their idea to a panel of judges in an entertaining performance evening on 23 October competing against their peers through storytelling, performance art, dance, comedy, music or even magic.

James Georgeson, Director of Strategy, at AMP says: “Kiwis are renowned for being innovative in their aspiration to change the world, and as part of our commitment to helping Kiwis achieve their dreams AMP IGNITE gives Auckland-based PhD students the chance to win \$5,000 cash to further their research.

“Sometimes the biggest challenge faced is having the confidence and ability to translate a complex idea into everyday language. Having the skills to think creatively and deliver an engaging proposal can often be the key to opening doors. Whether on stage or in the boardroom, delivery and timing is everything,” he continues.

AMP IGNITE will help participants explore their creative side, think differently, gain confidence, and experience the rush and spontaneity of pitching their idea. In the lead-up to the event, participants will have the chance to work with a team of mentors from the entertainment, advertising, science and technology industries who will help transform the theoretical idea into theatre.

AMP will award a \$5,000 Grand Prize to the most captivating performance. In addition, the audience will decide on the \$1,000 “People’s Prize”.

AMP IGNITE will be hosted by media presenter and producer Oliver Sealy and mentors include:

- Dr Michelle Dickenson (aka Nano Girl) - the director of New Zealand's only Nanomechanical testing laboratory, Michelle has a PhD in biomedical materials engineering and she has regular slots on national television and radio
- Tim Groenendaal manager of The Feelers & Anika Moa and co-creator of Siren Records of which Goldenhorse was its first artist

- Peter Vegas - gag writer for Radio Hauraki, host of Max TV & Creative Director at a number of New Zealand's largest advertising agencies
- Urzila Carlson – comedienne, a regular panellist on 7 Days, and she has appeared on A Night at the Classic and The Jono Project
- Richard Gourley – inaugural supreme winner of the PSP Design challenge for his outdoor solar shower installation and its solar thermal heating application.

Ends

For further information, please contact, Dee Crooks, Head of PR and Communications at AMP on 09 337 7281 or 027 886 2119.

Notes to Editors

The 2014 AMP IGNITE event is the inaugural event and if successful we will look to expand it to the rest of New Zealand in 2015.

AMP IGNITE Terms & Conditions

- Open to students who are currently undertaking PhD research or have completed their research after January 2013
- The research undertaken must be Auckland based (i.e. performed by an Auckland based researcher, under PhD supervision by an Auckland based university)
- Documentation / evidence supporting the research (e.g. conference papers or presentations, publications, patents) and any internal review by academic staff should be included in the application
- The application form is to be completed in its entirety and submitted by the due date. No late entries will be considered
- Full T&Cs can be found at: www.ampignite.co.nz and further queries can be directed to ignite@amp.co.nz

About AMP

- AMP is a leading wealth management and insurance provider in the New Zealand marketplace and has been supporting the financial welfare of customers for 160 years
- Our customers hold more than 870,000 investment, savings and insurance products
- AMP has one of the largest networks of advisers in New Zealand
- AMP is the only default KiwiSaver provider with both a 'silver' rating from Morningstar and a 5 Star Canstar Award
- AMP has more than 260,000 KiwiSaver Scheme members and more than \$3 billion funds under management, equating to around 14% market share
- We've awarded more than \$1.8 million in the last 16 years through our AMP Foundation
- In 2013 we:
 - helped more than 1,800 kiwis buy their first home through KiwiSaver
 - paid out \$46.75 million in general insurance claims
 - supported approximately 73,000 New Zealanders who were unable to work because of an injury or illness by paying out nearly \$9 million in income protection insurance
 - wrote \$644 million in new mortgages, and
 - provided advice over the phone to more than 150,000 New Zealanders – more than 400 people per day.