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For immediate release

Passionate foodie receives AdviceFirst Regional Scholarship

Waikato food enthusiast, Vicki Ravlich-Horan is the regional recipient of the AdviceFirst Waikato Regional Scholarship, receiving \$5000.

With more than 20 years' experience in the hospitality industry, the passionate foodie was selected from 47 other applicants from the Waikato, to receive an AdviceFirst Waikato Regional Scholarship.

Vicki has been awarded one of 12 Regional Scholarships across the country. Each Regional Scholarship recipient is awarded \$5000 to 'do their thing', and AMP will provide an additional top up of up to \$5,000 to one of the Regional Scholarship recipients at the AMP Scholarships National Awards evening on 4 December.

Mark Ennis, Chief Executive Officer, at AdviceFirst says: "Vicki has a very impressive background in the hospitality industry and we admire the drive and passion she has provided to help generate recognition for the great work this region contributes to the food industry."

"I want to see the Waikato celebrated as one of NZ's best food regions so I'm thrilled to be awarded the AdviceFirst Waikato Regional Scholarship. I am looking forward to having the opportunity to create an organisation that can help the Waikato food businesses grow, flourish and promote the region further," says Vicki Ravlich-Horan.

"Having worked in the hospitality industry for many years, I sold my business five years ago to set up a local magazine. My days are now spent talking to people in the food industry - from cafes and restaurants, to producers and the public."

"Soon after I set the magazine up, I realised many of the struggles I faced as a business were shared by others, and it seemed so much time and money was wasted by people making the same mistakes. I also discovered the Waikato, a place I love, is often overlooked as a food producing region with world class restaurants, so I want the world to know that this region is amazing!"

"In September last year, I held a public meeting to gain support and elect a committee for Waikato Food Inc. We have since set ourselves up as an incorporated society and are about to publish a Waikato Dining Guide."

"The Waikato Dining Guide is going to be a great publication. As well as promoting the region, it will help local businesses grow and up-skill themselves in the industry."

"The money received from the AdviceFirst Waikato Regional Scholarship will be put towards hiring staff and creating a website that will inform our members, and those wanting to learn about

food in the Waikato.”

Ennis concludes: “We’re delighted the \$5000 AdviceFirst Waikato Regional Scholarship will be put to good use with a person whose values of passion, hard-work and determination aligns with that of our team.”

AdviceFirst Hamilton is the local office of the successful firm of Financial Advisers who believe New Zealanders deserve quality financial advice to help them stay on track through life. Formed by four leading financial advice firms in 2008, AdviceFirst has become the largest financial advice business of its type in New Zealand, with branches in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu, Kapiti, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury and Otago. AdviceFirst focuses on financial planning advice, insurances of all types, KiwiSaver, investments and home loans. AdviceFirst’s cornerstone shareholder is AMP, who have operated in NZ for over 160 years.

For more information, visit doyourthing.co.nz or www.advicefirst.co.nz.

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Prepared on behalf of AMP ‘Do Your Thing’ Scholarships programme by the pr shop. For more information or images, please contact Lindsay Stanley on lindsay@theprshop.co.nz or 09 360 0385.

Notes to Editor:

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 approximately 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.

About ‘Do Your Thing’:

- **AMP National Scholarships:** 11 National Scholarships are available each consisting of one payment of up to a maximum of \$10,000. Recipients will be invited to the AMP Scholarships National Awards evening on 4 December
- **AMP Regional Scholarships:** 12 Regional Scholarships are being offered by 11 Adviser Businesses in the AMP Financial Adviser Network. Each will award a scholarship of up to \$5,000 to help someone in their region do their thing. AMP will select and provide a top up of up to \$5,000 to one of the Regional Scholarship recipients

- **Study Start Scholarship:** is for a Year 12 or 13 student who is aiming to make a positive difference in New Zealand through their field of study or training. The scholarship is worth up to a maximum of \$10,000
- **People's Choice Scholarship:** People's Choice gives you the opportunity to tell friends, family and colleagues about 'your thing' and win their support by getting them to vote through Facebook. The scholarship is worth up to **\$10,000**
- **AMP People Scholarship:** is for AMP employees and Advisers in the AMP Financial Adviser Network who want to do their thing. The scholarship is worth up to \$5,000.
- Full terms & conditions can be found on www.doyourthing.co.nz