

Olivia Bennett

2017 Recipient of The Michael Barnett Scholarship

Communication and connectivity are key goals for this highly awarded teenager

Olivia's application for The Michael Barnett Scholarship spoke about enabling herself to be extended as a leader and help others to do the same.

There's no doubt Olivia has extended herself in the ensuing year.

Olivia had a goal to enhance communication between the aspiring businesswomen of tomorrow and lead her own not-for-profit business venture. So she established *herTeam* - a project connecting young women interested in business and politics with professional female mentors in those fields.

"I established this organisation after realising that business and politics were male-dominated fields, and that very few mentoring opportunities existed for women my age," she says.

The inaugural *herTeam* conference was a great success, attracting speakers of the calibre of the US Consul General in New Zealand, Melanie Higgins, and PR consultant, Michelle Boag.

Olivia's goal for extension then received an unexpected, but fully deserving boost when she was awarded a further scholarship - the Sir Douglas Myers scholarship to study at Cambridge University in England.

Eighteen-year-old Olivia will study economics at Gonville and Caius College when she takes up the scholarship later this year.

"Economics will equip me to work in successful and challenging corporations in my future career. It will also assist in my ultimate aim to establish and run a profitable social enterprise."

Olivia completed her school years at St Cuthbert's college last year as Dux, topping her school in history, physics and statistics. She also completed a university paper in calculus at the University of Auckland, while completing eight scholarship papers as well as being highly commended in the National Monetary Policy Challenge as governor of her school Reserve Bank team.