Jones boy is on a Rhodes to success

JULIE KUFFER

OXFORD University is a long way from the Gulf of Carpentaria, but newly appointed Rhodes scholar Michael Jones is bridging the gap.

The Knox Grammar School Old Boy, who captained the Wahroonga school in 2004, will join Oxford’s community in September to complete a Master’s Degree in Politics. With an Honours Degree in Political Science from the Australian National University, he aims to use his time at Oxford to build on his earlier research into policy change within indigenous affairs.

“... and a gentleman, Michael Jones.

“At Oxford I aim to get an international perspective on issues I have studied within the context of indigenous affairs in Australia,” the Neutral Bay resident said.

“I think the opportunity to study with community-spirited Rhodes scholars from around the world will assist in this. My hope is to return and usefully apply this international perspective in Australia.”

The triathlete, who has a string of prizes for all-round ability, has first-hand experience within the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Inspired by a volunteering expedition he did at school to Guatemala, Mr Jones took a road trip to Doomadgee, where Queensland borders the Northern Territory. Struck by the area’s social problems, he took up a summer scholarship with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, while maintaining contact with Doomadgee residents.

He subsequently established a formal partnership between the remote town and the ANU and, with academics and Indigenous elders, formed the Wadjularbinna Foundation to assist impoverished children with tertiary study.

Last year he received the prestigious graduate Tillyard Prize from the ANU.

HSC breather ... stress less

WHILE completing the 2010 Higher School Certificate, Chatswood’s Laura Peirson found time to organise several charity events, including Girls’ Night In and an Anglicare clothing drive.

The vice captain of Arden Anglican School ran the Student Representative Council and a Bible study group, played soccer and basketball, achieved gold in the Duke of Edinburgh and played guitar in the chapel band.

“Don’t stress too much about the HSC because it is going to happen regardless and it is easier to perform better without large amounts of stress,” Laura said.

“Just do the best you can – work your hardest – but in the end you have to remember that theATAR is just a number and it doesn’t define you.”

“Work hard throughout the week and get all of your work finished by Saturday, if possible, and then take Sunday off.”

School captain for 2010, Eleanor Lamb—