Honourable Steve Maharey CNZM, Vice Chancellor of Massey University, NZ

Steve Maharey is a former Member of Parliament for Palmerston North and member of the Labour Party. He left politics and the party before the 2008 general election to become the Vice-Chancellor of Massey University.

In Government, Steve held the roles of Minister of Education, Minister of Broadcasting, Minister of Research, Science and Technology, Minister for Crown Research Institutes, Minister responsible for the Education Review Office, Minister of Social Development and Employment, Minister of Housing and Minister of Youth Affairs.

Earlier in his career Steve was a senior lecturer in Sociology and before that a junior lecturer in Business Administration. His main academic interests include government and the public sector, social policy (particularly social development), education, social change and politics. Steve is currently Chair of the Committee for University Academic Programmes, a Deputy Chair of Asia New Zealand, Deputy Chair of Universities NZ, a member of the Territorial Force Employers Support Council, a Board member of FoodHQ, AgriOne, Massey University Foundation, the Riddet Institute and the Manawatu Cancer Society. He is Patron of the Manawatu Squash Association and Central Football. He is a Director of Massey Global Ltd.

Steve has extensive experience in all forms of media. He has contributed to eleven books and is a frequently invited public speaker.

Professor Laurence Boulle AM, Australian Catholic University

Professor Boulle practised law for five years before becoming an academic. He has held academic positions at four Australian law schools and has taught at universities in New Zealand, the Pacific, Africa and Europe. He was a foundation staff member at the Bond University Law School where he established the Dispute Resolution Centre, which continues to provide extensive training and continuing professional development after two decades. His current teaching and research interests are in mediation, dispute resolution, globalisation and international economic law.

Professor Boulle has published extensively in constitutional law, employment law, mediation, and international investment. His books on mediation have been published in seven countries. He has presented papers at numerous international conferences.

Professor Boulle has practised for 20 years as a mediator and as consultant to governments on conflict management and dispute systems design. He was chair of the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council for two terms and currently serves as Chair of the Mediator Standards Board. He has also served on the National Native Title Tribunal as a part-time member.

DINNER SPEAKER

Dr Farah Palmer ONZM, Tainui, Ngati Maniapoto, Senior Lecturer and Director, Te Au Rangahau School of Management, Massey University, NZ

Dr Palmer has a particular research interest in race, gender and leadership issues in sport management, and her most recent publications have focused on elite Maori athletes and their cultural identities in sport, the leadership and organisational culture of the All Blacks, Black Ferns, Maori All Blacks, Maori women’s experiences in sport management, and the involvement of mothers in elite sport as leaders and athletes.

For 10 years Dr Palmer captained the New Zealand women’s rugby team, the Black Ferns, and since retiring in 2006 has been a professional development manager for the Manawatu Rugby Union, an independent member of the Maori Rugby Board, a member of the Women’s Advisory Committee for the International Rugby Board, and research consultant for the New Zealand Rugby Union. She is also the Director of Te Au Rangahau (Maori Business & Leadership Centre) and an associate of Te Mata o te Tau (Academy for Maori Research and Scholarship at Massey University).

Dr Palmer’s current community commitments include being a trustee for an alternative education programme with a sport/Maori approach (Manukura) and a member of the Ministerial Taskforce reviewing Alcohol Advertising and Sponsorship. She teaches a leadership paper and promotes leadership development opportunities such as the Young Women in Leadership@Massey workshop for Year 12 female students.