



## **Keynote Speaker: The Right Honourable James Brendan Bolger, ONZ**



The Right Hon. James Bolger was Prime Minister of New Zealand from October 1990 to December 1997. During his 25-year career in politics he led the National Party for almost 12 years, was a Minister for 16 years and had three consecutive terms as the country's head of government.

Under his leadership the New Zealand economy was transformed from having the lowest growth rate among the 29 OECD nations to one of the strongest.

On 31 December 1997 Mr Bolger was appointed a member of the Order of New Zealand (ONZ), New Zealand's highest honour.

From June 1998 to January 2002 Mr Bolger was New Zealand's Ambassador to the United States.

Today Mr Bolger is the chair of New Zealand Post and its subsidiary Kiwibank.

He also chairs the Advisory Board of the World Agricultural Forum, St Louis, USA, is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ian Axford Fellowships in Public Policy, Chairman of the Gas Industry Company Limited, Chairman of Express Couriers Limited, Chairman of Express Couriers Australia, Chairman of KiwiRail, Chairman of Trustees Executors Limited, Trustee of the Rutherford Trust, President of the NZ/US Council. In January 2004 he was made Patron of the Institute of Rural Health and in May 2007 was made the Founder Patron of NZ United World College Trust. He is also Founder Patron for the NZ Business Excellence Foundation. In February 2007 he was appointed the Chancellor of Waikato University.