

Graham Campbell Atkinson

General Manager of the Royal New Zealand Ballet from 1974 through 1977, a period of significant reorganisation and renewal, and was seconded during this time as Company Manager for the Australian Opera's New Zealand visit in 1976. Prior to that was Secretary/Accountant to the Queen Elizabeth Arts Council and subsequently spent some 10 years in commercial theatre and concert presentation and touring. Among the many artists he worked with during that period were Cleo Laine & John Dankworth, Sir Harry Secombe, Dave Allen, Barry Humphries, Victor Borge, Keith Jarrett, Ravi Shankar, Emmy Lou Harris, The Pointer Sisters and Willie Nelson as well as a number of theatre tours featuring TV and film personalities from the UK.

In addition to his full time role as a Manager with New Zealand Bus Graham is Chairman of the Board of Dance Aotearoa New Zealand Ltd, Deputy Chairman of the Friends of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, a Trustee and Treasurer of Victoria University's Summer Shakespeare Trust and has been a Patron of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand since its inception in 1999. He was a Trustee of the Wellington Children's Parade from 2001 to 2008 and Chairman of the Friends of the Royal New Zealand Ballet for several years.

Away from work and the arts Graham is currently President of the Lions Club of Wellington (Host), and between 2001 and 2008 served as Cabinet Secretary to seven consecutive District Governors (and is serving in that role again this year) and from 2005 to 2008 chaired the Committee responsible for the reorganisation of Lions Clubs in the lower half of the North Island. Graham is also the Regional Co-ordinator for the Lions Global Youth Music Contest (the region includes Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and the Islands of the South Pacific). His service to Lions has been recognised with two Melvin Jones Fellow awards and two International Presidents and 7 District Governors Certificates of Appreciation together with Life Membership of the Lloyd Morgan Lions Clubs Charitable Trust.

He has also served on a number of Committees and Boards of the Wellington Anglican Diocese and had responsibility for managing the recent restoration of the historic organ at St Peters in Willis Street.