

Graham Smellie

Graham was born and educated in Dunedin and completed a Textile Diploma in Australia and a Management Diploma in NZ.

His management and leadership skills were recognised at an early age at the Tertiary level, being President of the Student Council at the Gordon Institute of Technology and later awarded the Princeps Scholar at the Institute for exceptional performance over a range of sporting, leadership, voluntary service and scholastic disciplines.

His career in Textiles culminated in senior management positions in Dunedin and Levin, capitalising on his specialist skills in organisational management, production systems, marketing strategies and human resources.

After operating his own consultancy business in Levin in the mid-80's he joined MAF Technology (later Crop and Food Research) as part of the commercial business team to establish IP protection and marketing systems and foster client relationships to transfer scientific discovery into the private sector for the benefit of New Zealand and its land based industries.

In recent years he concentrated his marketing efforts on edible fungi, floriculture, crop based technologies and food innovations, whilst establishing JV's, partnerships, and long term relationships with NZ and international entities.

Whilst serving as Business team leader and GM Commercial he developed and motivated a strong business team responsible for generating a substantial share of the company's income stream, mainly through client partnerships and the harnessing and protection of scientific IP.

During his 20 years in Agricultural research and business he selected, trained and mentored team members and facilitated Strategic planning and its implementation.

Since formal retirement 3 years ago he has continued Business mentoring of SME's in the Horowhenua and Kapiti districts, including advisory board participation. His ongoing association with the NZIM culminated in the award of a Life Fellowship.

Being a competent chairman and team builder he leads many business and community organisations complemented by knowledge gained through completing a NZ Institute of Directors Course in 2002. Community activity associated with business building and voluntary work are now his strong focus. In the past he has been National President of Jaycees (when it peaked at 7000 members), National President NZIM (1983), Foundation President of the Rotary Club of Taieri (1979/80) and continues his association through the Levin Club. Presently he is Chairman of Age Concern Horowhenua, Chairman of Nature Coast Enterprise board (Business development agency for Kapiti and Horowhenua), Deputy Chairman of Centreskate (Levin), Vice President, Levin Racing Club and board member Business Kapiti Horowhenua.

