



Dr Lindsay Porter
Research Assistant • 1992 - 1993

What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I had heard about the work of the Lighthouse, so my buddy and I drove to Cromarty, knocked on that welcoming front door and asked Dr Thompson for a job. To my astonishment, he agreed! The work was almost entirely fieldwork based and my job included just about everything! Driving the ancient tractor, repairing boats, as well as catching and assessing the health of individual seals. I also spent many, many hours measuring the width of seal pup hair which eventually turned into my first publication on seals. The paper's main finding was that baby seals were indeed more fluffy!

What are you doing now ?

On leaving the Lighthouse, I went to Hong Kong and was one of the first students there to work on marine mammals. It was extremely challenging and without my Lighthouse experience, I would not have succeeded. I have remained in Asia and have worked on a fascinating array of species, sadly, many of which face myriad challenges to their survival. Most of my work focuses on conservation and as such, I am an active member of both regional and international entities that deal with overarching conservation issues. I am also affiliated with many Asian academic institutes where I support local students who have a passion for marine mammals.

What was the most valuable thing you learnt at the Lighthouse?

Through the years, I have carried the camaraderie of the Lighthouse team with me and have continued to work with many of them. We were very much a family during my Lighthouse days and I have benefited tremendously throughout my career from the ongoing support of my first colleagues. My most valuable lesson from my Lighthouse days is that teamwork is everything! A team can draw upon and multiply the strengths of every member and only by pulling our skills and energy together can progress be made both in science and conservation.

