

## Lois Badham interview 7 April 2017

Lois was the Club Manager of the Outboard Boating Club (OBC) in 2002 when Ronnie Harrison's invitation arrived in the mail asking boating clubs to help with the restoration of Motuihe Island. She recognised that this could be something the OBC members would like to become involved in as many of them visited Motuihe regularly in their boats. She showed the invitation to John Laurence and together they presented it to the committee. The committee agreed that it was a good project for the club so they invited Ronnie Harrison to come and give a presentation to the members.

Ronnie came with other members of the Motuihe Restoration Trust including Mike Lee, Peter Lee and Peter Whitmore. The members agreed to become involved and Ronnie invited John to join the Trust. He was Secretary/Treasurer of the OBC at the time and he continued with both roles. This started the close association of the OBC with the Motuihe Trust which continues to this day. The members are asked to make a donation to the Trust when they pay their annual subscription. Between \$5,000 and 7,000 is collected annually. Also the OBC provides a base for the Trust in Auckland. The clubrooms are used for meetings and events and there are freezers for storing ice creams etc. Lois carried out administration for the Trust at the Club office including answering 0800 calls. Members of the OBC are invited to events such as translocations. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust and the Club setting out what they expect of each other. From the OBC point of view this is a positive community project to be involved in and gives them good standing in the community. The members had previously been involved in community activities eg planting pohutukawa trees on Browns Island as part of Project Crimson.

Lois was a Trustee for a period of 4 or 5 years but is not currently a Trustee. She does attend Trust meetings as she does the day to day accounts to support Trevor Hughs. In 2003 the nursery was built by OBC members with funds from WWF and Mobil Oil. In 2004 the tractor was purchased with money from Sky City and the OBC. It was about this time that Lois started going out to the island regularly. She described this time as "mad". A group were going out every weekend, all weekend and working very hard and sharing a pot luck meal on Saturday night, often eating outside. Other people regularly volunteering at that time were Pat, Paula, Gill, Sylvia, John and Julie.

Ronnie did BBQs and made big pots of soup to assist the volunteers. After the kiosk burned down in 2002 and the last of the stock were removed in 2005, she continued living on the island running corporate events. However, eventually DOC did not renew her concession and she had to leave the island but her son Michael remained in a caravan near the nursery and he did lawn mowing and watered the plants.

John describes Lois as a quiet, unassuming person who has put a huge amount of work into the Trust, much of it in the background. He said people would be unaware of how much work Lois has done over the years. Apart from the usual planting and nursery work, particular activities Lois has been involved in are:

Weed spraying with a back pack

Pushed for the Top House to be painted. Got sponsorship of paint from Placemakers Mt Wellington.

Waterblasted the outside and washed it down with wet and forget. Also involved with painting the inside. Sourced the bunks which were found on Trade Me.

Helped with the setting up of the new Kiosk including painting, the cabinets and merchandise.

2006 first ISV group and Pat/Lois/Julie/John/Lawrence supervised them and looked after the food. Lois was involved for 2 years

Website – Lois looked after the first website after it was set up by an OBC member. We are currently on the third website. The second was designed by Mel Stewart.

Lois also set up and still looks after the sponsor a tree project. So far 290 trees have been sponsored at \$75 each.

Lois intends to keep being involved in the activities of the Motuihe Trust. She enjoys visiting the island and always finds it to be a positive experience. She says that they are such a good bunch of people, working hard for a common goal. She gets immense satisfaction from moving around the island and seeing the changes that have taken place.