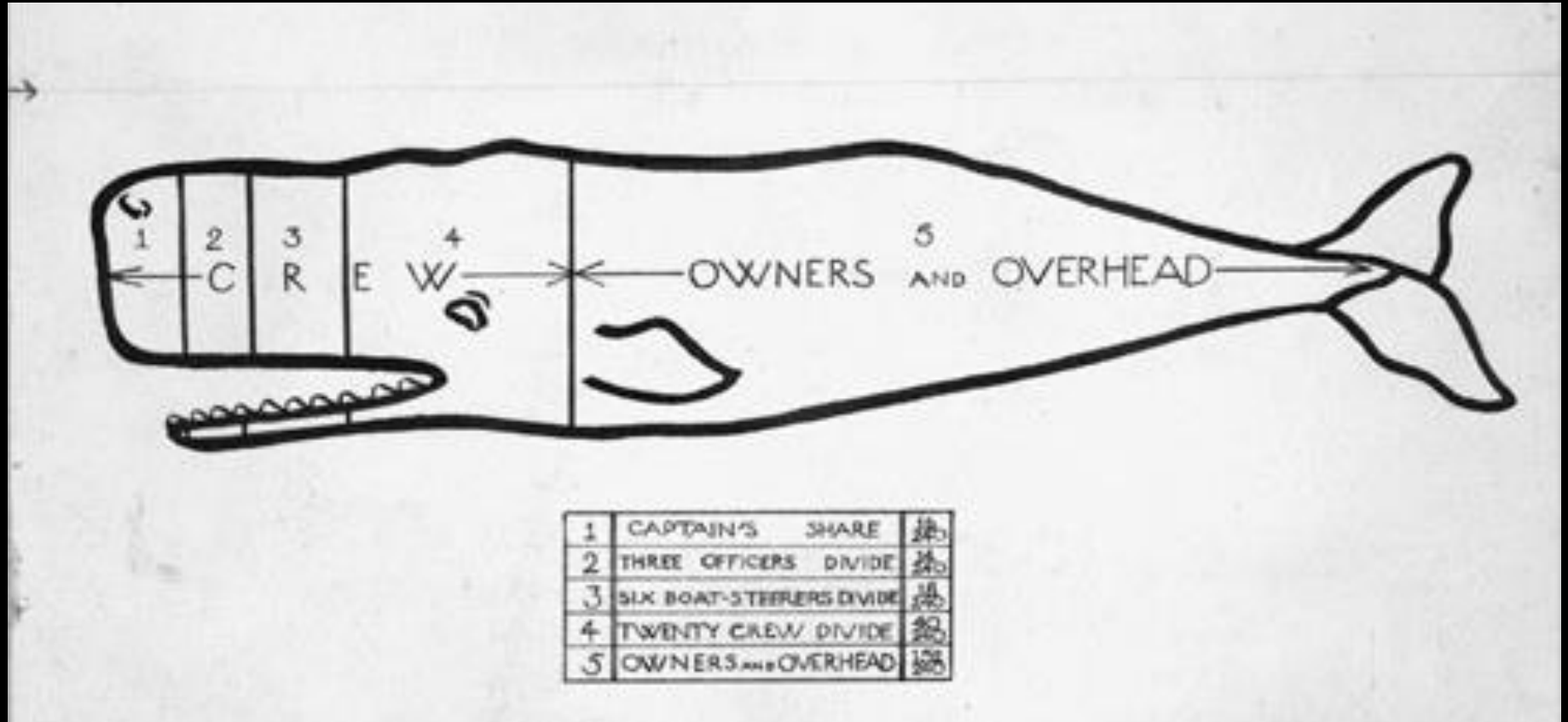


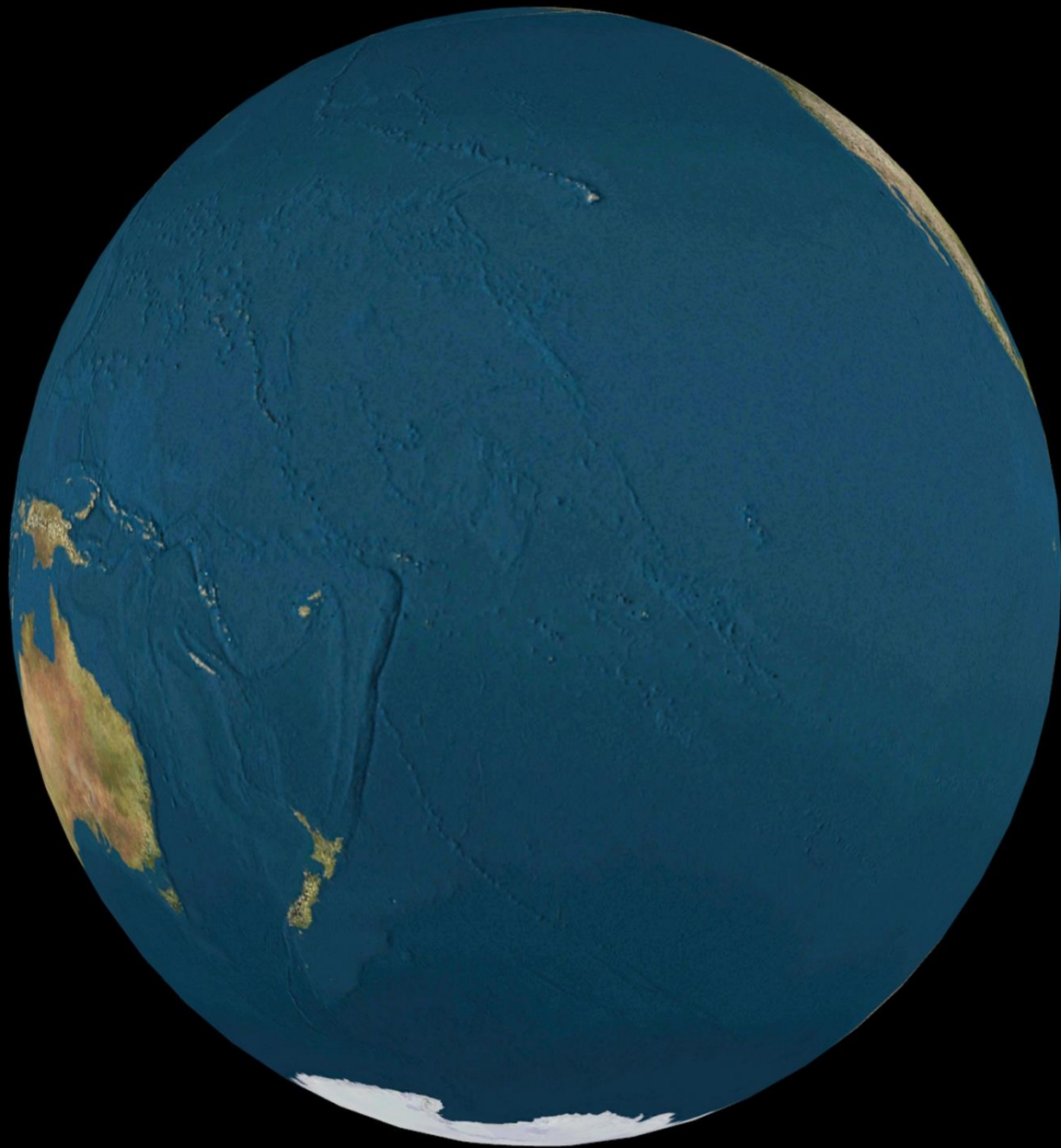
# Valuing whales: strandings, cultural storytelling and community engagement



Anton van Helden  
Marine Advocate  
Forest & Bird

# There are different ways of valuing whales











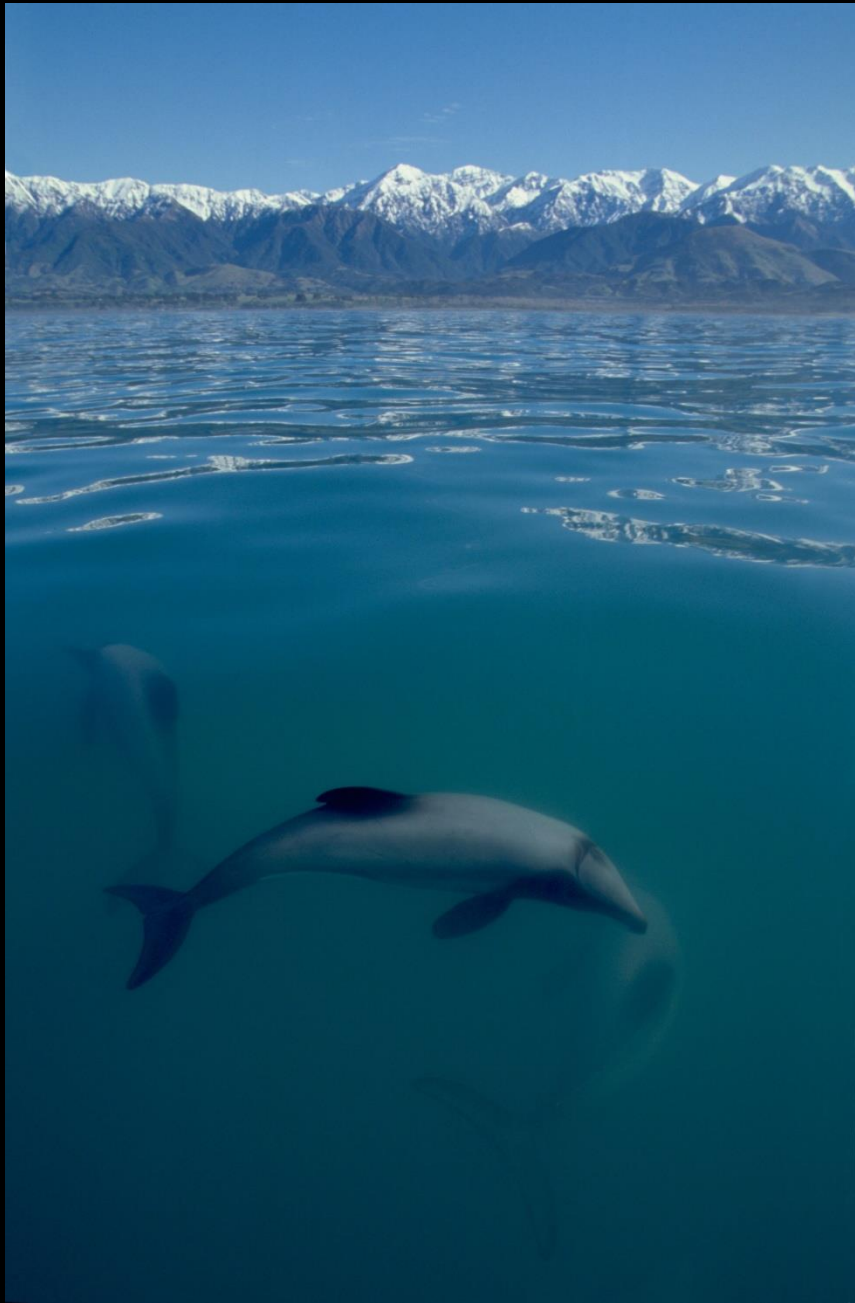


A complex collage image. The background is a deep blue. A large, realistic blue whale is shown breaching the water, its back and tail visible. Overlaid on the upper part of the image is a detailed, light-colored skeleton of a long-necked dinosaur, possibly a sauropod, with its head and neck extended. In the lower-left corner, there is a group of Māori people. One man in the foreground is shirtless, wearing a traditional Māori skirt (pāhau) with a black and white zigzag pattern, and is holding a white paddle (hau) aloft. Other people are visible behind him, some with traditional Māori adornments like pendants (haka). The overall composition suggests a connection between nature, prehistoric life, and Māori culture.

**TERE TOHORĀ, TERE TANGATA**  
**WHERE WHALES JOURNEY, PEOPLE FOLLOW**











Sir James Hector and Staff on the Museum lawn with a Pygmy Right whale Skeleton



Te Papa's Marine Mammal Collection





**All specimens collected from strandings**



**Early collecting**



# Whale strandings

- Many species only known from strandings
- Opportunity to study offshore animals
- Some species seldom seen in surveys
- Stranding data almost always provides better diversity information about the cetacean fauna of a region than live surveys.
- Strandings give a window into the health and status of cetacean populations



# Cultural values

- Strandings are emotional times in any community
- Histories and cultural practises and beliefs are integral in the interaction with animals







# Key Values

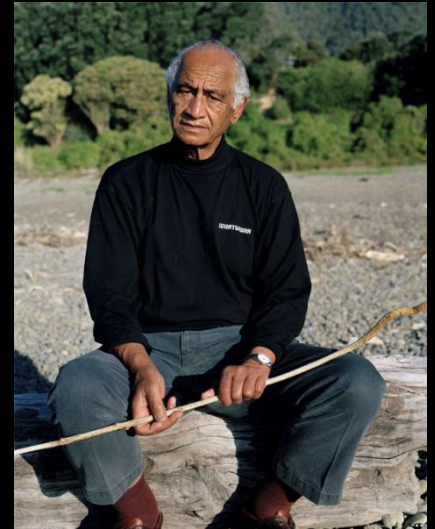
- **Mana Whenua**
  - respecting the authority of tangata whenua
- **Mana Taonga**
  - respecting the whakapapa of taonga
- **Mātauranga Māori**
  - empowering the Maori world view
- **Kaitiakitanga**
  - protecting and preserving taonga for future generations
- **Manaakitanga**
  - giving unconditional support
- **Te Marae**
  - A place to stand and be heard





# Mana Taonga Concept

- Central in laying the foundation for Māori participation and involvement.
- Recognises the spiritual and cultural connections of taonga with the people
- Acknowledges the special relationships that this creates











2003

Stranding of 12 sperm whales at Karekare on the West Coast of Auckland





**Removal of Jaws for Te Kawerau a Maki**



# Tu Hononga on display in Whales Tohorä

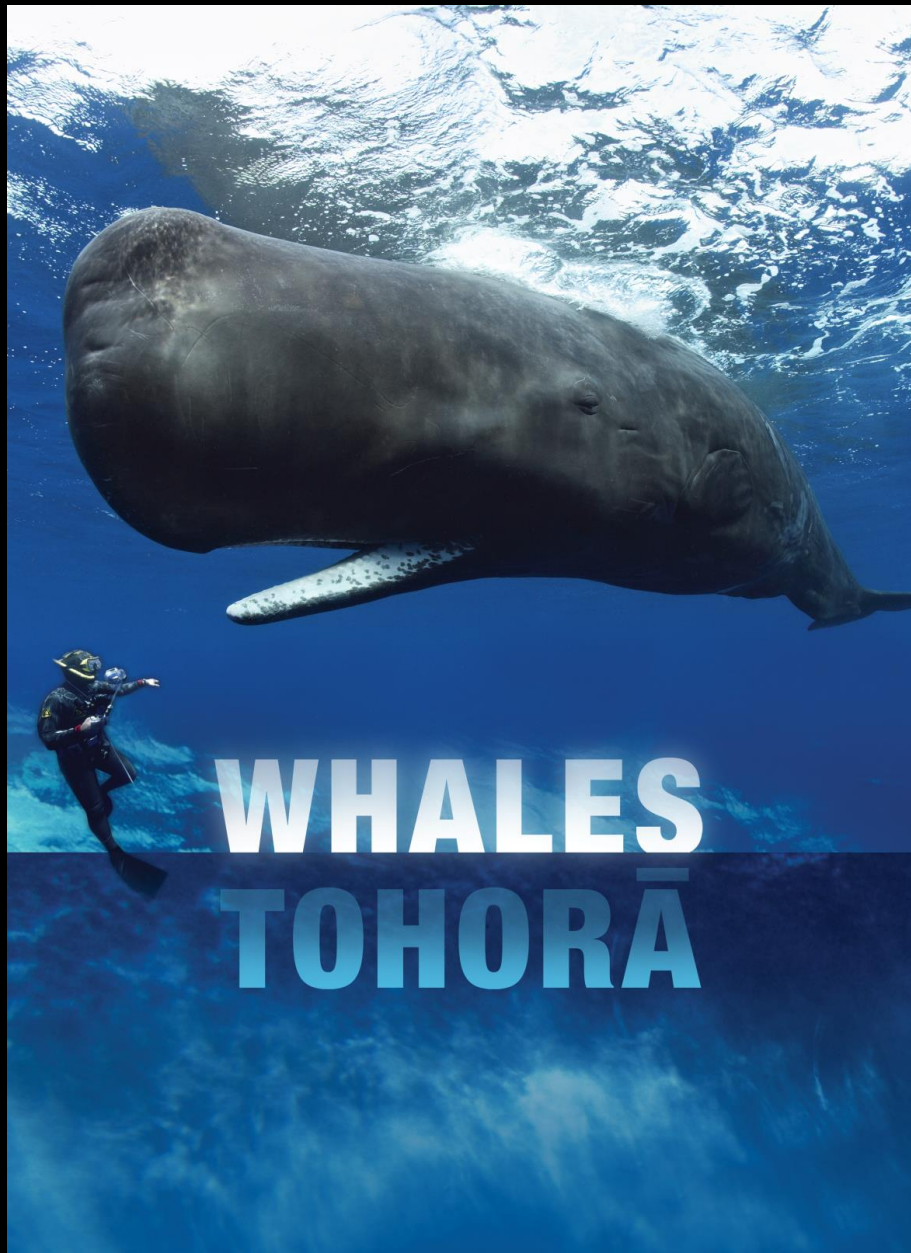




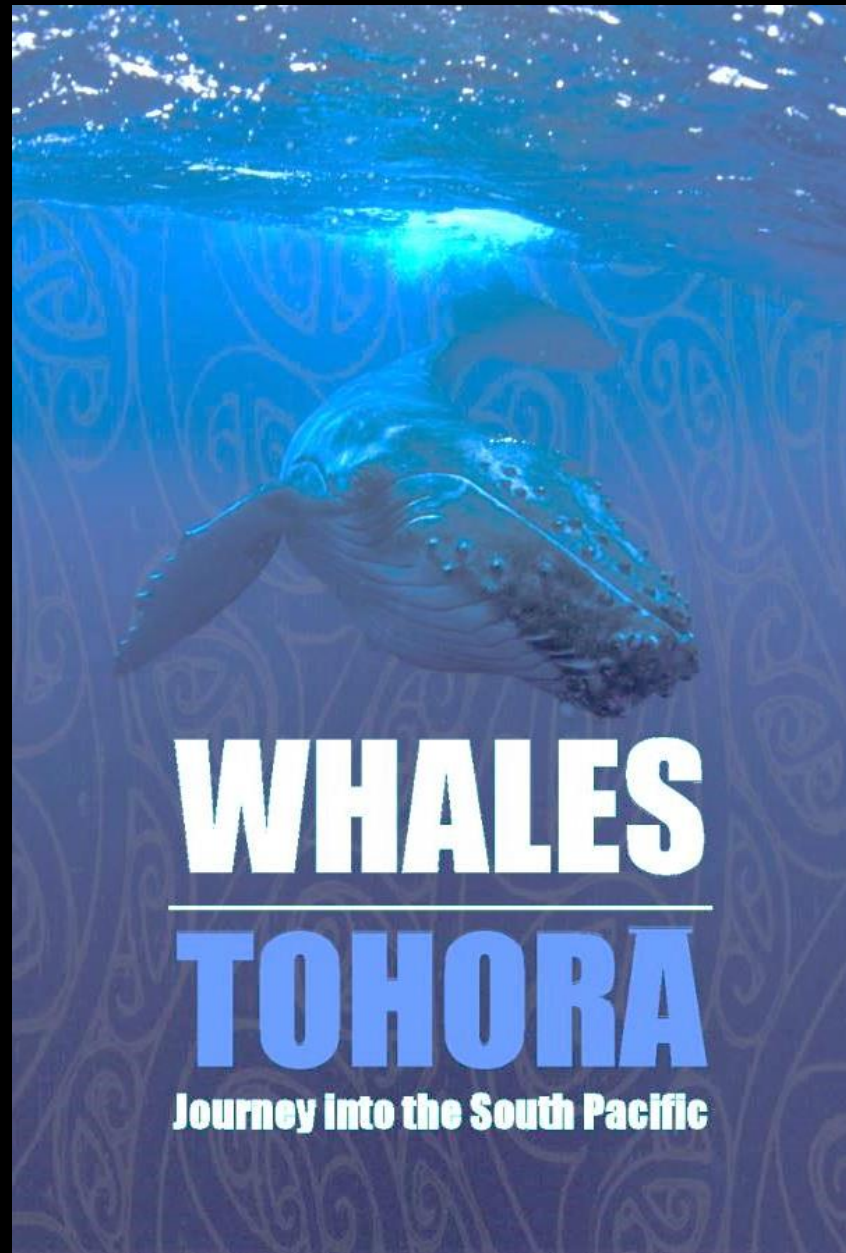


# Tu Hononga – the Connection





# WHALES TOHORĀ



# WHALES TOHORA

Journey into the South Pacific

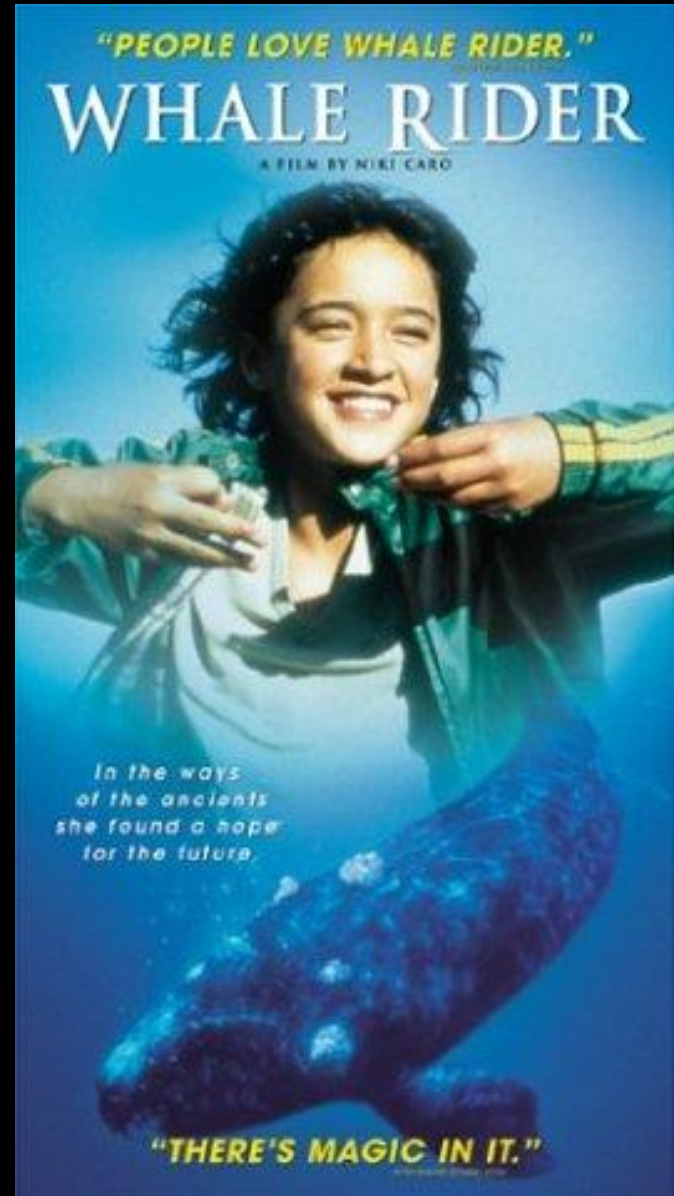


# We all Tell Stories...

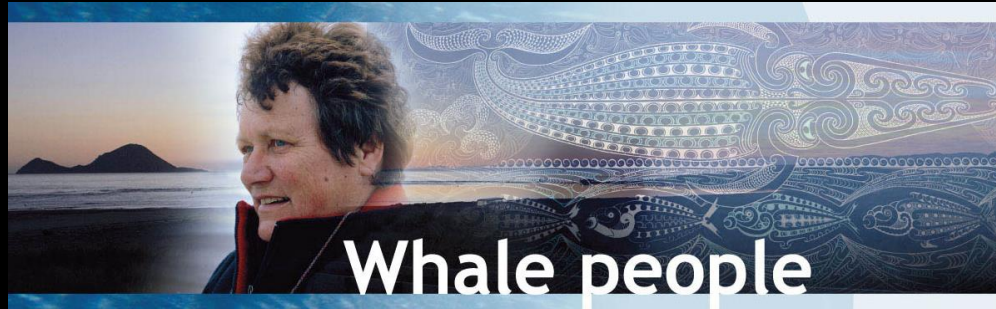
- Ownership
- Celebration
- Transformation
- Engagement
- Relationship



# Ownership







# Ownership

People telling  
**THEIR** stories in  
**THEIR** language in  
**THEIR** voices.

# Non-Parallelism

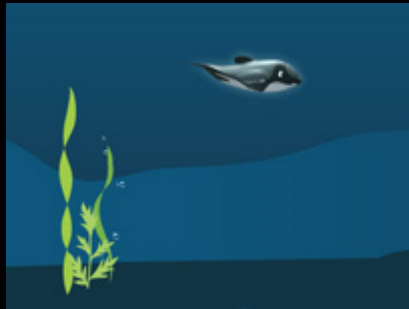


**Rich stories from different world views**



# Celebration

Reframing negative concepts

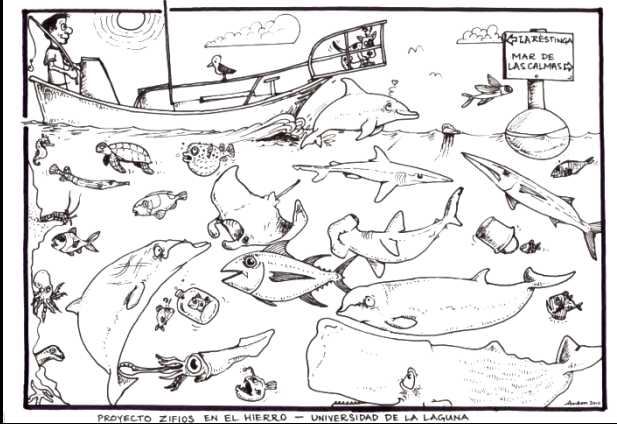


# Transformation





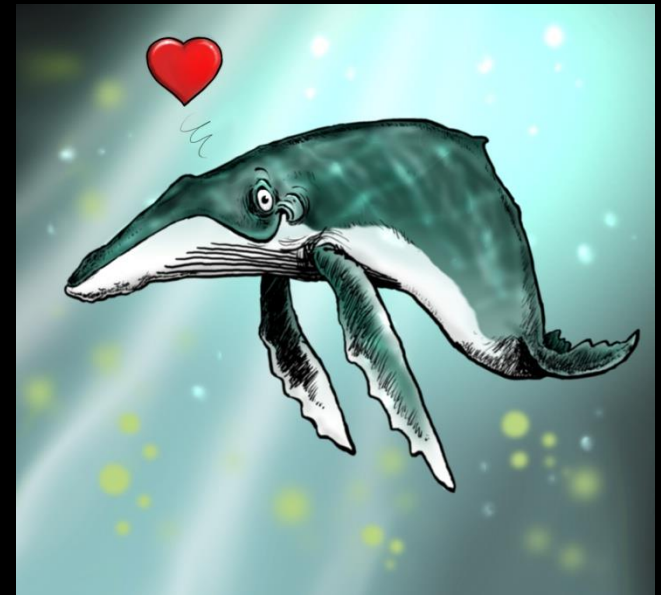
# Engagement



# Relationship

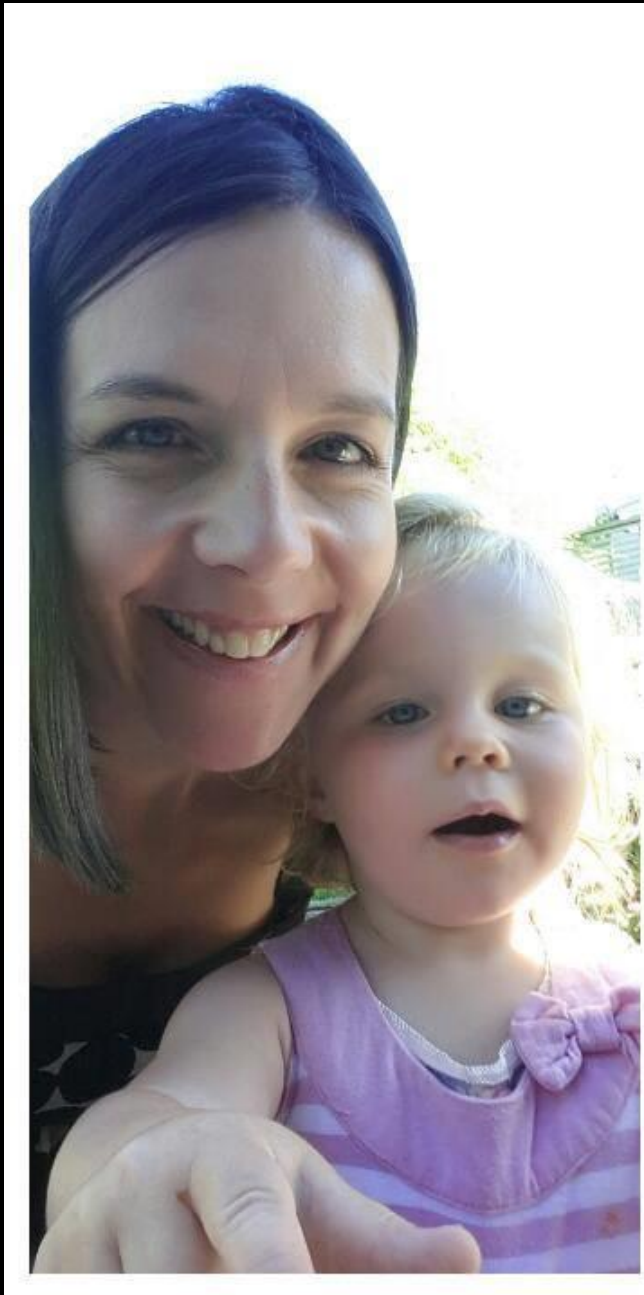
**Be a Part of Community, not Apart from Community**

- **Create Champions**
- **Create community Pride/Ownership**
- **Create Opportunities**
- **Create responsibility**











KaKiteAnō



Antoni'02