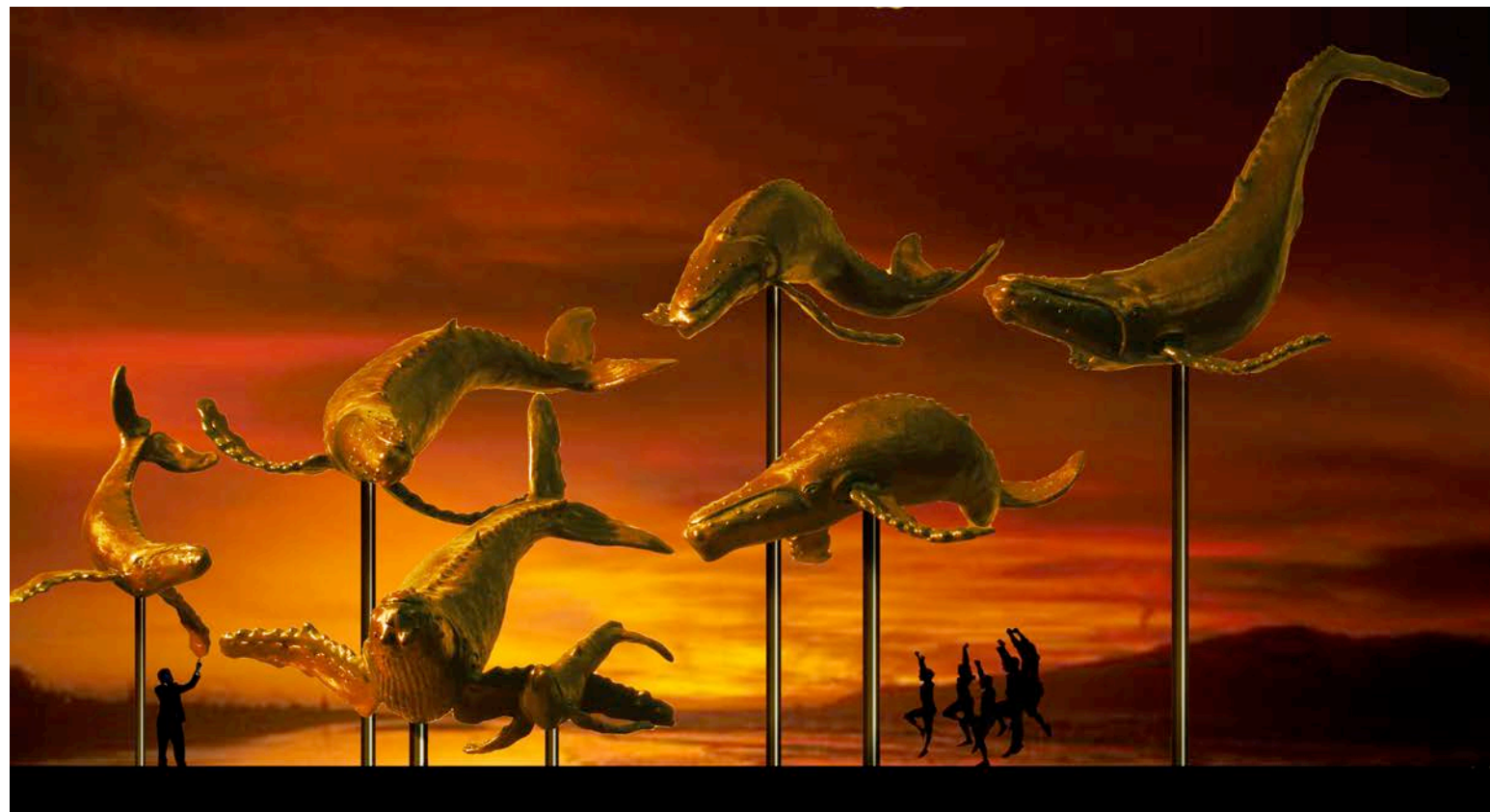




Magnificent, Mighty and Memorable

*Imagine, you're standing on the seabed at 20 metres (60 feet) below the surface
and looking up at a pod of Humpback Whales.....*



Te mohio o to moana, o nga tangata me to raatau ki te oranga ora i runga i te whenua
“Awareness of our ocean, its inhabitants and their importance to sustainable life on earth”



Kapiti Artist Mike Fuller's "Whale Song" is an inspirational public sculpture and community education project proposed for the Kapiti Coast region, approximately 40 minutes travel by car north of Wellington and next to the new Kapiti Expressway.

"Whale Song" is a reflection on Kapiti's proximity to the coast, Kapiti Island, early whaling and the surrounding marine environment. By engaging with these incredible creatures of the sea, visitors will better understand the need for marine conservation, ensuring a thriving ocean and a healthy planet for future generations.

These proposed sculptural works will also enhance the wider regions reputation as the "Arts Capital of New Zealand" and add to the "sense of place" for locals and visitors to the area. "Whale Song" will act as a wayfinder for those travelling the expressway, drawing visitors into the community, adding significantly to Paraparaumu's identity and continued economic resilience.



Whale Song

This large sculptural installation comprises a family of seven life-sized Humpback Whales swimming in pod formation, suspended on rods over the proposed 1 acre site. Several of the whales, those closest to the nearby stream and away from the public viewing area, would be equipped to periodically spout water from their blow holes, creating rainbow effects against the sky. The song of the male whales could also be played via speakers with Aeolian harps located from inside the whale structures to mimic the sound of the Humpback in the wild.

Ranging from 4 to 17 metres in length, the whales would be cast from recycled aluminium thermally coated in bronze. Each would be supported on a structurally engineered pole ranging in height from one metre above the ground to 18 metres. The installation system is similar to that of wind turbines, highly engineered and robust. To achieve a realistic likeness, the artist has produced a 1/32nd scale model of each whale in readiness for 3D scanning that will create the 3D CAD drawings that would be used to scale up to full size for production.

Proposed location of “Whale Song”

It is proposed that “Whale Song” be located alongside the Wharemauku Stream in Paraparaumu.

The Trust approached the landowner, Ngahina Development Trust, to obtain a suitable one acre (4000sqm approx) site and Ngahina have generously agreed to a perpetual lease of this area.

The Wharemauku Stream is on the Kapiti Coast of New Zealand's North Island. Its headwaters are in the Maungakotukutuku valley, and it flows through the Paraparaumu township to Raumati Beach before reaching the sea.

The location is highlighted in the centre of the image below. It adjoins the newly created cycle / walkway network developed in conjunction with the Kapiti Expressway. The expressway runs through the left of the picture.



Kapiti – the future.

Today, in this busy tech focussed world, people are increasingly looking for the ‘Point of Difference’ on where they spend their social outdoor time and how they spend their money. Choices are vast, competition is ripe and locals and tourists are looking for that creatively inspirational “wow” experience.

“Whale Song”, potentially one of NZ’s largest sculptural installations, would provide that point of difference between Paraparaumu and other centres in New Zealand. These significant sculptural additions have shown worldwide how they become a major attraction to regional visitors, overseas tourists and locals.

Attracting more people to the area through stunning visual arts in a massive scale like “Whale Song”, surrounded by creative open spaces, more art, exciting shopping and eateries will add significantly to the desired economic growth for Paraparaumu and the surrounding area.

Why seven whales? An artist's explanation.....

There is seven days in a week, seven colors in a rainbow, seven continents, seven wonders of the ancient world and seven deadly sins; not forgetting the seven dwarfs, seventh heaven and seven is considered to be a lucky number. The number seven is quite significant in the Bible. In the creation story, God made the world in six days and rested on the seventh.

Mathematically, the number seven has a couple of features that make it appealing to many people. First, it's an odd number (Even numbers can be easily divided by two) it is also a prime number, which means it can only be divided by itself and one. Since it's the largest prime number between one and ten, seven it is seen as more appealing. Compositionally, it is easier and more visually satisfying to compose elements of odd numbers such as seven placements or arrangements of visual elements or ingredients in a work of art.

"The various visual elements, known as elements of design, formal elements, or elements of art, are the vocabulary with which the visual artist composes. These elements in the overall design usually relate to each other and to the whole art work"

Hence the family pod of seven whales works better visually and in a composition of elements than four, six or eight.

In Maori mythology there is the an ancient legend of the Seven Whales Ngai Tahu Matawhaiti, hapu of Ngati Kahungunu, explaining how some hills east of Wairoa came to be. The legend tells how the Seven Whales disobeyed the mighty Tohunga, the master of the seven giant whales and were cursed and turned into hills.

Today the Seven Whales are known as the hills of Wairoa can be seen in the Waiatai Valley, five kilometers east of Wairoa.

Many traditions mention that whales accompanied or guided the canoes on their journeys to Aotearoa. The song 'He oriori mō Tuteremoana' describes a canoe, believed to be the Tākitimu, safely following in the wake of a pod of seven whales during a storm. Some of the whales are specifically named in this song.

The tohunga (priest) on board the Tākitimu was Ruawharo. He possessed the mauri (life force) of whales, which he laid to rest at Māhia Peninsula to attract whales to the region.

As elsewhere among Polynesian peoples, many Maori tribes have strong cultural affinities to whales. In Maori cosmology, whales are the descendants of Tangaroa, the god of the oceans. They were thought of in awe, as supernatural beings, and often deemed tapu, or sacred.

Then we have the epic legend of Paikea, the Whale Rider who is a key ancestor who came to New Zealand on the back of a whale or even that our ancestor Paikea was the whale. His story is shadowed by treachery in Hawaiki, where a battle took place over family status and rivalries.

On the east coast of New Zealand, the Whangara people believe their presence there dates back a thousand years or more to this single ancestor, Paikea, who escaped death when his canoe capsized by riding to shore on the back of a whale. From then on, Whangara chiefs, always the first-born, always male, have been considered Paikea's direct descendants.

Whales were a sign indicating to a tribe that it should settle in a particular place. In others, whales were the guide. Some individual Maori were said to have a whale guardian spirit when at sea. Stylised whale shapes, symbolising the bounty within, were often carved on the bargeboards of storage houses. Pane-iraira was a taniwha (water spirit), thought to be a whale, who calmed the waves for the journey of the Tainui canoe. Tohunga responsible for navigation exercised their powers during storms, appealing to sea creatures to escort the canoes and shield them from the fury of a storm. Often the tohunga would pull a hair from his head and throw it to the whale or taniwha as recognition of assistance. This tradition may have been prompted by the reported habit of toothed whales and dolphins presenting gifts of seaweed to each other.

According to Maori mythology, whales were the oldest children of the sea gods. It was the connection between Aotearoa and the sacred land from which the Maoris came. Thus, having the whales guide the ancestors to Aotearoa in the first place was a great blessing on the journey. It is conceivable that the Maori ancestors used whales as their guide, knowing full-well that the whales would migrate to shallower waters; it is even possible that the ancient ancestor who first found his way to New Zealand happened upon Aotearoa while chasing whales through the sea.

The connection between whales and Kapiti – their migratory expressway!

Whales and Kapiti have significant historic connections. The Humpback Whale, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, is a migratory species of Baleen Whale found throughout the oceans of the North Atlantic, North Pacific and Southern Hemisphere. Northern migrating Humpbacks in New Zealand waters pass along the east coast of the South Island and then divide into two groups, with one continuing up the east side of the North Island and the other passing through Cook Strait and up the west side of the North Island past the Kapiti region. In 2010, over 40 Humpbacks were sighted migrating through this region.

Kapiti's whaling history

Here in Kapiti, we have a rich whaling history through to 1964 when the last whale was commercially caught and killed. Whaling was prolific in the region and as an example, Perano's of Tory Channel, Cook Strait caught 4200 whales, mainly humpbacks between 1911 and 1964.

Around 1830 there were no more than 300 Pākehā living in New Zealand, while the Māori population was at least 100,000. A number of 'Pākehā-Māori' (Europeans living as part of a Māori community) operated as traders, but many Māori communities, especially in inland areas, had little or no contact with Pākehā. The most significant and lasting contacts between Māori and non-Māori in this period came through the whaling industry.

Pre-1840 New Zealand attracted a polyglot mix of adventurers and entrepreneurs, the sealers, whalers, stowaways and their Māori agents forming what historical geographer Alan Grey called a 'robber economy'. The early industries were entirely extractive: flax, timber, seals and most important of all, whales. Pelagic or ocean whalers operated from the 1800s. Shore whaling began 20 years later, such as Kapiti Island in the Cook Strait and down the east coast of the South Island.

European ships traversing the strait drew Ngāti Toa chief Te Rauparaha to Kapiti Island. His tribe had fared badly in the [Musket Wars](#) but Te Rauparaha was very intelligent and adaptable, a true cultural border-crosser. He knew that the European ships passing through Cook Strait were the key to getting trade goods such as guns.

In 1823 Ngāti Toa seized Kapiti Island, which they defended the next year in the bloody Battle of Waiorua. Kapiti, centre of a canoe-crafted empire, gave Te Rauparaha both a fortress and a trading base. He was assisted by his nephew, Te Rangihaeata, who lived on Mana.

Vessels began calling in 1827 and, by the time the trade peaked in the mid-1830s, there were five whaling stations on the island: Waiorua, Rangatira, Taepiro, Wharekohu and Te Kahe Te Rau O Te Rangi.

Te Rauparaha encouraged traders and whalers, providing land, houses, pigs, potatoes, dressed flax and women in return for guns, tobacco and alcohol. Māori historically used the oil, meat and teeth of a whale. The meat was food, the oil was used to help preserve wood and the teeth and bone were carved.

Ngāti Toa chief Te Hiko himself, operated a six-man whaleboat from Kapiti Island, crewed entirely by Māori.

The whaling trade faded away in the 1840s and Te Rauparaha, his influence waning, moved back to the mainland. The government acquired most of the island in 1897.

From near extinction in 1960, humpback whale counts in the Cook Strait are on the increase. Whales recorded in the two-week survey periods over the years 2005 - 18 humpbacks, 2006 - 15 humpbacks; 2007 - 25 humpbacks and more recently in 2016, 106 humpbacks were recorded, with one an albino.

According to DOC's website from an original population of approximately 10,000 Humpbacks in 1800, this was reduced to less than 5%, or an estimated 250-500 whales. Humpbacks were given total protection from commercial whaling by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1966 and have an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) status of Vulnerable.

Today, global awareness of the whale's peril is on the increase as we try to understand their complex world and vocalisation, whales and dolphins having a language with information content comparable to humans.

It's all the sadder when you realise how important vocalisation is for these magnificent mammals, under the effects of the man-made noise pollution, man-made toxicity's seeping into the oceans along with occurrences like earthquakes and global warming.

Today, we have begun to recognize the need to be the guardians of the ocean as we owe our decedents the right to a pristine environment. The ecology and health of the ocean dictates the health and survival of mankind.

Marine sanctuaries do a fantastic job in preserving portions of our ocean, but with pollution on the increase, noise pollution under the ocean a threat to marine species, education is our best tool.

Whale Song can provide that education not only to children, but also to their parents and peers so that we can all have a part in enlightening, respecting and hopefully preserving this beautiful fragile planet.

Whale Song will provide a spectacular "focussing" visual experience.

Whale Song would become an incredible centrepiece for Kapiti, which is increasing in popularity as an outdoor recreationally focussed area. Kilometres of new "walk/cycleways" come together at the "Whale Song" site, creating a new gateway to Paraparaumu shopping areas, cafes, restaurants, fast food, a splash or sauna at the local pool and a movie or two.

The Whale Song experience

Visitors to Whale Song would experience the magnificence and scale of the Humpback Whale species and its habitat, learn about its near extinction as a result of commercial whaling operations last century and modern species protection strategies and methods. (both globally via the International Whaling Commission and locally via DOC)

This story would be set within the context of Maori and European settlement in the region, and its unique conservation history featuring Queen Elizabeth Park, Akatarawa and Tararua Forest Parks, Whareroa Farm and the Kapiti Marine Reserve which links the Kapiti Island Nature Reserve and the Waikanae Scientific Estuary to form a rare and special part of New Zealand.

Particularly compelling is the navigation story connecting whales and Maori in the region in pre-European times.

It is believed that in exploring the region in their waka, Maori followed the navigation path of whales to guide them safely through complex and dangerous currents around Cook Strait and Kapiti Island. This facilitated the settling of Kapiti Island which was of considerable strategic and political importance in the 19th century, particularly as a stronghold of Te Rauparaha and Ngāti Toa.

Te Rauparaha instigated trade with Pakeha by welcoming visiting ships to Kapiti and encouraging whalers and traders to live among Ngāti Toa. Cook Strait became the centre of a lucrative maritime trading empire, controlled by Ngāti Toa from their island fortress of Kapiti.

More about a potential landscaped area beneath the whales

The footprint foundation of the sculpture could mimic ocean currents and the continental shelf in a concept that significantly adds to the sculpture's presence and magnificence. Torrents of water are envisaged cascading between the whales collecting in large holding ponds at the base to be recycled and used again. The ponds would act as a reflecting surface to provide a mirror image of the sculpture.

Through a system of flood gates the ponds would be tidal, rising periodically when the whales blow to alter the landscape and mimic the rock pools of the area. A 'path of discovery' through the whales may suddenly be cut off by rising water forcing adventurers to navigate another path, or receding waters could reveal sculptured starfish, crabs or crustaceans in rock pools, representing species of the local coastline.

The landscape would provide multiple views of the sculpture, some elevated to give a high vantage point, while the smaller and lower whales would enable an interactive and tactile experience. The foundation could also incorporate caves to be discovered where views of the whales could be glimpsed through curtains of water. Bronze crayfish, anemones, eels and the like could adorn the caves to excite the explorer. 'Pause spots' and photo opportunities would be provided, with wheelchair access ramps incorporated along with full safety barricading and handrails to provide a safe and enjoyable experience.

Overall this is envisaged as an area incorporating world-class landscape design incorporating a strong educational aspect for both young and old. The total sculpture could be solar powered, collecting energy to enable it to be self-sufficient in lighting effects etc.

Whale Song is an ambitious project, but it is totally achievable with so many added benefits to not only our community, but also New Zealanders, and international tourists alike.

It will be iconic! It will certainly put Kapiti on the map, and Paraparaumu at the very centre of that map.

Educational Opportunities

"Whale Song" is also intended to provide a visual educational aspect on whales, their size, song, habits and structure. Associated displays would demonstrate the history of whaling in New Zealand, its effects and the conscious need for whale preservation today. They would also include displays focussed on adding historical interpretation of both European and Maori customs and culture in the area, their lifestyles through to eating and living habits.

A further educational option is the addition of a 'walk in whale', where the organs and bone structure would be visible. Approximately 4 metres in diameter, visitors could walk from one end to the other viewing the four chambered heart, massive lungs, the brain and the enormous vertebrae. As an educational experience this would be wholly memorable for both young and old.

Additionally, a structured foundation of "Whale Songs" could provide an area of exploration and discovery during the day, and an amphitheatre venue for a broad spectrum of entertainment, the performing arts and social activities at night.

There are learning opportunities for aspiring youth to take part in the 'hands on' construction and installation of this massive sculpture, and the potential for the construction facility to live on in the future nurturing new students through the learning process.

"Whale Song" can provide opportunities for local schools to participate and be involved throughout the construction of the whales from the beginning to the end of the process.

The educational opportunities that can be developed around Whale Song are numerous and it is proposed to involve schools in the region from day one with projects on all aspects of whales from distribution to diet, population, biology, local history and much more. There could also be projects on sustainable energy, metals recycling, casting, sculpture, tourism and other local economic growth initiatives.



“Cans to Whales” Recycling Programme – Kapiti Sustainability Campaign

With the dual outcomes of involving the community and reducing hard costs, the community, particularly children, would be asked to collect aluminium cans for the project. Yes, the majestic whales could be made of soft drink cans! It is proposed every collected alloy can, in return, be granted a pixel on any of the whales in a large wall or web diagram.

In advance of opening, the whale building ‘factory’ could host school groups and visitors from inception to completion of the project to see the biggest sculpture in New Zealand being made. A website that is under development (www.whalesong.kiwi) would chart progress and make relevant information available to schools, their teachers and students as well as the general public.

Economic Benefits

We believe the economic benefits of Whale Song to both the district and region would be significant. This is particularly so if the project is viewed in the context of other key visitor and heritage developments being undertaken or considered in the district.

An example, are those planned by the Kapiti U.S. Marines Trust with the establishment of a world class tourism facility in QEII Park, the proposed Kapiti Island Interpretation/Visitor Centre along with upcoming town centre upgrades.

1: “Whale Song”, visible from the expressway, would create a huge “branding” and “attraction” opportunity for Paraparaumu.

2: “Whale Songs” location could be marketed as the “centre of the Walk/Cycleway”, bringing locals and visitors closer to local shopping and eateries.



Community Benefits

1: Provide an opportunity for today's youth and their future children to learn from this project and be able to pass these skills and information on.

2: New gathering space for the local community.

3: Inspiration to our future generations through school visits and associated projects.

4: Increased promotion of our region's biggest asset; Kapiti Island

Tourism Benefit

Being visible from the new expressway will lead to an increase in tourism to the area with those travelling on the expressway exiting into Paraparaumu to experience "Whale Song". This sculpture will add a significant tourism addition to the region's attractions, evidenced by large sculptural installations elsewhere. This will in fact be one of New Zealand's largest sculptural installations with obvious links to Kapiti Island and the "not often seen by the public" whales that regularly traverse our coastline.

Kapiti Region

The district's population at the June 2016 census was 52,100. Kapiti continues to be one of the fastest growing districts in the Wellington region.

The Kapiti region's transport infrastructure has seen significant recent upgrades with rail and new rolling stock, the opening of the McKays to Pekapeka Expressway, the in-progress Transmission Gully project and the Pekapeka to Otaki Expressway extension.

Paraparaumu airport continues to work closely with Air New Zealand and other operators, providing regular flights to/from Auckland, Nelson, Blenheim.

Each of these initiatives continue to add to the region's future growth and have made the region easier to visit and more of a destination than ever.

The investment

The project budget is \$5.3 million for the construction of the whales and landscaping and ground effects as well as funds for the development of the stories and education programmes, the construction of secure, on-site interpretation and story boards.

Budgets and an engineering report are available however a site-specific feasibility assessment has yet to be undertaken as the land has only recently been obtained. A publicly-notified resource consent would be required from Kapiti Coast District Council and the Trust is working closely with the Mayor and council officers to streamline that process.

Funding sources

The trust's position in realising this exciting sculptural installation is that no ratepayer funds shall be used.

It is envisaged that Whale Song will be funded in the following ways:

Private investors are being sought to enable this project to move forward with funding for concept and story development, feasibility, detailed costings and consents, plus potential for;

- The provision of land for placement of "Whale Song".
Through the generous support of the Ngahina Development Trust this key item has been obtained.
- Naming rights over the sculpture
- Seeking contributions from philanthropists with a connection to, or deep interest in, the area, whales or conservation.
- Legacy gifting – for those wanting to leave a long term legacy for the region.
- Donations or services in kind from and through local businesses
- Merchandising – some examples below



- Lotteries Significant Grants fund
- Donation of commercial space (e.g. warehouse, hangar, land with temporary building) for the duration of the construction;
- Collection of aluminium by the community and from Council's waste collection;
- Sponsorship arrangements for
 - insurance,
 - utilities,
 - vehicle,
 - tools,
 - construction and materials,
 - legal – Many thanks to Kapiti Law
 - accounting – Many thanks to Deans and Associates
 - web production and other marketing services;
- Wages offset by employing labouring staff through TaskForce Green or other subsidised programmes.
- Community fundraising – for example, Humpback 'piggy banks' in retail outlets; merchandising
- Seeking grants from arts bodies, community trusts

Governance and management

Whale Song Charitable Trust has 4 trustees, each bringing extensive experience in the areas of commerce, politics, construction, facilities and project management and who all reside on the Kapiti Coast. The project would be managed to facilitate community and stakeholder involvement from the planning stages through construction to implementation.

For further information or wanting to discuss joining us on this exciting journey, please contact

Marco Zeeman, Chairman: 027 493 3626

Mike Fuller, Artist. Trustee: 021 966 334



Proudly supported by

the Arts Foundation



17 November 2017

Marco Zeeman
Chair
Whale Song Charitable Trust
PO Box 756
Paraparaumu 5254

the Arts

Dear Marco,

I have been following your proposal to establish a set of sculptures next to the new Kapiti Expressway with interest. Congratulations on the progress you have made to date.

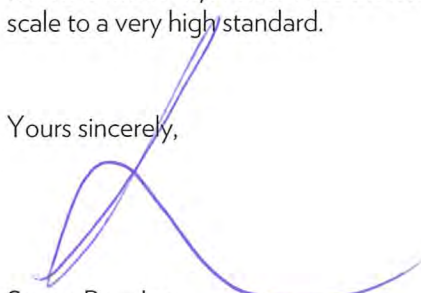
There is an increasing amount of interest in public sculpture in New Zealand and around the world. All modern cities and towns are developing projects like yours or progressing a strategy to make sculpture part of the experience of a place. I am sure you are aware of the social and economic benefits from public sculpture.

For me the most powerful impact from a sculpture is on the individual. Each of us have a relationship with a public work of art. It forms part of our identity. It helps us locate ourselves in a place and becomes an integral part of our story as a citizen or a visitor.

I have observed over a number of years public reaction to sculpture. When a project is proposed, it is never universally supported. However, after only a few months the people that are against a new work are often transformed by its presence into supporters. The same people that would stop a sculpture from being built will chain themselves to it to protect it only a few months later. Controversy around a sculpture is a good thing and should be welcomed by decision makers. Those same decision makers can have confidence that, in time, the sculpture will be well and truly loved by the majority.

The Arts Foundation is excited about your project, the inspirational design, the artist, and the benefits for the community. I also share the confidence of others in your ability to complete a project of this scale to a very high standard.

Yours sincerely,


Simon Bowden
Executive Director

The Arts Foundation

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Level 2, 85 The Terrace, Wellington 6011

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To whom it may concern

I write in support of Marco Zeeman's proposal for the "Whale Song" sculptural installation, proposed for Paraparaumu.

Artist Mike Fuller's pod of seven life size whales is an incredible opportunity for Kāpiti, reflecting its whaling past, Kāpiti Island, the marine reserve and the whale population on this very coast.

The ability for the children of the region to get up close to a full-size whale is not something many achieve, except maybe for the occasional dead whale washed up onto the coast. This large sculpture will allow them (and the general public) to get close, wander beneath and around the whales, gaining an understanding for their huge size, their features and the feeling of being amongst a family pod.

Evidence from other large sculptural installations, both here in New Zealand and offshore, show clear indicators that they achieve several benefits to their regions through attracting visitors to the area.

Being visible from the Kāpiti Expressway, "Whale Song" will give passing travellers an excellent reason to stop in the district, providing an obvious economic benefit as they purchase goods and services and visit other attractions whilst here.

Our local schools will also have the opportunity to engage with these whales, through the exciting "cans to whales" programme outlined in the Trust's project plan. Allowing local schools to play a part in the making of the whales is an excellent idea, from a recycling perspective, as well as inspiring arts, marine conservation and education.

The proposed location is also central to the new cycleways created as a result of the expressway. Whale Song will certainly add a significant feature for those enjoying a ride through the massive plantings that have been made.

We also would like to congratulate the Trust on obtaining the land for this wonderful installation.

I fully support the Trust's goals in making "Whale Song" a reality.



Mayor K Gurunathan JP, MA
MAYOR, KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT
November 2017

6 December 2017

File Ref: EXTR-11-198

Marco Zeeman
marco@zeeman.co.nz

Office of the Chairperson
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www.gw.govt.nz

Dear Marco

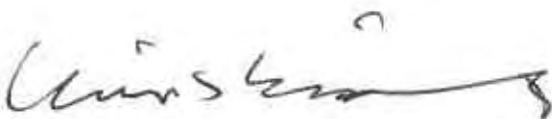
"Whale Song"

I'm writing in support of the "Whale Song" initiative. It is highly imaginative and evocative and will be a valuable community asset in years to come.

It is heartening to hear that the trust has successfully secured land from the Ngahina Development Trust and as a result you are now able to apply to the Lotteries Significant Grant Fund for financial support.

Please regard this letter as an expression of support from Greater Wellington Regional Council for your fundraising efforts. We wish you well and look forward to sharing the experience of "Whale Song" in due course.

Yours sincerely



Chris Laidlaw
Chair

Hon Kris Faafoi

MP for Mana

Minister of Civil Defence and Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Associate Minister of Immigration



Mr Marco Zeeman
Whale Song Trust
PO Box 766
Paraparaumu 5254
New Zealand

5th February 2018

Dear Marco,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and the Whale Song team earlier this month.

I congratulate the Pakake Waiata Charitable Trust for its endeavours to date and persistence in its mission to make the Whale Song Project a reality for Kapiti, the Wellington Region and New Zealand.

Mike Fuller's vision is an exciting opportunity for all visitors to Kapiti to marvel at our natural environment. It has wonderful educational, artistic, tourism and importantly environmental potential.

I note that this project along with other projects in Kapiti have real potential to attract local and international visitors to our beautiful slice of New Zealand.

It is with pleasure as Member of Parliament for Mana I support this exciting project.

Yours Sincerely,

Hon. Kris Faafoi
Member of Parliament for Mana

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Authorised by Hon Kris Faafoi MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Labour



Hon Nathan Guy
Member of Parliament for Ōtaki

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I write in support of the application put forward by the Whale Song Charitable Trust for funding of the 'Whale Song' Project – the building of a life sized pod of whales.

Mike Fuller, artist, has had a vision for this project for a number of years and with the Ngahina Trust now generously providing land this sculptural instillation is able to be realised.

'Whale Song' will add to the Kapiti Coasts many existing attractions (such as Southward's Car Museum, Ngā Manu Nature Reserve, Kapiti Island etc). The proposed location, being visible from the newly constructed Expressway/cycleway, will ensure the pod of whales becomes a significant landmark. This ambitious project will attract visitors to the Coast and provide wide ranging benefits – both economic and educational.

The intention to involve school children to play a part in the making of the whales through the 'Cans to Whales Programme' (collection of aluminium cans) is an excellent way to involve the young people in our community.

As MP for Ōtaki I fully support the application put forward.

Regards

Hon Nathan Guy
MP for Ōtaki

Dated: 3/11/2017.....

Jenny Rowan
P O Box 91
Paekakariki
jenjools@xtra.co.nz

30th October 2017

To whom it may concern.

Magnificent, Mighty and Memorable, a vision that underpins a very good idea, an idea that I trust this time will come to be. I trust this is the time for the Whale Song project.

Some ten years ago, when I became Mayor of the Kapiti District, I was approached by Mike Fuller and Gavin Bradley with this amazing idea of building a life sized pod of whales.

I was immediately interested, and supported them in setting up a fund to raise money to make this happen. We needed to secure land, get planning support, and sell the idea to the community.

The Kapiti District at the time was the fastest growing in the Wellington region, and I understand that is still true today. Kapiti is an exciting beautiful part of the region and with our wild west coastline, some 45 klms long, this intimately links us to our coastal environments, and the fish and mammals in our lives.

So for me, I saw Whalesong as a "must see" attraction, bringing people into our area to see these amazing life size structures, learn about our local whale story history from pre-European times, and to allow our local iwi to tell their stories and to link us to whale stories from around the world.

The project was to involve school children, and the use of recycled materials. We then discussed how these sculptures could make a whale like noise. One vision was letting our children take this story to other children in the world

As importantly this whole project underpins an opportunity to understand more about our ocean environment, and why we need to keep our oceans and the rivers feeding them healthy for these amazing creatures to live well.

But we couldn't make the project fly at that time, so it is with much delight that I understand this project has surfaced again, this time with some real support, with land generously offered by the Ngahina Developments Ltd.

This is a point of difference idea, there is nothing like it anyway where in New Zealand, it is an international quality tourist attraction, it will put Kapiti on the map, and will add to the tourism package for the Wellington region. The idea is a real economic driver as well, offering an opportunity for future employment, and an ability to support the ongoing developing opportunities for Kapiti Island and stronger business partnerships with iwi.

Mike Fuller has the dream, and the skilled capacity and experience to make this project happen. Now that a formal Trust has been established for this project, if funded well, it will fly!! (or swim!!)

I strongly urge you to consider this extraordinary idea as a project of national and regional significance. Many stand to benefit from it, locally and nationally, profiling our significance of our whales and the critical role they play right here in our own backyard between the mainland and Kapiti Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this project. I wish you all well.

Yours Sincerely

Jenny Rowan JP QSO
Former Mayor of Kapiti.
Chair Wellington Conservation Board.
Board member of the Kaitiaki Matu Somes Board.
Chair of the Lake Horowhenua Domain Board.

1 November 2017

Marco Zeeman
Chairman
Whale Song Charitable Trust
P O Box 766
Paraparaumu 5254

Dear Marco

We understand you will be applying to the Lotteries Significant Grants fund for funding support.

As you will be aware we have recently been approached about the proposed *Whale Song Development* and wish to commend you and your fellow trustees on this exciting project.

This multi-faceted and innovated design by Mike Fuller is, in our opinion exactly what the Kapiti District will embrace.

This spectacular work of art will not only become a land mark for the region but will emphasise the heritage and development of the Kapiti Coast and its adjoining seascape.

We anticipate the educational benefit to the nearly 8000 students in the Kapiti region will underline the rich history of the Kapiti Coast which included whaling activities on Kapiti Island.

It is not uncommon to observe migrating whales and from time to time one has washed up on our shores.

We understand this venture is rather unique in that school children will be invited to participate in the collection of aluminium cans to assist in the local construction of the individual whales.

They will be able to witness the evolution of the individual whales as they take shape.

The location of the pod of whales, visible from the new expressway, will we believe, not only be of interest to school children but to the significant population of retired folk residing in Kapiti.

Coastlands Shoppingtown is owned by around 100 local residents and has developed during the past 48 years to service over 3.5 million visitors per annum.

We too commenced from a very small collection of shops and were one of only two areas in New Zealand that enjoyed Saturday shopping.

As with all growing areas it takes time to build an environment that residents support and have pride in their area.

The Directors of Coastlands Shoppingtown have a history of supporting their region and have made significant financial contributions to the Coastlands Aquatic Centre, the under construction Kapiti Performing Arts Centre, The all-weather Hockey Turf, netball facilities and sports and cultural events generally.

Coastlands Shoppingtown Limited believes this is such a worthwhile community project. We support our associated company, Ngahina Developments Limited, in making the land available for the pod of whales to be constructed upon.

It could be appropriate that for many years the Coastlands Lotto outlet was the second most successful seller of first prizes in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Coastlands Shoppingtown Limited



Richard Mansell

Chief Executive Office

rmansell@coastlands.co.nz

31st October 2017

P O Box 15
Waikanae

Chairman

Marco Zeeman
Whale Song Charitable Trust
Level 1
18 Ihakara Street
Paraparaumu 5254

Dear Chairman

As a result of the presentation by Mike Fuller, The Directors of Ngahina Developments Limited have unanimously agreed to provide an area of our land for the erection of a pod of whales as designed by Mr Fuller.

To demonstrate our support for this venture and publicly endorse the project, my fellow Directors have supported my involvement as a trustee of the charitable trust.

The 0.3944 Ha of land is described as lot 2 DP 470759 on CT 636808 Wellington Registry.

We believe this project will have a significant benefit to a wide section of the Kapiti Coast population.

This delightful area of which I have been a resident since 1965, has steadily grown in popularity over many decades. This has steadily increased for many decades but has taken on a new momentum since the recently completed expressway became a reality.

Understandably Kapiti Island has always been a focal point, especially as the estimated 20,000 possums have been eradicated from this iconic Island.

In more recent years the growing reputation of the Nga Manu nature reserve & the late Sir Len Southward's Museum is a major attraction to both domestic and offshore tourists alike.

At the present time The Kapiti College Performing Arts centre is under construction which will benefit not only pupils of Kapiti College and other schools but the wider community.

We understand Lotto was also a supporter of this venture for which we envisage will also be an outstanding community facility

The ever-increasing popularity of the Kapiti Coast which is underscored by the rapidly increasing student population to compliment the ever-growing number of retirement villages and rest homes.

Mike Fuller's truly remarkable at work will be not only be a major tourist attraction but an educational facility for the wider Wellington region.

As Te Papa draws domestic & international visitor's together with a constant flow of pupils from all levels of the education sector we confidently anticipate this pod of Whales will do the same.

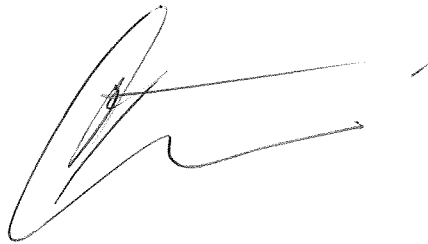
It is rare for students to become involved with, and witness with the construction of such a rare educational and unique event.

In view of past investigations of establishing this venture we believe a major missing factor was the land to erect this rather special art work.

For these reasons we are very enthusiastic about providing the certainty of the trust having a place to erect the works.

Perhaps above all else, this project which will benefit so many, will reinforce the relationship with the sea, the island, lwi history and become both an iconic artwork and a economic and educational benefit to the greater region.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R J Barry Clevely'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R J Barry Clevely

Chairman

Ngahina Developments Limited

28th November 2017

Marco Zeeman
Chair
Whale Song Charitable Trust
PO Box 756
Paraparaumu 5254

Dear Marco

Thank you once again for meeting with me to share the vision that the Whale Song Charitable Trust has to install Mike Fuller's pod of seven life size whales adjacent to the new Kāpiti Expressway. The development of the project, the support you have gathered from Ngahina Developments in provision of the land, and the recognition of the project as a great place-making opportunity by Kāpiti Coast District Council, all reflect the excitement the proposal will create if brought to fruition. Public sculpture projects of this nature already have a positive impact in various parts of the Wellington region, reflecting the creative nature of our people and place as well as articulating our connection to the natural environment we are fortunate to be able to call home.

Overseas I have been fortunate enough to see how projects such as 'the Kelpies' in central Scotland have created cultural and recreational interest to, and economic impact for the communities that stand close to such an installation.

I am confident that the installation of 'Whale Song', along with the various community activation projects that you have described to me, will serve the community and economy of Paraparaumu and the wider Kāpiti Coast district well in the future.

Yours sincerely



David Perks
General Manager – Venues, Marketing & Destination Development
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency

22 February 2018

Marco Zeeman
Whale Song Charitable Trust
PO Box 766
Paraparaumu 5254

Whale Song letter of Support

Dear Marco,

The Kapiti Coast Chamber of Commerce would like to commend the Trust for the initiative it has shown to provide a landmark feature for the Kapiti Coast.

This is a spectacular work of art which is able to benefit the youth of the region and underline the culture and history of the Kapiti region. Whales have long been part of the history and are from time-to-time seen off the coast.

Our understanding is that the project will be unique in that the sculptures will be life-size and the local school children will participate by collecting cans as fund raising and also take part in the construction of the sculptures. In this way they will get to see the whales taking shape.

The land on which the sculptures will be erected has been donated and is visible from the expressway providing an iconic landmark for the Coast.

The Chamber of Commerce represents approximately 300 local business operators within the Kapiti Region and primarily supports the economic growth of the region. While the Chamber does not have funds to contribute directly to the project, the Board fully supports the project and any application for funding.

Yours sincerely



Brett Percival
Secretary



PO Box 598
Paraparaumu 5254

20 November, 2017

Mr Marco Zeeman
Chairman
Whale Song Charitable Trust
PO Box 766
Paraparaumu 5254

Dear Marco,

I am writing to you as Chair of Kapiti Economic Development Agency (KEDA), which has been established by a group of prominent Kapiti business people to identify and support economic development projects within the Kapiti region. KEDA is in the process of registering as an Incorporated Society.

Your proposed Whale Song project was discussed with great enthusiasm at the most recent meeting of the KEDA Steering Group. In our view, this project meets the criteria for projects worthy of support by KEDA and by the wider community. It is unique, creative, and reflective of our history and culture. It will be a draw card for visitors to our region and has the potential to have a positive impact on our economic growth.

KEDA looks forward to working with you to help bring this project to fruition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Koh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Liz Koh
Chair
Kapiti Economic Development Agency



LIONS CLUB OF KAPITI

PO Box 93, Paraparaumu



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Lions Club of Kapiti wishes to provide support for the "Whale Song" sculpture installed proposed for Kapiti.

We believe that the Educational benefits to people not only from Kapiti but from all New Zealand will be huge.

In addition, the proposed encouragement of Kapiti Youth to help with the project will give our younger people a greater appreciation of our environment and in particular that which is applicable to our region.

We also believe it sits well along side other attractions on the Kapiti Coast. For example: Kapiti Island and Nga Manu Nature Reserve in particular.

As a club we are enthusiastic about assisting with Community Projects that provide benefit directly to our local community and we look forward to assisting and working with "Whale Song" as this project grows and we fulfill our motto of "WE SERVE."



Andrew Laing

President

The Lions Club of Kapiti (Inc)

PARAPARAUMU

I - TOGETHER. E - EVERYONE. A - ACHIEVES. M - MORE.

21 November 2017

**Mitre 10 MEGA Kapiti**

135 Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu, 5032, New Zealand
PO Box 681, Paraparaumu, 5234, New Zealand
Telephone 04 296 6440, Fax 04 296 6442
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**MITRE 10
MEGA****KAPITI**

05 December 2017

Marco Zeeman
Whale Song Charitable Trust
Level 1, 18 Ihakara Street
Paraparaumu 5254

Dear Marco,

We write in support of the application put forward by the Whale Song Charitable Trust to the Lotteries Significant Grants fund for the "Whale Song Project".

We strongly believe that the development of this project by artist Mike Fuller will add significant economic, cultural and educational benefits to the Kapiti Coast and the wider surrounding regions.

It will also enhance Kapiti's already well established "sustainability focussed" reputation by connecting people with the fundamental elements that make this a very special part of New Zealand.

The proposed location for the installation of this project will ensure the giant whales will be visible to the thousands of motorists travelling daily along the new Kapiti Expressway, many of which are from across other regions and/or international visitors. There's no doubt that this landmark will quickly become an icon of national significance.

We look forward to seeing this very special project getting underway.

Most Sincerely,

Vincent Indo | Managing Director



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135 Kapiti Road, Paraparaumu
Kapiti Coast, New Zealand
PO BOX 681, Paraparaumu, 5254
☎ DDI 04 296 6440 ext. 710
☎ MOB 027 203 6432
✉ vincent.Indo@mitre10.co.nz
🌐 www.mitre10.co.nz





**The Trustees
Whale Song Project
c/o Mike Fuller
Paraparaumu**

13/11/2017

Tena koutou e te Rangatira.

I'm writing to offer support for your inspirational Whale Song Project. As a tourism operator and business in the Kapiti district, we are excited to learn that this project is now progressing with some solid foundation, structure , support and direction.

As a district undergoing rapid and dramatic growth and change, and with unprecedented visitor and tourism activity underway, we will need every possible opportunity to be realised to its potential to assist with our economic and cultural growth.. We believe that this project as outlined in the printed documents-and your passionate verbal presentations is exactly what our district, region, and country needs to feed this growth.

We are fully supportive, and are prepared to demonstrate the support in whatever way you suggest appropriate.

Nga mihi.

**John Barrett
Managing Director.**

7 November 2017

Marco Zeeman
Chairman
WHALE SONG CHARITABLE TRUST

Dear Marco

WHALE SONG CHARITABLE TRUST

Barry Clevely has introduced me to the exciting Whale Song Charitable Trust project and having read the proposal document, we are delighted to support the project.

The details of Landlink's involvement will be the subject to some further discussions, and we are excited to be a part of this magnificent, mighty and memorable project.

Landlink

Landlink offer your project skills and experience in resource management planning, civil engineering, land surveying and project management. I am sure that we will support and enhance the other project partners.

Landlink have acted for Coastlands Shoppingtown and the Ngahina Trust on various projects.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
LANDLINK LTD



Paul Turner
Principal

11 December 2017

To whom it may concern

Whale Song

We write in support of the Whale Song project proposed for the Kapiti Coast.

Goodmans have directly been involved in two whale stranding's on the Kapiti Coast. We were commissioned by DOC to carry out the moving, transporting and burying of two magnificent creatures.

Although it was sad to see the whales at their end, the care and attention given to the process by those involved, made it a memorable process to be a part of. Our involvement made us all appreciate the size and wonder of these creatures.

Goodmans believe the proposed sculptures would be an impressive site and the water and sound features would add an original dynamic. Any opportunity to educate people on the wonders of whales is worthwhile in our opinion.

Whale Song would certainly be an asset to the community and give Kapiti a real point of difference. We hope to see the proposal come to fruition.

Yours faithfully



Marianne Archer
Director

e marianne@goodmans.nz

m 027 560 6219

D:\Shared Documents\OFFICE STUFF\Sponsorship\2017-12 WhaleSong\2017-12-11 Whale Song Support.docx



18 May 2018

Marco Zeeman
Chairman
Whale Song Charitable Trust
P O Box 766
Paraparaumu 5254

Dear Marco

Re: **Whale Song** proposal

Thankyou for the information you provided on the project.

The Nga Manu Trust, which administers the Nga Manu Nature Reserve at Waikanae, is supportive of initiatives that bring awareness of nature and conservation to the Kapiti Coast and on that basis supports your proposal and wishes you every success in completing your project. Whale Song would certainly add a new dimension to understanding the ecology of the Kapiti Coast.

Yours sincerely

Peter Kettle
Chairman, Nga Manu Trust

P.O Box 126, Waikanae 5250 • 74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road, Waikanae • Phone 04 293 4131
admin@ngamanu.co.nz • www.ngamanu.co.nz





Mike Fuller
Whale Song Charitable Trust
Kapiti

17th November 2017

Tēnā koe,

I write in support of Mike Fuller and the Whale Song project. Mike first showed me the project some 7 years ago and I became hugely excited and remain so today. The sculpture proposed is unique, beautiful and will be an authentic tohu to attract visitors to the Kapiti Coast.

Mike is well respected in the film industry and well used to working with complex creative projects that come with large budgets. I have no doubt his professional expertise and the team he has around him will ensure that the project will be a success.

As the executive director of Māoriland Film Festival and the Māoriland Hub I have firsthand experience with many visitors to the Kapiti Coast including an increasing number from overseas. I have also created promotional work for Tourism NZ, Māori Torusim the Rugby World Cup in 2011 and with the National cycle trails Ngā Haerenga. The Whale Song project will be of great interest to visitors and will be an offer that we at Māoriland will be able to promote.

As an iwi member of Ngāti Raukawa with whakapapa to Kapiti Island I am also supportive of the Whale Song project being able to share the many stories of tohorā whales in this area.

Ngā mihi nui

Nā

Libby Hakaraia
Māoriland