



### What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

I did my MSc in Marine & Fisheries Science in 1999. My MSc project focused on behaviour and habitat use of bottlenose dolphins off the southern Moray Firth. Most often I was based at Spey and Cullen Bay though post MSc, I went on to instigate the Aberdeen Dolphin Project with colleagues Caroline Weir, Sarah Canning and Graham Pierce.

### What are you doing now ?

I am now a Professor at Massey University in New Zealand where I lead the Cetacean Ecology Research Group. My research interests lie at the interface of ethology, veterinary pathology and animal welfare science. My research is particularly focused on human impacts that affect cetacean populations, including tourism, persistent contaminants and fisheries interactions. I am currently a Rutherford Discovery Fellow (2019-2023) for the Royal Society Te Aparangi, where my research focuses on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI), innovative technologies and evolutionary theory to address the conservation-welfare nexus during human-wildlife interactions with stranded whales.

### What advice would you give someone who wants to follow in your footsteps ?

Always have belief, conviction, courage and persistence – these are the most important ingredients I believe to achieving anything. Its ok to break the mould, go your own way and forge a new path to achieve the career of your dreams. If the role doesn't seem to exist – create it!



## Professor Karen Stockin

MSc • 1999

