Bunna Lawrie is **The Whale Whisperer**, a song man from an aboriginal tribe at Whale Rock, on the Nullarbor ocean cliffs at the Great Australian Bite, where his ancestors, the Mirning people have carried out ‘whale dreaming’ ceremonies for centuries.

The Mirning tribe have what they called ‘a dreamtime connection’ with the Southern Right whale. The dreaming connects past, present and future in one dream, in the ever evolving cycles of life, birth and death.

In keeping with the tradition of his ancestors, Bunna to this day communicates via song and whale sounds with the whales. He has the uncanny gift & ability to ‘call on’ the whales.

The Whale Whisperer story follows on from the documentary film story of the Mirning people told by the Julian Lennon produced film “Whaledreamers” in 2008. Prior to the world premiere in September, Bunna made a mercy dash to care for an orphaned, calf stranded in the Basin @ Pittwater, forty minutes north of Sydney, that captured the hearts of the country.

The documentary, “**Whaledreamers**” is the heartfelt story of the return of an aboriginal whale dreaming tribe from the edge of extinction and the equally long journey of the whales, not only to survive the slaughter by man, but to engage the human race into waking up in time.

Music has always been a part of Bunna’s life. Lawrie was the driving force behind the indigenous rock band Coloured Stone during the eighties.

He was the drummer and lead singer while **Coloured Stone** enjoyed success with their hit record, “Black Boy” in 1984. The lyrics of Black Boy included the line ‘Black boy, black boy, the colour of your skin is your pride and joy’, which was a somewhat revolutionary sentiment for outback Australia in the 1980’s.

Despite their rich cultural heritage, like most Aboriginal people, the Mirning people suffered unimaginably at the hand of history.

During the 1950’s, as a result of the nuclear testing at Maralinga (arural outpost of SA), the Anangu people were forced from their land and relocated to the Mirning peoples’ land on the South Australian coast. Maralinga is uninhabitable to this day because of high levels of radiation. The Aborigines that survived the fallout were relocated by the South Australian Government to the traditional lands and coastal whale sites belonging to the Mirning people.

The Mirning people were relocated to the mission settlement at Kooniba in the mid 1950’s miles from their coastal land. This resulted in both language groups being displaced and separated from their ‘dreaming’ lands, which became a source of conflict between the two tribes. For the Mirning people this created disastrous consequences – as Bunna, the Mirning song man explains, “Besides losing their land, the tribe lost their vital connection – their sacred totem animal – the whale”.

Incredibly, with a simple stroke of a pen, in 1956 the South Australian government declared the Mirning people extinct and leased their traditional land to the Anangu people under a 99 year lease. “We have been fighting for the return of our land for over a hundred years’ explains Bunna. Despite being displaced from their tribal land, Bunna, along with a few other Mirning descendants, secretly returned to their different dreaming sites throughout the eighties and nineties. **The Mirning people continue to fight for their land in their case that is before The South Australian Federal Court.**

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