

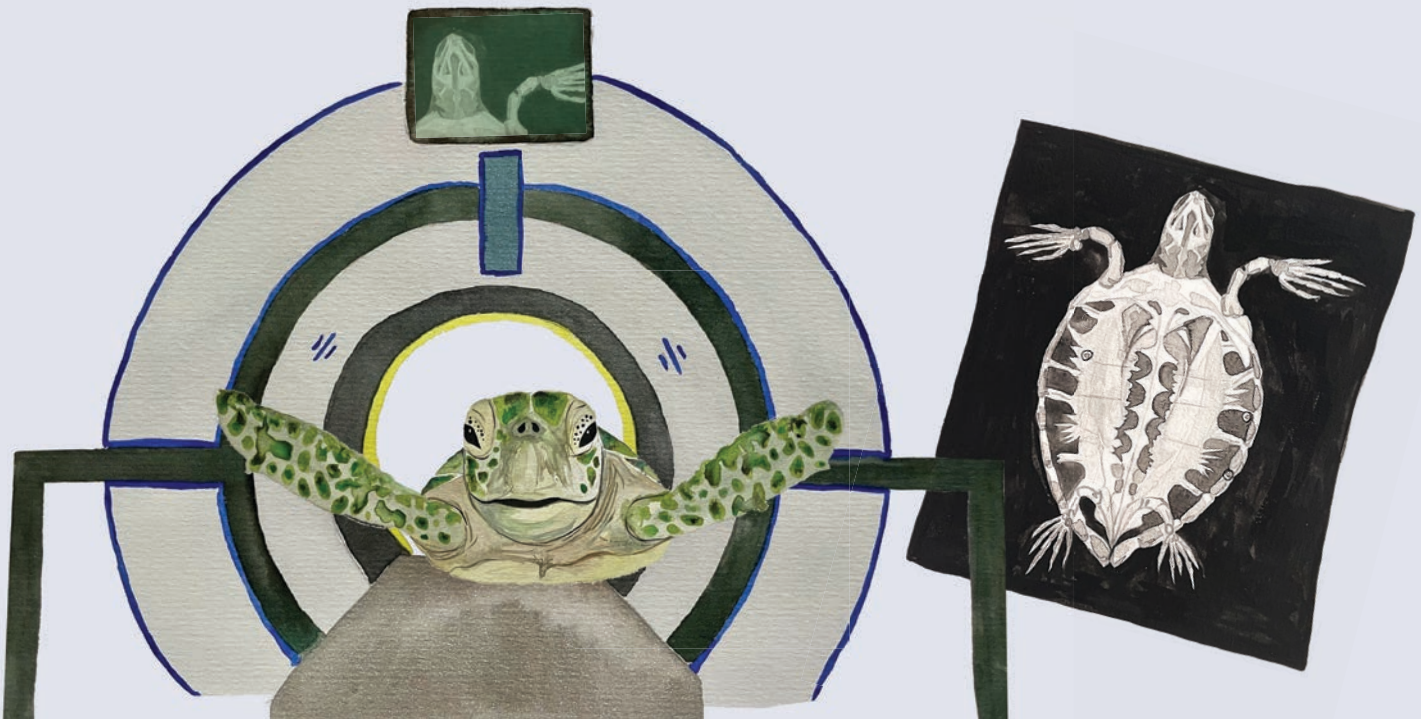
# Calvin

The Green Sea Turtle



Written & Illustrated by Kirsty Esson

Based on a true story.



Calvin is a Green Sea Turtle from  
Aotearoa (New Zealand).





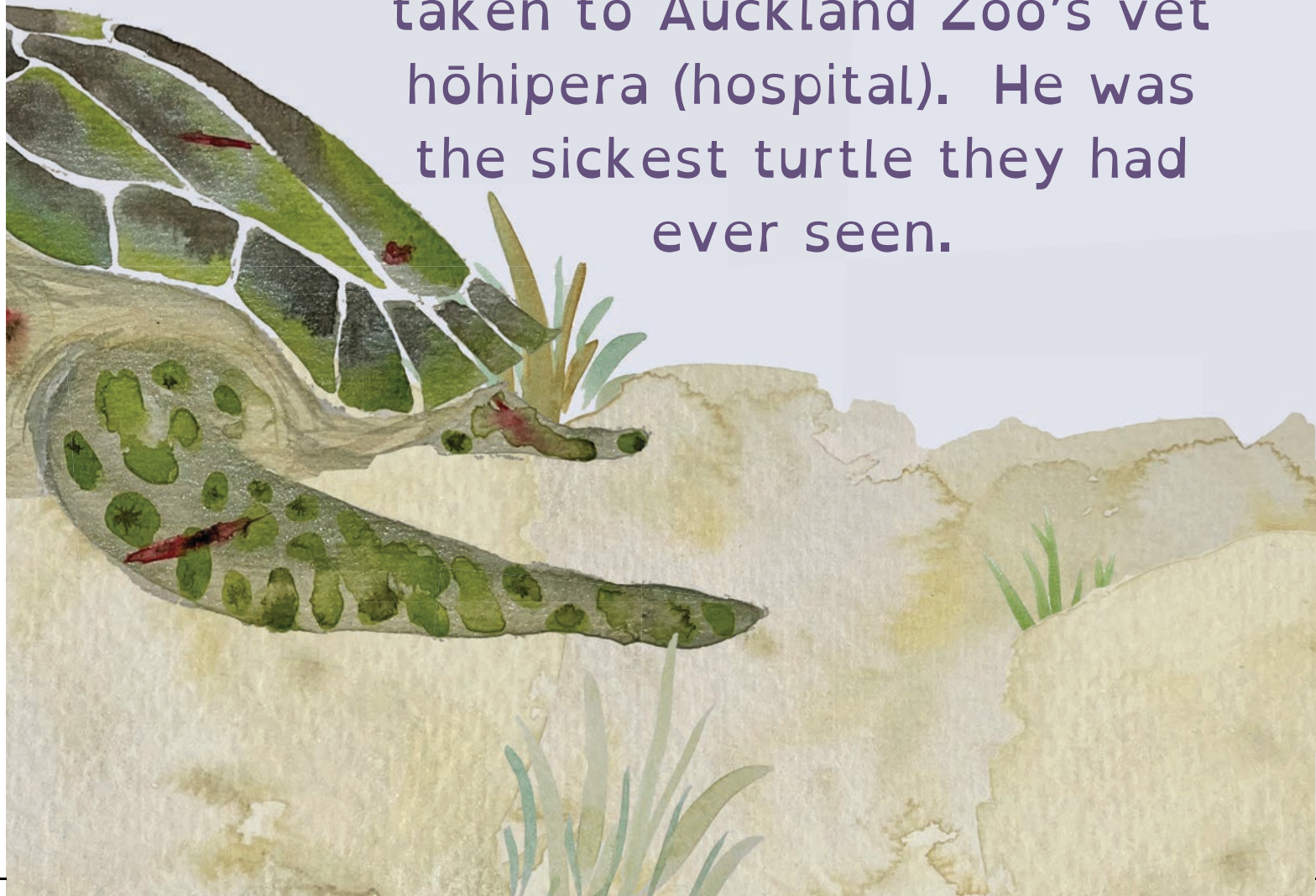


Whilst Calvin loved swimming  
in the moana (ocean), it  
wasn't always a safe place  
for turtles, and in November  
2018 Calvin needed help.





Calvin was found washed up on Ninety Mile Beach in Aotearoa (New Zealand's) Far North, he was rescued and taken to Auckland Zoo's vet hōhipera (hospital). He was the sickest turtle they had ever seen.



A young, hauora (healthy) Green Sea Turtle can weigh up to 15kg, but young Calvin was very underweight at just 11kgs. He was starving, and he had been hurt, with cuts and scars all over his tinana (body), so Calvin was taken to the Auckland Zoo vet hospital, and then to the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre at SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's.









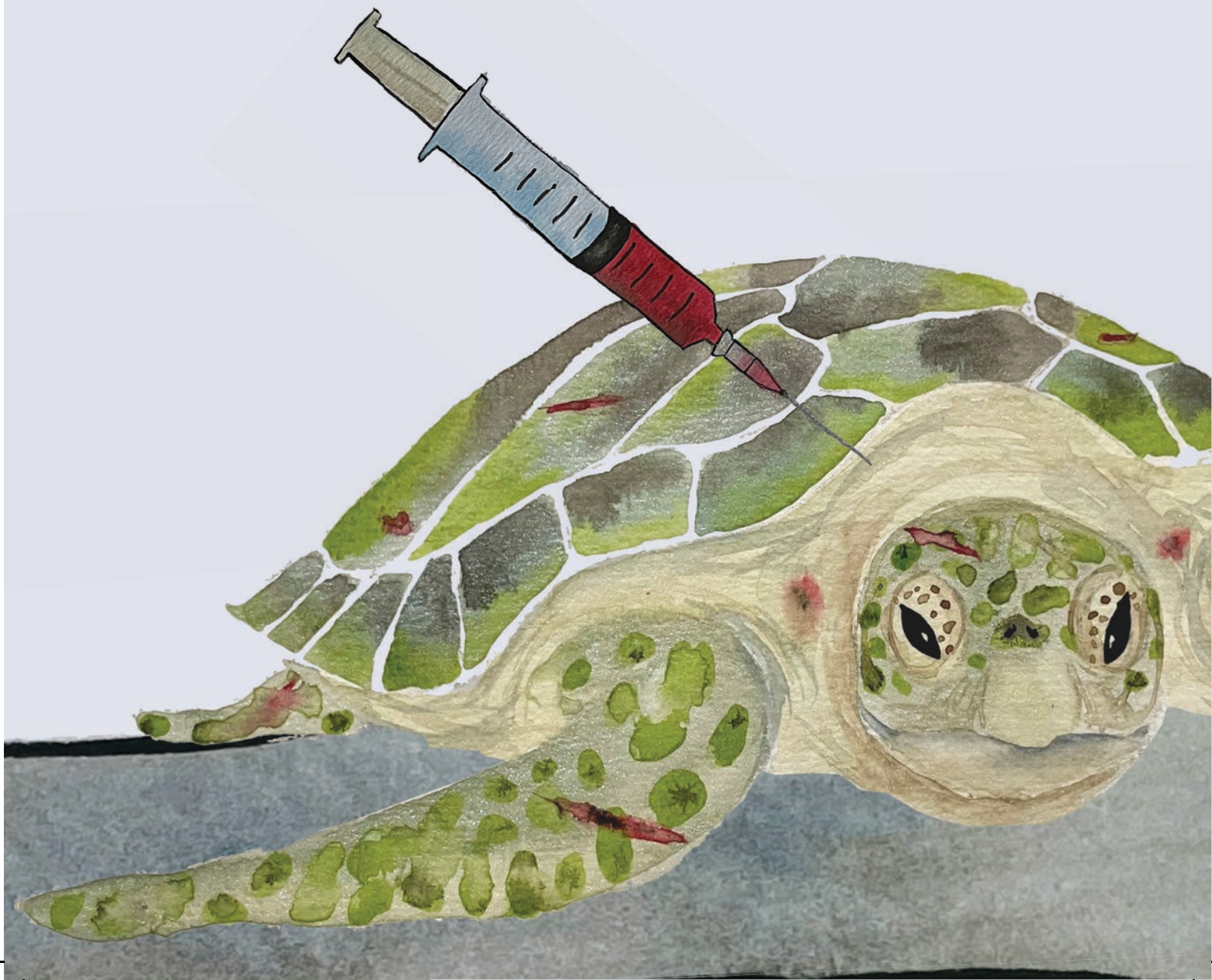
With SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's and Auckland Zoo working so closely together, Calvin was in great tiaki (care).

It may have seemed impossible as Calvin was so māuiui (sick) and needed so much help, but he was a determined turtle, and he wasn't going to give up.





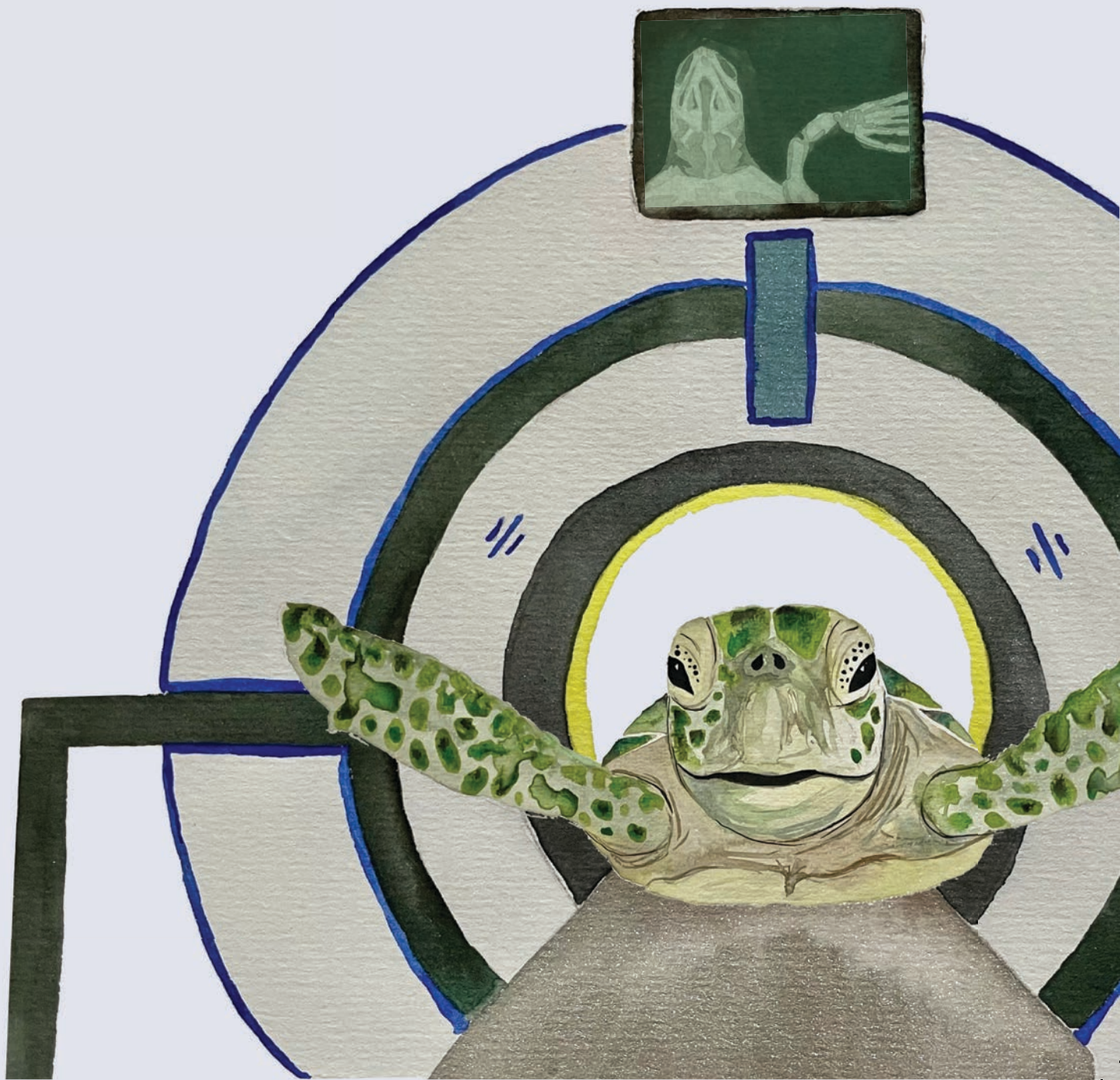






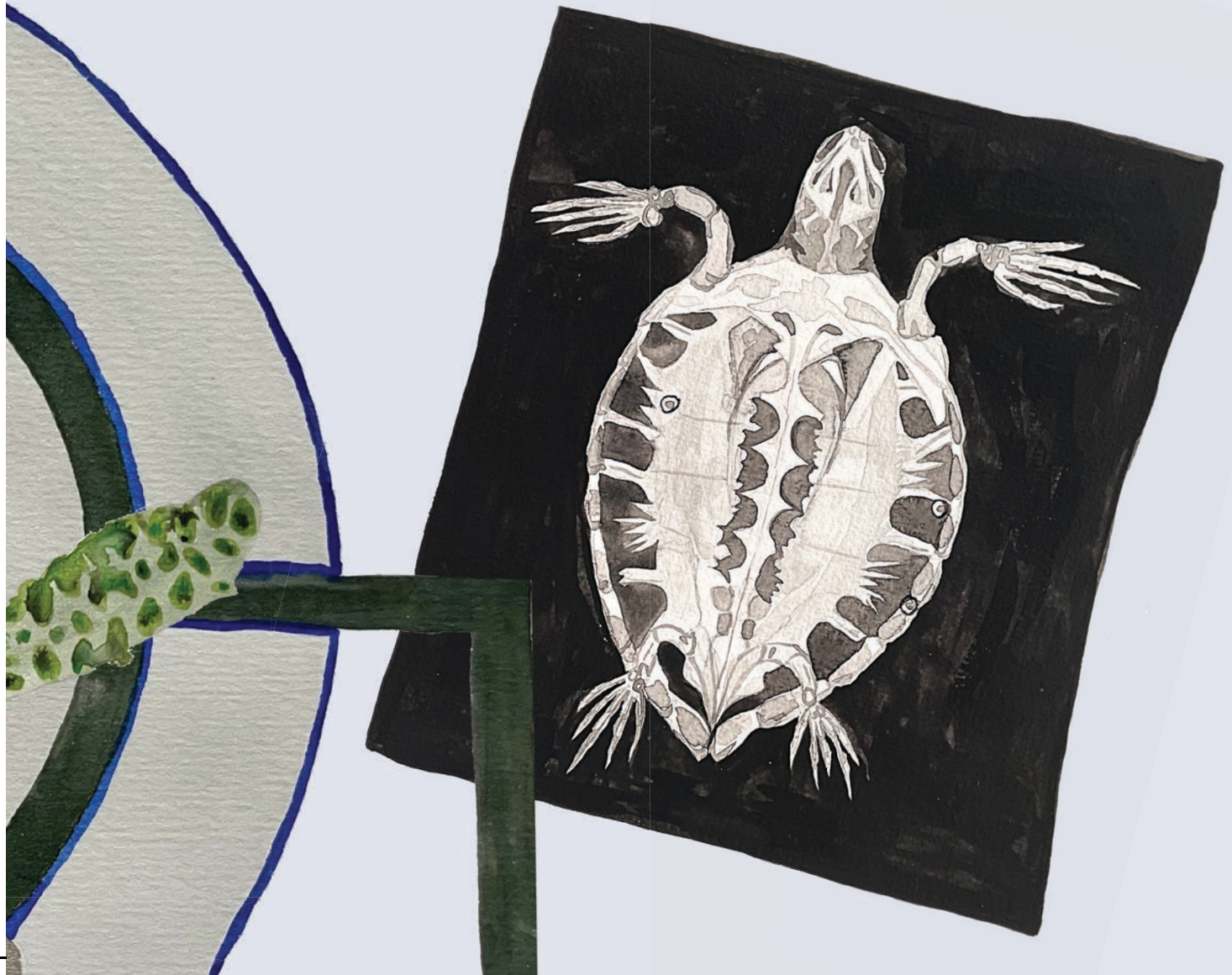
The zoo vets had to take bloods for testing. Calvin was also given medicine through an IV drip, and a special meal through a tube to help him regain his kaha (strength).







The Vets also gave Calvin a CT scan, so the team could make sure he wasn't hurt inside his anga (shell).

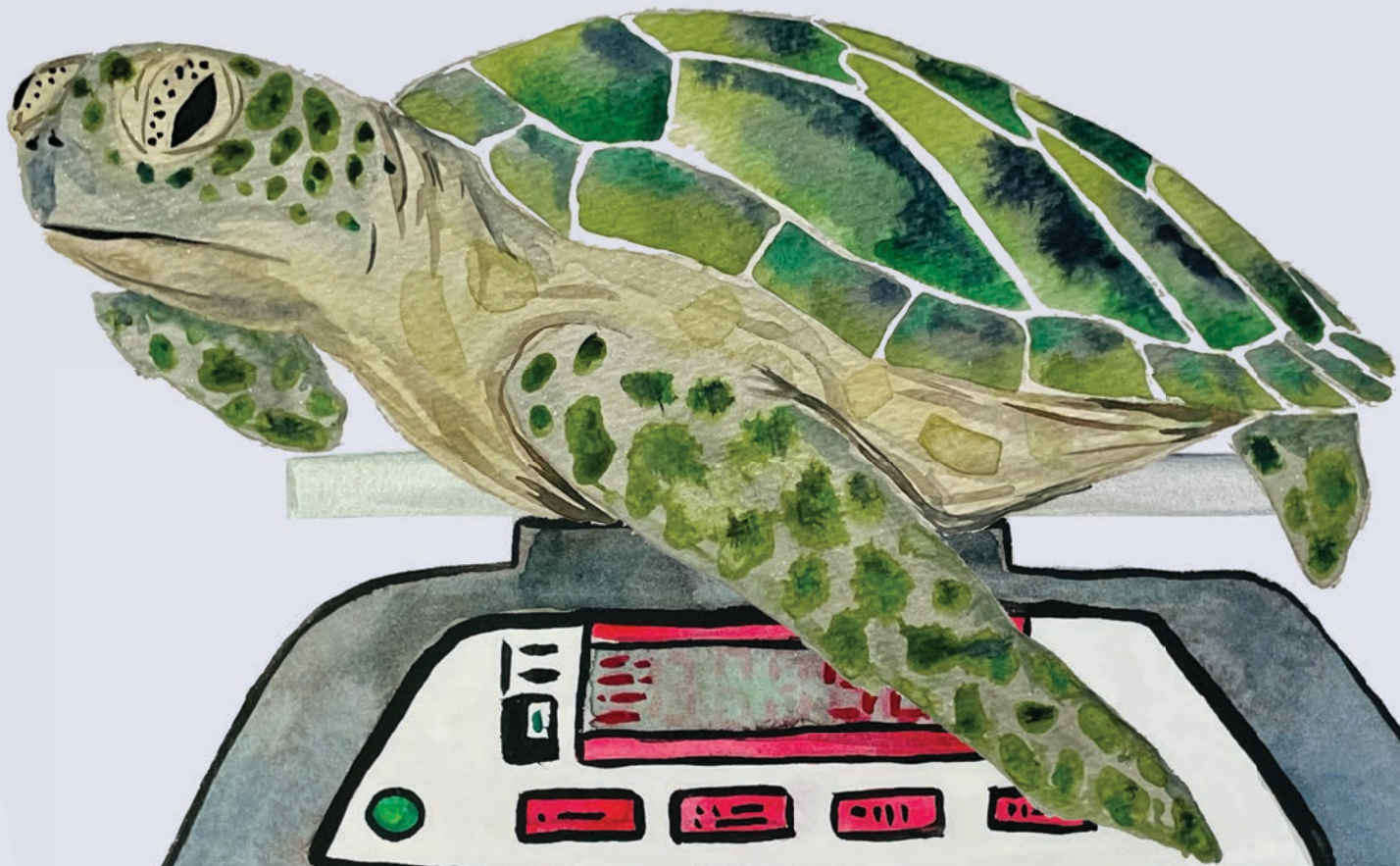




This toa (brave) turtle was weighed and measured regularly to make sure he was growing bigger and kaha (stronger).

Finally, after 14 months of intensive care and practice swimming at SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's, Calvin was strong enough to swim in the moana (ocean) again.





On the 4th March 2020, Calvin was released back into the moana (ocean) at Rangiputa Beach. The local community had much aroha (love) for him and came to say haere rā (farewell). It was a team effort. So many people had been involved in caring for Calvin; the teams at SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's, the Department of Conservation and Auckland Zoo, as well as Countdown Supermarkets.





They called themselves  
**Team Turtle**  
and they had saved Calvin's life.





Auckland Zoo vet Melanie examines Calvin with help from SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's Aquarist Felix



Calvin being released by Aquarist Jess into the tank at SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's



Calvin was successfully released into the moana (ocean) at Rangiputa Beach on 4th March 2020, weighing 20kg. A dedicated team worked closely with Calvin for 14 months to nurse him back to health.

SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's has released more than 50 turtles back into the moana (ocean) over the past 30 years.



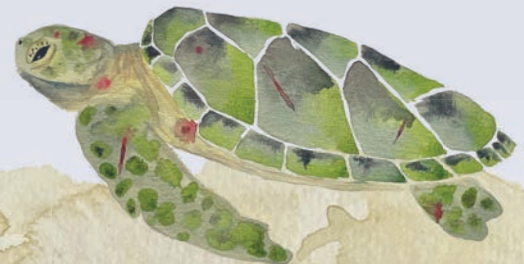
Team Turtle and locals say haere rā (farewell) to Calvin

**SEA LIFE**  
Kelly Tarlton's, Auckland

Auckland  
**ZOO**



Department of  
Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai



All profits from the sale of this book will be donated to registered charity Kelly Tarlton's Marine Wildlife Trust, which will in turn put the funds towards the Turtle Rehabilitation Program at SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium.

For more information visit: [www.visitsealife.com/auckland](http://www.visitsealife.com/auckland)



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@Kirsty\_esson\_art





Based on a true story

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