



***I Am A Whale* - Barbara Todd**

Published by New Holland, RRP \$16.99.

It's a pleasure to see non-fiction aimed at junior school students. Young people are curious about the natural world around them. Yet, information books are often too difficult for early readers. Naturalist Barbara Todd meets their needs with her 'I am' wildlife series with titles covering whales, penguins, dolphins and seals. The well-produced books are an attractive mix of photography by the author and illustrations by Helen Taylor.

Todd's rhyming text is a creative way to impart knowledge to youngsters. For example, "I'm a Sperm Whale the largest with teeth, I've none on the top but I've lots underneath."

The whale species covered in 'I am a whale' are primarily those found around New Zealand waters. Their migration journeys, breeding, and food sources are clearly shown through the text and illustrations. The difference between toothed and baleen whales is explained well.

A useful addition is the 'Did you know?' fact file at the back of the books. There's also suggested activities for teachers and parents to share with young people. An informative series that will help with school projects and homework.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.

