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Dolphin Profile

Piccolo

Born 6 December 1992

Piccolo is Puck's fourth calf and was introduced to the dolphin experience program in 1999. Piccolo initially appeared more interested in offering fish to the rangers than eating the fish herself. In 2004, Piccolo transitioned and began accepting fish from visitors. Piccolo still takes her time with her food and will often show her fish to visitors before she eventually swallows it whole.

Piccolo gave birth to her first calf, Eden (b. 20/11/2003), when she was 11 years old, making her one of the youngest beach-visiting dolphins to give birth. Piccolo's other offspring are Flute (b.13/11/2007), Piper (b.27/10/2011), Pan (b.14/10/18) and her most recent calf Oboe (b. 01/12/2022). She also gave birth to Harp (b.11/12/15–14/12/15) who only survived to four days old and to Dizi (b.8.01.2017–28.02.2017) (pronounced 'dee-tzu', after a Chinese bamboo flute) who only survived for nine and a half weeks. It is thought both of these calves were lost due to tiger shark predation.

Genetic sampling has shown that Piccolo and Kiya (b. 13/12/1997) are full sisters. This means they have the same mother (Puck) and father (Real Notch). Fathers do not associate with their offspring beyond the act of mating with their mother.

Piccolo can often be seen in the afternoons foraging and chasing fish at impressive speeds along the shoreline near the Dolphin Experience Area. Dolphins can reach speeds of up to 40km/hour! She often has her calf close by who is watching and learning from mum. The first fish a calf catches is one it has caught itself, so it is vital we give them the space to pass on these life lessons.



Spotting Piccolo

You can identify Piccolo and all the other dolphins by their dorsal fins. Piccolo's fin has a two-centimetre-deep slit about three centimetres below the tip and several other notches further down. These notches and markings are the result of shark encounters, other dolphins and fishing line entanglement. Unfortunately she has been entangled in fishing line twice so if you're fishing and you see dolphins, remember to 'reel it in'.



To get to know these dolphins why not consider volunteering?



@MonkeyMiaDolphinExperience

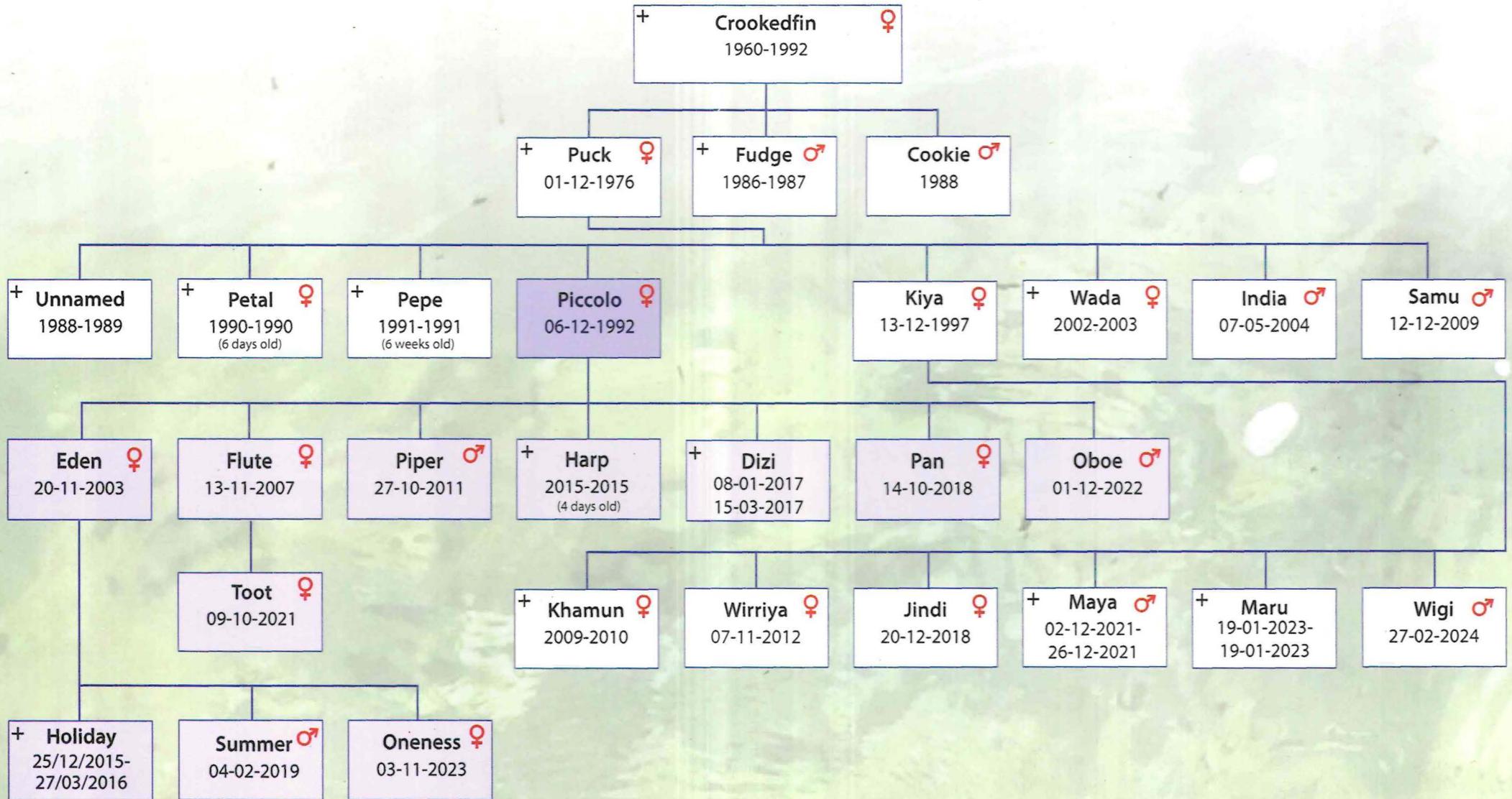
1 Monkey Mia Road, Shark Bay

Ph: (08) 9948 1366

sharkbay.org



Piccolo's family tree



+ Deceased



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